



The Royal College of Pathologists
Pathology: the science behind the cure



President's e-newsletter – June 2020

President's Messages of the Month

COVID-19 Pandemic

COVID-19 testing: a national strategy

As we move forwards from the first wave of the COVID-19 epidemic, the College has developed a SARS-CoV-2 testing strategy which, we intend, will be used to build robust process and structures that will work for the future. We will be presenting our strategy to governments, stakeholders and patient advocacy groups as a vision for the future which looks past the peak of the pandemic for both viral and antibody testing.

Testing is not something that is just done and counted. It is a process with clinical purposes for individual patients, for those who care for them and for the population at large. It is a conscious and targeted use of valuable materials and highly skilled professionals within the context of a pathway and purpose.

The College's strategy forms the basis for a roadmap to delivery. It applies equally to all settings in which care is delivered, across all our population, and all age groups. It is also an iterative one and will evolve as evidence emerges and I would value your thoughts and comments.

The strategy framework is based on a set of principles and four key themes:

- Testing matched to purpose and pathways
- Innovation to adoption at pace
- Infrastructure and workforce for a stable future
- SARS-CoV-2 is not the only virus.

You can download the document from the [College website](#).

Urgent risk assessment of transfusion services

I was deeply concerned by the announcement of track and trace 14 days' isolation rule for healthcare staff in England. I have been told that it cannot be changed, with no prospect of a rapid return of staff even if testing is provided at this time. The NHS faces a monumental challenge over the coming months in dealing with the millions of patients whose tests and treatments have been postponed because of the pandemic.

Whilst many of our services will be put at risk through lack of staff at this critical time, I have asked NHS England/Improvement for a very urgent risk assessment of all transfusion laboratories and for contingencies to be put in place. This is the service that could bring obstetric, trauma, cancer and many other acute services to a halt. The workforce was at a critical level even before the COVID-19 epidemic and this new requirement brings issues into acute focus.

In other news

- I have been asked to join the Government's test, track and trace taskforce, chaired by Baroness Dido Harding. The programme is in its early stages and I am glad to have been invited to provide pathology expertise and independent advice.
- I was pleased to see the announcement by the Secretary of State and subsequent [roll out of serology testing across the NHS](#). Thank you for the fabulous work by all members and teams across our labs in readiness for this. This is a huge achievement by pathologists! [The Prime Minister also gave his thanks](#) to all those involved in helping mobilise testing including pathologists and scientists specifically.
- Our specialty advisory committees and the trainee advisory committee continue to do fabulous work at this time, as have all those who have helped with guidance and other contributions to our work during this epidemic. We thank you all for everything you are doing - it is hugely appreciated by everyone.
- It was a pleasure to give an online teaching session at the Mayo clinic on testing for COVID-19 and also at the Royal College of Physicians on [Antibody testing, understanding the spread of COVID-19](#).
- I took part in a WebEx [Testing Methods 2020 Pathology Alliance webinar](#) for pathology lab staff and partners. [The Testing Methods Sourcing Platform](#) is a partnership between the Department of Health and Social Care, the UK Bioindustry Association, British In Vitro Diagnostics Association and the College, to look at new and novel solutions to help deliver COVID-tests.
- College Fellow, Dr Mike Osborn, Chair of the Death Investigations Committee, has been speaking in the media about [the importance of post-mortems](#) during the COVID-19 pandemic. The College also contributed [evidence from the Death Investigations Committee](#) to the Public Administration and Constitutional Affairs Committee who held an evidence session on statistics on deaths during the pandemic. This evidence has also been submitted to the Health and Social Care committee inquiry on [Management of the Coronavirus Outbreak](#).

- The latest in our series of 'On the Agenda' pages look at [the importance of death certification](#) and the changes to legislation on how deaths can be certified and registered during the COVID-19 pandemic.
- We've produced our first dataset from [anonymised post-mortem reports](#) on COVID-19 patients submitted to us by our members. Please share our findings with your clinical colleagues, as we have produced this resource at their request. Our aim is for the findings to help inform the treatment of patients and support research to develop new treatments and a possible vaccine.
- Our excellent series and popular free video seminars continue every Wednesday evening and will run until the end of July. Led by College experts, the seminars cover a wide range of topics. I have hugely enjoyed them all, and learnt a lot! Join in by registering at: [COVID-19 video based learning](#).
- Don't forget- there's still time to make your voice heard by [voting for the next College President](#). I complete my term of office in November. You can cast your vote until 12 pm on Friday 12 June.

I wish you and your loved ones all the very best.

Professor Jo Martin
President, The Royal College of Pathologists
E: jo.martin@rcpath.org [@JoMartin_path](#)



[Facebook](#)



[Twitter](#)



[Website](#)

In this issue:

[PRESIDENT'S MESSAGES](#)
[WORKING FOR MEMBERS](#)
[REGIONAL NEWS](#)
[PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT](#)
[NEW CONSULTATION](#)
[COLLEGE CONFERENCES AND SYMPOSIA](#)
[NEWS FROM EXTERNAL ORGANISATIONS](#)
[OTHER EXTERNAL EVENTS OF INTEREST](#)

WORKING FOR MEMBERS

COVID-19 - COLLEGE ACTIVITY

College staff are working remotely during the COVID-19 outbreak in line with current advice. Our aim is to try and ensure that as many of the College's activities carry on as usual. You can get in touch with your [usual staff contact](#) via email or phone. You can also find out more on [our website](#).

COVID-19: Wellbeing for Trainees

The College and the Trainee Advisory Committee (TAC) are keen to ensure that during these challenging times, trainees are well supported and have access to well-being services which might benefit. Many of you will have been redeployed, under increased pressure at work, or have been finding the current circumstances very challenging to cope with for many reasons. Sarah Gornall is a very experienced coach and with a number of similarly experienced and qualified colleagues, is prepared to offer coaching and support sessions to UK trainees, including pathology Higher Specialist Scientific trainees, at no charge. Further information is available on [the website](#).

COLLEGE NEWS

The Bulletin: moving to a digital version

The COVID-19 pandemic has brought with it new challenges for the College, one of which is how to efficiently produce and supply our quarterly members' magazine, the Bulletin.

We have, for some time, been investigating a move to a digital-only format for the Bulletin. As a result of expedited changes to VAT rules on digital publications, and being mindful of the sustainability benefits of going digital, we have taken the decision to immediately cease printing and mailing out a physical magazine.

You will still receive your quarterly Bulletin with all the interesting and relevant content you're used to. The key difference is that it will now only be in digital format. This will give you more flexibility in how and where you read it, and quicker access to related online content.

For forthcoming issues, we'll be giving all members access to a PDF version of the full Bulletin, and we'll let you know via email each time it's published. We'll also be making a few of the articles available directly on the website.

We are working hard on developing new and exciting ways to improve your reading experience and look forward to revealing these in due course.

If you have any questions in the meantime, please don't hesitate to get in touch with us via publishing@rcpath.org

College Research Medals now open

The College's Research Committee is pleased to announce the launch of the Research Medal Awards 2020.

This award is open to trainees who are first author or first joint author, on a single original research paper.

Medals are assessed for:

- potential benefits to the public and patients
- impact on the field

- contribution of the individual to the paper.

The deadline to receive applications is 5pm on Monday 31 August.

Full details of the submission process and eligibility criteria is available on the [College website](#):

CPD credits for reflective learning

Did you know that you can also claim CPD credits for reflective learning? This can include reading an article, watching a video or listening to a podcast. Please check out our guide for claiming CPD credits [here](#).

College Committee Vacancies

The College has vacancies on the following committees:

- Chair - Neuropathology Specialty Advisory Committee (SAC) (Deadline: Tuesday 30 June)
- Subspecialty Advisor in Renal Pathology (Deadline: Friday 17 July) - reporting to the Cellular Pathology SAC
- Cytopathology Sub-Committee (Deadline: Friday 31 July)
Committee members (two vacancies) - applications are encouraged from practicing cytologists ideally with experience in digital pathology / cyto-technology / molecular techniques.

Veterinary Pathology SAC (Deadline: Friday 31 July)

- Curriculum Development representative – to work with the Chair of the Panel of Examiners to support SAC activity around examinations and curriculum development
- Livestock Pathology and Disease Surveillance representative – to keep the SAC informed of current and emerging issues relating to livestock pathology and disease surveillance.

Why should I apply?

The College is committed to setting and maintaining professional standards and promoting excellence in the teaching and practice of pathology, for the benefit of patients. Those holding office in the College contribute to this important work by providing professional leadership and contributing at a national level to the maintenance and development of pathology services and the quality of patient care.

Make a difference and help to shape College activities and policies by building the profile of your specialty and pathology in general.

How to apply

Visit the [volunteering opportunities page](#) on the College website and submit your application to elections@rcpath.org by the published deadline.

Indextra - digital subscription medical library app – Free until end of July

The College had partnered with [indextra](#) to give members instant access to 900+ medical book titles, Compatible with all devices, both online and offline and now free until the end of July. For those taking up subscriptions, we have worked with Indextra to match this with a free subscription for pathologists in low income countries.

For more information and how to subscribe, visit [RCPATH indextra](#)

PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

Public Engagement Grant – closing soon

Our annual Public Engagement Innovation Grant Scheme offers the chance to receive up to £1000 of funding towards pathology-themed activities aimed at non-specialist audiences. We welcome grant applications for online engagement ideas such via 'virtual events', webinars, podcasts, videos etc. The closing date for applications is 1 July and funded activities can be run at any time up to 1 August 2021. Find out about the aims and eligibility criteria of the scheme on the [College website](#) and [contact us](#) if you have any questions.

Deadlines for essay competitions extended

We have extended the deadlines for both of our [essay competitions](#) due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The Paola Domizio Undergraduate Essay Prize will now be closing on Friday 26 June and the Hugh Platt Foundation Essay Prize will be closing on Friday 28 August.

The Art of Pathology Competition

Entrants of all ages, from the UK and abroad, are invited to interpret this year's theme, Pathology: at the heart of healthcare. Artwork should be submitted to publicengagement@rcpath.org by Friday 7 August. Please visit the [competition webpage](#) for more details.

Science4U honoured with Queen's Award for Voluntary Service

We're delighted to announce that our public engagement partners, Science4U, have been presented with the Queen's Award for Voluntary Service, the MBE for volunteer groups. The College has been partnering with Science4U for nearly a decade to create interactive pathology-themed workshops for their annual School Science Conferences. Thank you to all our members who have kindly volunteered their time and expertise for the RCPATH workshops at these conferences. [Read our news post](#) to find out more.

RCPATH resources to be featured in Hullabaloo at Home online event

Our online and video public engagement resources will be featured during this year's Hullabaloo at Home event. Hullabaloo is an annual event that mixes art, science and heritage and usually takes places on the Isle of Wight. This year, the event will be run online. Launching on Friday 19 June, with live streaming on 20 and 21 June, Hullabaloo at Home is free and open to everyone. To take part, sign up to the [Hullabaloo Facebook page](#) and visit www.hullabalooiw.com.

Visit and share our Home Activity Hub

Our Home Activity Hub contains a range of free pathology-themed activity ideas and downloadable resources to aid learning and alleviate boredom during the current lockdown. From curriculum-linked resources to support students to fun hands-on and creative activities, we hope the hub will offer some light relief during this challenging period.

NEW CONSULTATIONS - CLOSING MIDNIGHT 10 JUNE

- [Tissue pathways for non-neoplastic neuropathological specimens](#)

NEW PUBLICATIONS

- [Dataset for histopathological reporting of testicular neoplasms](#)

COLLEGE CONFERENCES AND SYMPOSIA

COVID-19 – College Conferences Update

All RCPATH scheduled conferences and events have been postponed until the end of June 2020 owing to COVID-19. We will continue to review the situation and its impact on our events, as there is the possibility that other postponements will be announced. However, we are looking at virtual meetings and video-based learning options. Details will be shared if there are changes to any events.

Please see the [COVID-19 webinars](#) for details of the free virtual learning sessions.

Primary HPV Screening and the Cervical Screening programme- WEBINAR

23 June 2020 12- 1pm

CPD credits: 2

The College in partnership with the British Association for Cytopathology (BAC) to present a Primary HPV screening and the Cervical screening webinar.

Introduced by Dr Ashish Chandra, Department of Cellular Pathology, Guys & St Thomas' NHSFT, London and Dr Paul Cross, Consultant Cellular Pathologist, Queen Elizabeth Hospital, Gateshead, the webinar will present the current cervical screening programme and its pathways for primary HPV screening. It will outline how we have arrived at the pHPV programme, how it works clinically and key points relating to it.

This seminar is aimed at trainees at Stage A and B, but will be relevant to anyone working in the cervical pathology. It will also be of interest to anyone working the CHCCT. The format of the seminar will be on approximate a 45 minutes talk followed by a 15 minutes Q&A session.

RCPATH Veterinary Pathology School for Residents – VIRTUAL PROGRAMME

5 September 2020

CPD credits: tbc

The College's veterinary pathology residency programmes comprise three main disciplines: anatomic, clinical and microbiology, with training most commonly undertaken in a university or commercial setting over a three-to four-year period. Despite training formats varying considerably depending on the particular training centre, all residents are encouraged to follow the respective RCPATH curricula.

To help residents make the most of their training opportunities and to build the RCPATH veterinary pathology community, the RCPATH is hosting a one-day school for residents. The main aim of the programme is to provide general revision updates on a number of important topic areas covered in the respective curriculums, together with providing guidance on the RCPATH exam structure and how best to prepare for the Part 1 and Part 2 examinations. The event will consist of a series of short lectures delivered by experts, covering anatomic, clinical and microbiology topic areas with several break-out sessions.

This event is aimed at veterinary pathology (anatomic and clinical) and microbiology residents at any stage of their training. The emphasis of the programme is on the

FRCPath programme, but those studying for ACVP and ECVF exams may also find this programme of interest.

Virology Study Day - SAVE THE DATE

Friday 18 September 2020

To be held at the Royal College of Pathologists, 6 Alie Street, London E1 8QT

CPD credits: 6

This interactive consultant-led study day is an exciting opportunity for trainees and consultants to gain the knowledge and skills needed for specialist medical virology practice and assessment. Please contact the team at meetings@rcpath.org for further details.

Advances in transfusion medicine – SAVE THE DATE

Thursday 26 and Friday 27 November 2020

CPD credits: tbc

There are exciting developments in transfusion medicine and science with high-quality research supporting evidence-based practice. This highly popular meeting, organised on behalf of the College, brings together experts from various clinical disciplines with leaders in transfusion science to provide an update on key developments. The meeting will be of interest to all those involved in transfusion medicine.

We invite young investigators (medical trainees, scientists and transfusion practitioners) to submit abstracts, with the best abstracts accepted for either oral or poster presentation at the symposium. Full details to follow. For any queries, please contact meetings@rcpath.org.

Soft tissue tumours from infants to young adults: the age matters

Thursday 28 and Friday 29 January 2021

To be held at the Crowne Plaza Royal Victoria Sheffield, Victoria Station Road, Sheffield S4 7YE

CPD credits: 10

This event will be a case-based approach to the current major clinicopathologic issues in soft tissue tumours in different paediatric ages. The event is targeted at paediatric pathologists, histopathologists and trainees. This event was originally scheduled for March 2020.

We will also be hosting a dinner at the Crown Plaza on the first evening of the event. This will be a great opportunity to network with colleagues and presenters attending the two-day event. Bookings can be made at the time of booking the conference. Please contact meetings@rcpath.org if you have any questions.

The Beautiful Brain

Thursday 15 and Friday 16 April 2021

To be held at the Royal College of Pathologists, 6 Alie Street, London E1 8QT

CPD credits: 13

This special course focuses on the instrumental role of neuropathological study in the analysis of human brain disorders, examining prenatal onset, management, cause identification, genetic advice, and research on human neurodevelopment and new therapies. This course is recommended to health professionals involved in prenatal /foetal medicine, perinatal and paediatric pathologists, neuropathologists, neuroradiologists, neurologists, gynaecologist-obstetricians, geneticists and neuroscientists.

Update on placenta: physiology and new concepts

Thursday 17 and Friday 18 June 2021

To be held at the Royal College of Pathologists, 6 Alie Street, London E1 8QT

CPD credits: 9

Placental pathology is a unique area of perinatal pathology. Its understanding requires knowledge of normal development, physiology and histopathology as well as fetal and maternal medicine. Request of placental examination has grown exponentially in recent years, but this has not been matched with histopathologists trained in reporting them. This course will provide an update on placental physiology, current classification and new insights into the knowledge of placental conditions.

The course is designed for paediatric/perinatal and general histopathology trainees at any stage of their training as well as consultants. The course will also be of benefit to obstetricians, both consultants and in training.

Medical examiners: training

The College is the lead medical royal college for medical examiners, providing the essential training that will equip you with the knowledge and skills needed for this important role. Any doctor wishing to work as a medical examiner will need to complete mandatory e-learning modules and attend a face-to-face training day. The day will include short presentations, small group discussions of case scenarios and the opportunity to share experience.

A certificate will be awarded to provide evidence of completion of the face-to-face component of the medical examiner training. This training complements the e-learning which you must complete before attending this training. The College is inviting new medical examiners to join as members. This is dependent on completion of this training and evidence of satisfactory completion of the e-learning modules. Please note, it will be necessary to stay for the duration of the face-to-face training to receive a certificate of completion of this training. You must have completed all 26 core e-learning modules before attending the face-to-face training.

Medical examiner face to face training session – VIRTUAL PROGRAMME

Thursday 30 July 2020

To be held virtually

CPD credits: 6

Medical examiner face to face training session

Tuesday 10 November 2020

To be held at the Royal College of Pathologists, 6 Alie Street, London E1 8QT

CPD credits: 6

Medical examiner officer training

The College is also leading on the training of medical examiner officers. The training days are open to anyone who has been appointed, or is considering applying to work as an MEO.

MEOs work closely with medical examiners and will undertake tasks such as coordinating the completion of death certificates and referrals to the coroner, and speaking to clinicians and bereaved families. There is more information about the role of the MEO, including a [model job description](#).

MEOs may come from a wide range of backgrounds. It is anticipated that many will be nurses, healthcare scientists or bereavement officers by background, although this list is not exhaustive.

The face to face training day is the second part of basic MEO training. Everyone attending the course must have completed the 26 mandatory core e-learning modules before the date of the course. It is vital that you have completed this preparatory work to enable you to get the most out of the training day. The e-learning [can be accessed here](#). (Registration with e-Learning for Healthcare is required).

Medical examiner officer training – VIRTUAL PROGRAMME

Wednesday 16 September 2020

To be held virtually

CPD credits: 6

For further information, please contact the RCPATH Conference department at meetings@rcpath.org or on 020 7451 6700.

NEWS FROM EXTERNAL ORGANISATIONS

18 September 2020

[Oxford National Thrombosis Conference](#)

25 September 2020

[All England National Thrombosis Nursing Conference](#)

28-30 September 2020

[Molecular Diagnostic Training School](#)

8 October 2020

[All Ireland National Thrombosis Conference](#)

13 October 2020

[All Scotland National Thrombosis Conference](#)

21 October 2020

[All Wales National Thrombosis Conference](#)

30 October 2020

[North West National Thrombosis Conference](#)

2 November 2020

[Pathognomics: 1st Annual Coroners Symposium 2020](#)

9-12 November

Power of Process Champion - For more information, please contact: <mailto:andre@joinpop.org>

27 November 2020

[UK Clinical Vaccine Network Conference 2020](#)

30 November – 4 December

Power of Process Master - For more information, please contact: <mailto:andre@joinpop.org>

RCPATH CPD accredited online resources can be found at the following [link](#)

See [external conferences](#). RCPATH CPD accredited online resources can be found at the following [link](#)

