



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

President's e-newsletter – June 2018



A PDF version of this e-newsletter is available at [RCPath E-newsletters](#)

President's Messages of the Month

This month we have seen some significant progress in our work across a range of issues and, whilst there is still a lot to do, we are making headway in some important areas.

Medical Examiners

Last week saw the announcement of significant patient safety initiatives by government. These included the introduction of medical examiners and stronger support for health professionals to learn from their mistakes.

As the lead medical royal college for medical examiners we campaigned for their introduction and we are ready to provide the training and support they need. Our [statement gives more detail](#).

Tier 2 Visas

We have been asking government to review the Tier 2 visas to help our workforce issues. We have met with Jeremy Hunt and senior government advisors as well as writing to the Home Secretary, Rt Hon Sajid Javid MP. We were delighted to see this progress with the recent Home Office announcement that doctors and nurses will be exempt from the Tier 2 visa cap.

NHS Funding

I signed a joint letter with a number of other medical royal colleges calling for a 4% year-on-year increase in funding for the NHS. The letter was published in *The Times*. I welcome the confirmation from government of extra funding for the NHS and wait to see the detail.

Cancer Research UK (CRUK) – Shoulder to Shoulder

The College joined CRUK in Westminster to launch their new campaign: *Shoulder to Shoulder against cancer* asking government to train and employ more staff to diagnose and treat cancers early.

Our members can also support the campaign. CRUK are encouraging MPs to sign a letter to Theresa May, asking government to prioritise workforce in any upcoming spending review. You can get involved by asking your MP to sign the letter which is available on the [CRUK website](#).

We promoted the vital role pathology plays in cancer diagnostics and the treatment of blood cancers, and we were very pleased with the number of CRUK Campaign Ambassadors who spoke to Dr Darren Treanor, our digital pathology lead and Dr Mike Osborn, Chair of the Cellular Pathology Specialty Advisory Committee. The ambassadors are volunteers who campaign on cancer prevention, early diagnosis, science research and access to treatments.

On the agenda

At this time it has been particularly important to feed our views to those developing new NHS plans and we have had lots of opportunities to have the voice of pathology heard.

- The Secretary of State Jeremy Hunt invited me to accompany him to visit six NHS trusts in Doncaster, Sheffield and Chesterfield to talk about reflecting on incidents and reducing patient harm through shared learning. The one-to-one time has meant he is now well briefed about pathology, its expertise and our workforce, IT and simplified commissioning needs.
- We issued [a joint response](#) with the medical royal colleges representing paediatricians, surgeons and anaesthetists to [Justice O'Hara's report on Hyponatremia related deaths in Northern Ireland](#). The response focuses on each of the 96 recommendations made in the report, and is designed to support these recommendations being put into practice to improve patient safety.
- I attended a dinner at 10 Downing Street organised by the Chief of Staff along with presidents of other medical royal colleges where the future of the NHS was discussed including workforce and we were asked what we wanted to see. Workforce, Medical Training Initiative, visas, training, working life, IT including Laboratory Information Management Systems (LIMS), reducing fragmentation, regulation, social care, public health and equity of access to diagnostics were all part of the discussion.
- I met Jonathan Ashworth MP, Shadow Secretary of State for Health, and members of the shadow health team, Sharon Hodgson MP and Julie Cooper MP, at an event organised by the Academy of Medical Royal

Colleges and fed in the same issues as to government.

- As a result of raising our concerns about services in relation to HPV screening procurement, we are meeting with NHS England, NHS Improvement and a range of other stakeholders for a stocktake next week.

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COLLEGE NEWS

Call for Trustee Board nominations

Nominations are open for two Honorary Officer College positions to take effect from the Annual General Meeting on Thursday 15 November

- Treasurer (to replace Dr David Cassidy)
- Assistant Registrar (to replace Mrs Avril Wayte)

Nominations close on Monday 3 September and we invite members to nominate suitable candidates:

You should have received an email with details of how to submit a nomination from the Electoral Reform Services, who are managing the election on behalf of the College. If you have not received the email, please contact elections2018@rcpath.org.

Dr Neera Patel Travelling Bursary

The College administers the Dr Neera Patel Travelling Bursary, set up in memory of Dr Neera Patel, FRCPath, who trained in cellular pathology and worked as a consultant specialising in breast pathology.

The bursary is for a histopathology trainee enrolled in a recognised UK training scheme who hopes to develop an interest in breast or head and neck pathology, to enable their participation in a national or international meeting.

The recipient will need to demonstrate how they will benefit from attending the conference and feedback a brief outline of the conference and how it has helped their career pathway.

The bursary has an annual budget of up to £1000 to cover travel, accommodation and conference registration. One award is available per year and is paid retrospectively. For full details visit [Dr Neera Patel Travelling Bursary](#). The deadline for applications is Friday 24 August.

REGIONAL NEWS

[Northern Ireland Symposium 2018: The Issues and Advances in Pathology](#)

Thursday 28 June 2018

To be held at the Postgraduate Medical Centre, Belfast City Hospital, 51 Lisburn Road, Belfast BT9 7AB

This symposium is aimed at RCPATH fellows, members, trainees, medical students and others interested in pathology specialties in Northern Ireland. The day will feature presentations about upcoming themes in pathology. Delegates will have the opportunity to share some of the developments happening in Northern Ireland. They will also hear from the President Professor Jo Martin and find out what the College does in Northern Ireland. Trainees will have the opportunity to meet with the President and discuss any relevant matters.

Half-Day Quality Improvement Workshop (Belfast)

Thursday 28 June 2018

To be held in Room 03/307 of the Medical Biology Centre (MBC), Belfast BT9 7AE

The Continuous Quality Improvement workshop will be led by Dr Bridget Wilkins, RCPATH Director of Clinical Effectiveness. This is a free event and will take place after the annual Symposium in Northern Ireland between 2-5pm. Lunch will be provided from 1pm in the foyer of the Postgraduate Centre. Pre-registration is required for this meeting as places are limited!

PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

NHS70 5 July - Look out for new online careers resources and tell us if you're running an event.

To celebrate the [70th Anniversary of the NHS](#), the College will be launching our new careers resources aimed at inspiring young people to consider a career in pathology. Look out for the launch of these exciting new resources on our website and social media channels on 5 July – please share widely, and include #pathologycareers, #NHS70 and #tags that relate to your own speciality. If you're running your own events for NHS70 on or around 5 July, please [register those that are public](#) and/or tweet about them, using #NHS70 and tagging @rcpath.

New public engagement video: The journey of a biopsy

#DiscoverPathology

The first of a series of videos by the College and [South West London Pathology](#) has been released on social media. The first video charts the journey of a biopsy and the pathologists and scientists it encounters as it makes its way through the lab. The video showcases the experts who are working in laboratories day in and day out in order for diagnoses to be made swiftly and accurately. The College encourages those who can to [share the video](#) using #DiscoverPathology to reach as wide an audience as possible.

£1,000 grants available with the Public Engagement Innovation Grant Scheme

The College is offering up to £1,000 grants for individuals or organisations who wish to develop pathology-related public engagement activities or events. The grant scheme hopes to raise public awareness of, and engagement with, pathology, while at the same time improving the science communication skills of pathologists working in the field. The deadline for the [Public Engagement Innovation Grant Scheme](#) is 4 June 2018. Please email publicengagement@rcpath.org if you have any queries or need any help with your application.

National Pathology Week 2018 5- 11 November—a chance to involve your local MP

It's never too early to start planning for [National Pathology Week!](#) We are keen to support more members to run their own events this year and to involve local parliamentarians in their events.

Inviting a local MP or Councillor to your event is an excellent way of raising the profile of your work and a good way of connecting with local policy makers. Activities where you could invite your local MP or Councillor to attend, could involve meeting colleagues or local school children taking part in a lab visit.

For ideas for your NPW event, our website has some useful information on [what some of our members did in previous years](#), as well as [guidance on running your own event](#) and some tried-and-tested [activity resources](#). The College's [public events](#) page also features some of the regional events that are taking place across the country, organised by members.

We would love to hear from you if you have already started planning your event and would like some support in inviting an MP or Councillor or if you are in the early stages of planning and would like to talk your event through with us. Please contact Janine Aldridge, the College Public Affairs Officer, on Janine.aldridge@rcpath.org or 020 7451 6769 to find out more.

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Are you Involved In drug discovery and development?

Drug discovery and development involves a range of clinical disciplines. Crucially however, it all starts in the laboratory. The International Department is currently exploring the important role and contribution of pathologists, scientists and laboratory medicine professionals in the drug development process and how the results from research undertaken in the laboratory are directly used to develop new ways to treat patients and combat disease.

We are keen to hear from College members who are involved in drug discovery, design, research and development with a view to showcasing this work as part of the 2018 International Pathology Day celebrations. If you would like to get involved, please email pathologyday@rcpath.org

GMC Registration: New verification checks introduced for international medical graduates

The GMC is introducing a new process to verify the medical qualifications of international medical graduates (IMGs). From 11 June 2019, applicants for provisional or full registration with a licence to practice will need to have their primary medical qualification independently verified before registration is granted. The checks will apply to doctors who have qualified at a medical school outside of the UK, EEA or Switzerland; and those who are nationals of a country outside the UK, EEA or Switzerland who graduated from a medical school outside the UK.

Verification will be carried out by the [Education Commission for Foreign Medical Graduates \(ECFMG\)](#) through their online system – known as the [Electronic Portfolio of International Credentials \(EPIC\)](#) service. ECFMG will verify that the qualification is genuine by checking this directly with the doctor's awarding institution. Further information can be found on the [GMC website](#).

Occupational English Test (OET)

The Occupational English Test (OET) is now being accepted by the GMC as proof of an overseas doctor's English language competency. International medical graduates can now submit an OET certificate as part of their application for GMC registration as an alternative to the more commonly known IELTS certificate. The OET has been developed with a specific focus on the healthcare profession and includes scenarios that reflect real workplace tasks and situations. The test can be taken in more than 100 locations in 40 countries.

The College now also accepts the OET certificate as a proof of English language competency for doctors applying for the [MTI](#) and [Sponsorship Scheme](#).

Further information can be found on the [GMC website](#) and the [OET website](#).

Cycle 100 miles for the College! Prudential RideLondon - Sunday 29 July 2018

Support College fellow and Regional Council for Wales's member [Dr Jim Seale](#) at this year's Prudential RideLondon challenge which is taking place on Sunday 29 July 2018. Support Dr Jim Seale by visiting his fundraising page: <https://mydonate.bt.com/fundraisers/jimseale1>

Be a Global Health Challenger! Get active and register now - Global Health Challenges 2018

Get active and do something fun by taking on an exciting adventure challenge event to raise money for the College's Global Health Fund. Here is a selection of available challenges this year:

The Great Wall of China Trek: This five-day challenge will take you over ancient watch towers, mountains and through historic battlement stations that are well off the tourist trail. Trek dates: 8 - 16 September 2018.

London to Paris Tour de France Bike Ride: Join hundreds of other enthusiastic cyclists in our London to Paris Tour de France bike ride and experience this famous route as well as the opportunity to join in with the finale of the world's greatest cycle race, entering Paris in one large peloton. Ride dates: 25 - 29 July 2018.

Three Peaks Challenge: This is the most highly regarded trekking challenge in the UK. Covering 26 miles and with a total trekking time of 15 hours or fewer, you will climb around 10,000 feet. If you think you have the grit and determination to complete this fast-paced challenge please get in touch. Trek dates: 12 – 14 October 2018

To find out more about any of the above challenges or to secure your place, please email [Deborah Ko](mailto:Deborah.Ko)

5th Annual Breast Cancer Forum - What Causes Breast Cancer? What Cures It?

London, Friday 14 September 2018

The College has partnered with the Royal Society of Medicine and Pink Ribbon to deliver this year's Breast Cancer Forum. For the first time, a special session that will explore a range of international perspectives will be held at the forum. Organised by the College and chaired by Dr Rachael Liebmann, Vice President for Communications, confirmed panel speakers include:

- Dr Hania Fadl, Founder and Chief Executive of the Khartoum Breast Cancer Care Centre (Sudan)
- Dr Nada Alwan, Professor of Pathology, University of Baghdad & Director, National Cancer Research Center (Iraq)
- Dr Abeer Shabaan, Consultant Pathologist, Queen Elizabeth Hospital Birmingham & Breast Subspecialty Lead, West Midlands Clinical Research Network (UK & Egypt)
- Dr Shahin Sayed, Consultant Histopathologist, Aga Khan University Hospital Nairobi & Secretary-General, College of Pathologists of East, Central and Southern Africa (Kenya)

For further information and to book your place, please visit [Breast Cancer Forum](#)

NEW CONSULTATIONS

Open for consultation until 13 July. Please log-in to view the document. [G171 Guidelines on autopsy practice: the decomposing cadaver](#)

COLLEGE CONFERENCES AND SYMPOSIA

[Digital Pathology: Best practice recommendations and validation](#)

Wednesday 4 July 2018

To be held at Coin Street Conference Centre, 108 Stamford Street, London SE1 9NH

CPD Credits: 6

The aim of this event is to introduce the RCPATH best practice recommendations for digital pathology and explain digital pathology validation for primary diagnosis.

[Disruptive Technology in Pathology](#)

10 – 11 October 2018

**To be held at the Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists
27 Sussex Place, Marylebone,
London NW1 4RG**

The Royal College of Pathologists and the [Association of Clinical Pathologists](#) held in collaboration with the [British In Vitro Diagnostics Association](#).

Rapid advances in technology are impacting all areas of pathology. Over the next few years we can expect to see even more amazing innovation in pathology practice. This meeting highlights some of the most advanced recent developments and the ways in which these developments are about to change patient care. This is a special meeting bringing together pathologists, industry and world experts across a range of areas, to showcase innovations that are changing healthcare, and are changing the way we think about pathology practice. The event will feature internationally renowned individuals who are at the cutting edge of developments such as hand-held gene sequencers, scanning mass spectroscopy, and augmented reality, as well as speakers at the forefront of international therapy developments who are putting real innovation into practice, both in the setting of clinical trials, but also large scale clinical implementation.

The programme includes a *Path Dragon* session where cutting-edge start-up and SMEs will pitch to the audience and an expert panel. The programme is aimed at current and trainee pathologists who want to find out what they will be doing and dealing with in the near future, and how they can innovate and bring their innovations into practice.

[The Golden Hour – Why do people die?](#)

Saturday 10 November 2018

To be held at the Wellcome Collection, 183 Euston Road, London NW1 2BE

CPD Credit: 5

The Golden Hour Conference in association with the College is a meeting for key figures in the field of pre-hospital trauma ranging from clinicians, radiologists, pathologists and representatives of HM coroner - in fact, anyone who is interested in helping the clinical pre-hospital sector understand more fully the causes of death in injured patients.

This conference will mark a new era in transforming current knowledge and understanding of why patients die from traumatic injury. It will be significant in helping to change the culture of working between clinicians, radiologists, pathologists and coroners to build a case for change in the area of death from injury, as well as prompting the development of new therapies and strategies that could reduce the number of deaths from severe injury. We also hope this event will enable all those working across this sector to join speakers from across the disciplines of pre-hospital, pathology and virtual autopsy to discuss how best to understand and study this important field.

[Advances in Transfusion Medicine](#)

Thursday 22 and Friday 23 November 2018

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

11 CPD Credits for the both days

There are ongoing significant advances in transfusion medicine and science with high quality research supporting evidence-based practice. This two-day meeting brings together experts from various clinical disciplines together with leaders in transfusion science to provide a broad overview of current key

developments. The meeting will be of wide interest to all those involved in transfusion medicine.

NEWS FROM EXTERNAL ORGANISATIONS

NHS Employers Volunteers

NHS Employers is seeking volunteers from pathology, across all levels of responsibility within NHS organisations, to join an employer reference group. This group will formally meet twice a year and participate in virtual discussions. Members will be fully supported to enable participation in all activities. For further information please see [NHS Employers Volunteers](#). For an informal discussion about becoming a member, please contact: Medical Pay and Workforce Programme Manager, Khalida Wilson on 0113 306 3210 or via email at medicalworkforce@nhsemployers.org

OTHER EVENTS OF INTEREST

See [external conferences](#)

- [Histopathology of the Bone Marrow](#) – 10 September 2018
- [ACB Microbiology Professional Group Annual Scientific Meeting](#) – 6 June 2018
- [HIS 2018](#) – 26-28 November 2018
- [Focus 2018 Training Day](#) – 6 June 2018
- [Breast Pathology Masterclass Rome 2018](#) – 19-20 September 2018
- [Infection Prevention 2018](#) – 30 September - 2 October 2018
- [Annual Shot Symposium 2018](#) – 12 July 2018
- [Clinical and Laboratory Haemostasis 2018](#) – 13-14 June 2018
- [DIPC Development Programme - Taking surveillance forwards: making the most of your data](#) – 3 July 2018
- [Embryo biopsy workshop](#) – 11-12 September 2018
- [Challenge or Conform: Finding Consensus in an Evolving Specialty](#) – 27-28 September 2018
- [GI Pathology Update](#) – 10 December 2018
- [UK CLL Forum Clinical Sciences Day - Defining High Risk CLL - Beyond p53](#) – 28 September 2018
- [UK Myeloma Forum Autumn Day - Unusual Presentations of Gammopathies and Associated Conditions](#) – 8 November 2018
- [IPS West Midlands Branch Conference \(Infection Today\)](#) – 11 July 2018
- [UK Biobanking Showcase 2018](#) – 27 November 2018

