



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

### President's e-newsletter – March 2018



#### **President's Message of the Month Getting it right first time (GIRFT) programme pathology clinical leads**

I am very pleased to welcome the appointment by the [Getting It Right First Time \(GIRFT\)](#) programme of Simon Knowles, Tom Lewis, Marion Wood and Martin Myers as clinical leaders in this work.

Their appointments have been endorsed by the College and between them they represent a diverse range of pathology specialities covering histopathology, microbiology, haematology and clinical biochemistry as well as broad experience of leading multi-disciplinary laboratories. Their clinical experience and expertise will be invaluable in this work.

By tackling variations in the way services are delivered across the NHS and sharing best practice between trusts, GIRFT identifies changes to services that improve the care and treatment of patients. Crucially, GIRFT is led by clinicians who are expert in the areas they are reviewing.

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

This programme is all about quality and the College is supporting and helping with this important work.

### **Engagement**

As a College we aim to ensure that policy makers and parliamentarians are made aware of the vital contribution our members make to patient care and treatment, research and innovation in healthcare.

At the same time we also have to ensure that they are also alerted to the challenges that face the profession.

To coincide with a recent debate on cancer care in the House of Commons, we sent every MP a briefing paper on the pressures facing pathologists to meet increased demand and new targets for cancer diagnosis. Our briefing was quoted in parliament by Nic Dakin MP who also wrote a piece for the [Yorkshire Post](#).

In an [interview for the Health Service Journal](#) about NHS Improvement Networks, I have continued to highlight the need for IT connectivity and clarity and stability for the pathology workforce.

I will continue to raise issues that affect the pathology workforce to influence those in positions to make a difference.

If you have any feedback or suggestions about what you think I should highlight, please get in touch.

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**President, The Royal College of Pathologists**

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## **COLLEGE NEWS**

### **Demonstration of the LEPT System**

Deaneries/Local Education Training Boards (LETBs) are reminded that demonstration of the Learning Environment for Pathology Trainees (LEPT) system can be arranged. The LEPT system is for medical trainees (specialty registrars) in chemical pathology and histopathology. It is a web-based system for workplace-based assessment and multi-source feedback, which also includes an ePortfolio to support the Annual Review of Competence Progression (ARCP) process. For further information or to make arrangements for a demonstration, please contact [assessment@rcpath.org](mailto:assessment@rcpath.org).

## **PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT**

### **NHS 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary: please share our careers survey with students**

As part of our [programme of activity](#) to celebrate the [70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the NHS](#), the College will be launching new careers resources, both online and in print. We're currently surveying students about how they access careers information so we can ensure our new resources are effective in engaging our target audiences. We would be grateful if members could share [our undergraduate survey](#) with any biomedical or medical undergraduates you know, and/or share [our sixth former survey](#) with any year 12 or 13 students who are interested in studying medical or biomedical degrees. Please do get in touch at [publicengagement@rcpath.org](mailto:publicengagement@rcpath.org) if you would like to find out more about how you can get involved with the careers project or with any other aspect of [our NHS70 activities](#).

### **Funding for events: Public Engagement Innovation Grant Scheme**

The [Public Engagement Innovation Grant Scheme](#) is now open. Grants of up to £1,000 are available for individuals or organisations who wish to develop pathology-related public engagement activities or events. For more information, please see our [website](#).

### **Apply for free Science Communication Training – 14 June, London**

We're running one of our very popular [science communication training](#) courses in London this June. The day is free for members and those who attend will earn 5 CPD credits. The course is run by a professional science communicator from the Science Museum and covers how to plan events and develop activities, how to identify your audience, and how to cater for different learning styles. For more information on how to apply for your free place, visit our [website](#) or email [publicengagement@rcpath.org](mailto:publicengagement@rcpath.org). Please note that free places are given to those who sign an agreement to run an activity or event within a year of attending the course. There is also an option to pay £150 instead.

## **INTERNATIONAL NEWS**

### **International Women's Day 2018: Celebrating women in pathology**

[International Women's Day \(IWD\)](#) is being celebrated this Thursday 8 March. Why not join in our IWD *Celebrating Women in Pathology* social media campaign by:

- Taking a photo with the woman who has inspired you. She could be your mother, daughter, aunt, grandmother, old school friend, trainee, teacher or anyone who you feel has contributed to your professional journey and influenced you to become a pathologist.
- Publishing your photo on Twitter and/or Facebook using the hashtags #InternationalWomensDay, #IWD2018 and #pathology. Remember to tag the College on Twitter and Facebook (@RCPath).
- Including our *Celebrating Women in Pathology* poster in your photos.

[Visit our website to download the poster and for further details on how to get involved.](#) We look forward to seeing your photos and reading your inspiring stories!

## **NEW CONSULTATIONS**

- [Dataset for histopathological reporting of lung cancer](#)

**Get involved in your College**

Join the [Trainees Advisory Committee \(TAC\)](#).

Two trainees are sought (one acting as a deputy) to attend the Trainees' Advisory Committee and [Clinical Science Committee](#). The representatives will also provide trainee representation on the [National School of Healthcare Scientists Life Sciences Themed Board](#). The role involves representing the views of colleagues and ensuring robust processes are in place for colleagues to feedback and to communicate with the board which meets three times a year in Birmingham (travel and expenses are covered by the NSHS).

We would also like to hear from enthusiastic trainees who wish to represent the following Speciality Advisory Committees (SAC) on the TAC.

- SAC Oral and Maxillofacial Pathology
- [SAC on Prenatal, Perinatal and Paediatric Pathology](#)

Please submit a short statement detailing your suitability for the relevant role to: Michelle Dominique, Governance and Committee Services Officer. Email: [michelle.dominique@rcpath.org](mailto:michelle.dominique@rcpath.org)). Closing date for submissions is 5pm on Friday 16 March 2018.

For more information visit the College website at [TAC vacancies](#).

## **COLLEGE CONFERENCES AND SYMPOSIA**

### **Cytopathology Study Day - NEW**

**Monday 16 April 2018**

**CPD: 6 Credits**

**To be held in the General Classroom, Hodgkin Building, KCL, Guy's Hospital, Great Maze Pond, London SE1 9RT**

The study day covers aspects of FNA practice including the value of onsite assessment and provisional reporting in H&N, EBUS and EUS suites. There will be a talk on digital cytology covering EUS pancreas and H&N cytology. The workshops will also include a selection of cases as a practical demo of ROSE. A range of glass slides on the topics covered will also be available for individual microscopy. The meeting is suited for all grades of pathologists and BMS but particularly for those interested in FNA and onsite triage.

### **Guidelines for non-forensic autopsy practice (your questions and answers)**

**Friday 18 May 2018**

**To be held at: The Royal College of Psychiatrists, 21 Prescott Street, London E1 8BB**

**CPD Credits: 5**

This symposium aims to provide guidance to pathologists dealing with non-forensic and Coroner's post-mortem examinations. It presents a platform for pathologists to familiarise themselves with recent published guidelines as well as providing a rare opportunity to discuss challenging cases with experts and guideline authors.

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

**NEW**

**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 Gynaecologists  
27 Sussex Place, Marylebone,  
London NW1 4RG**

This meeting is being held in collaboration with the [Association of Clinical Pathologists](#) and 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 training 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.

Confirmed speakers so far include:

- Professor John Pasi, whose gene therapy for haemophilia A has been described as “game changing”
- Professor Graham Foster - who developed treatment for hepatitis C and who is now tasked with eliminating it in the UK
- Professor Shafi Ahmed - surgeon and augmented and virtual reality guru, entrepreneur and the first to live international webcast his operations for teaching.

### [Advances in Transfusion Medicine - NEW](#)

**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 organised on behalf of The Royal College of Pathologists 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**

### **Help test assessment tools**

There have been assessment procedures for investigating poorly performing doctors since 1997. The research department of Medical Education at UCL is working with the GMC to review Fitness to Practise procedures and update the assessments to ensure each assessment is fair to the doctor being assessed.

To do this, they are holding validation events for new assessment material and are looking for interested and fully registered doctors to participate. The day will involve taking a written test and a 12 station OSCE and will last from 10:00am – 4:30pm.

All volunteers will receive feedback about their own performance. The day provides valuable insight into how the GMC assesses referred doctors and is also excellent examination practice for those about to do postgraduate exams.

The event for histopathology will be held in May in London and participants will receive an honorarium of £350 plus (standard class) travel expenses and lunch. For more information please visit: [Assessment Tools](#)

## **OTHER EVENTS OF INTEREST**

See [external conferences](#)

- [Histopathology of the Bone Marrow](#) – 10 September 2018
- [BSBMT Scientific Day](#) – 2 May 2018
- [ACB Microbiology Professional Group Annual Scientific Meeting](#) – 6 June 2018
- [Dublin - Haematological Malignancies and Future of Immunotherapy](#) – 18 May 2018
- [7th Annual Oxford Bone Infection Conference](#) – 22-23 March 2018
- [HIS 2018](#) – 26-28 November 2018
- [UKNSLN Annual Scientific Meeting](#) – 16 March 2018
- [South West Haemostasis and Thrombosis Meeting](#) – 10 May 2018





