



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



President's e-newsletter – January 2020

President's Messages of the Month

Welcome to my first e-newsletter for 2020.

New UK parliament

With the election of a new government and with ten doctors serving as MPs in parliament, we will be working hard to ensure that pathology services are high on the health agenda over the next parliamentary term. In particular, we continue to press for a resolution to the pensions crisis. In the run up to the election, we published our [health priorities for the next government](#) and have been communicating these to new ministers and MPs.

Following a meeting with Dr Jonathan Kell, Chair of the Wales Regional Council, [Chris Bryant MP \(Lab, Rhondda\) highlighted pathology workforce shortages in a question to the Chancellor of the Exchequer](#). Chris Bryant MP also asked for financial incentives to help recruit pathologists into the NHS. We were encouraged by the response from the Chancellor and will continue to ask for increased investment in pathology services.

The question raised by Chris Bryant MP is an example of how our parliamentary engagement programme is helping to raise the importance of pathology services in healthcare.

We would also like to offer our congratulations to [Tom Randall](#), a long-standing member of the [College's exams team](#), who has been elected as the new Member of Parliament for Gedling.

General Medical Council (GMC) survey of Specialty and Associate Specialist (SAS) and Locally Employed (LE) doctors

I was pleased to see the publication of the GMC report of [its first survey of SAS and LE doctors](#), the one in six UK doctors who are not GPs, consultants nor in a training role. It was good to see that for many, the roles offered them positive career choices. More troubling however, were the findings that found 30% of SAS doctors and 23% of their LE counterparts said they had been bullied, undermined or harassed at work in the last year, either by colleagues or by patients and their families. It's essential that all of us working in the health sector feel rewarded and valued.

The College aims to engage with those in this grade and is seeking to improve the attractiveness and relevance of member benefits and resources available. We will shortly be launching our strategy for SAS and LE doctors, aspiring to achieve greater inclusion of these colleagues in its services.

Round up

- We are continuing to meet with key figures in the health sector to ensure that the needs of the pathology workforce are met. I attended a meeting with the Chief Medical Officer, Professor Chris Whitty, organised by the [Academy of Medical Royal Colleges](#). We had a useful discussion about workforce, genomics, IT, digital, AI, transfusion, antimicrobial resistance and flu amongst other areas.
- We have launched a new Service Spotlight series to highlight and celebrate excellent pathology services. First in the series is [an interview](#) with Prof Sarah Coupland, Lead of the [Liverpool Ocular Oncology Research Group](#) and [RCPath Excellence Award](#) winner. In her interview, Sarah talks about the impressive Liverpool ocular pathology services and what makes them unique.
- It was fantastic to speak at the [6th Digital pathology and AI congress](#) along with College colleagues, Dr Darren Treanor, Dr David Snead and Dr Bethany Williams. The conference covered the latest advances and applications of digital pathology, how artificial intelligence and machine learning is being applied to primary diagnosis and clinical research and how the image-based information environment is transforming the laboratory.
- We were pleased to host the [Intercollegiate Committee on Haematology \(ICH\)](#) conference at the College. This was a half-day, interactive meeting to debate and discuss key issues facing haematology consultants and trainees. We know that staffing levels have not risen in line with demand and there are not enough trainee doctors in post to fill the gaps in the workforce.
- [Cervical cancer prevention week runs from 20-26 Jan](#). One of the aims of the week is to raise awareness of how important it is for women to attend their screening appointments. Cervical screening save lives and our members are central to delivering this important service. Despite the upheaval and uncertainty around the move to the new [HPV primary screening programme](#), they have continued to provide this vital screening service for women.

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COLLEGE NEWS

Microbiology/Virology Workforce Survey – Deadline extended to 31 January

We need you to contribute to and help shape the planning of the future workforce by encouraging your clinical lead/head of department to complete the [microbiology and/or virology survey](#).

We need this information to provide an accurate picture to influence and lobby policy makers and parliamentarians on your behalf. The survey results provide us with a comprehensive snapshot of the UK medical and scientific workforce. We also need to obtain a realistic idea of the number of vacant posts. The resulting data will be used as aggregated statistics to make a strong case.

The deadline has been extended to 31 January 2020. If you have any queries about the service, please contact reshma.patel@rcpath.org.

Survey of College Clinical Guidelines

Please complete a [survey of College clinical guidelines use](#). Your responses will help us assess how our guidelines are being used by our members and how we can help facilitate their implementation, as well as identify areas of improvement. Survey closes on 7 February 2020. For any queries, please contact clinicaleffectiveness@rcpath.org.

International Collaboration on Cancer Reporting (ICCR) datasets consultation

The ICCR draft datasets for 'Carcinoma of the Exocrine Pancreas', 'Colorectal Cancer' and 'Colorectal Excisional Biopsy (Polypectomy)' are now available for [open consultation](#). The documents will be available for comments until Friday 14 February 2020.

Cervical Cytology Training Guidance

The College has published [cervical cytology training guidance](#) for stage A and B histopathology trainees to clarify how the cervical cytology aspects of the curriculum can continue to be met following changes to the laboratory aspect of cervical screening. The guidance has been published following consultation with the Histopathology CSTC, Cytopathology Specialty Advisory Committee, Trainee Advisory Committee and the General Medical Council.

Percy Oliver Memorial Award

The College's Transfusion Medicine Specialty Advisory Committee (SAC) is inviting nominations for this year's Percy Oliver Memorial Award.

The Memorial Award is given to an individual who has made an outstanding contribution to the field of blood transfusion. This year's category is medical transfusion.

Nominations and accompanying citations should be submitted to the SAC for consideration by 24 May 2020 via Clare Young at: clare.young@rcpath.org.

Please use the citation to describe your nominee's background, achievements and contributions to the field of blood transfusion, in no more than 750 words; furthermore, please demonstrate the impact that they have made to the field.

Percy Oliver Trainee Travel Bursary

The Percy Oliver Trainee Travel Bursary is offered each spring and autumn to a value of up to £500. The bursary can be used to cover travel and accommodation costs for trainee clinicians and clinical scientists enrolled in a recognised UK training scheme and working in the field of transfusion medicine, to enable their participation in a national or international blood transfusion meeting.

Further details and an application form can be downloaded from [Percy Oliver travel bursary](#). The deadline is 5 pm on Friday 27 March 2020.

Learning Environment for Pathology Trainees (LEPT) system

The LEPT system is now open to Certificate of Eligibility for Specialist Registration (CESR) applicants to help them collect evidence for CESR applications. The LEPT guidance notes and application form for CESR applicants are available at: [LEPT system](#).

6 Alie Street, London

A big thank you from the Events@No6 team for your support in 2019. We look forward to an eventful 2020. You can take a [virtual tour](#) of 6 Alie Street to view our fabulous spaces from the comfort of your sofa or office chair. For more information or room hire enquiries, please contact sales@eventsatNo6.com

REGIONAL NEWS – SAVE THE DATE

Regional symposia dates have now been confirmed – please save the dates below in your diaries. Further information will follow shortly.

- Northern Ireland Regional Symposium 2020 will be held in Belfast on Wednesday 22 April 2020.
- Wales Regional Symposium 2020 will be held in North Wales on Tuesday 16 June 2020.
- Scotland Regional Symposium 2020 will be held on Wednesday 30 September 2020. Venue to be confirmed.

If you have any queries, ideas or would like more information about our symposia, please contact Jessica.Zago@rcpath.org.

PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

Free public engagement training for members

We've just announced 2020 dates for our [public engagement training](#)! Formerly known as science communication training, these sessions offer a chance to develop event ideas for diverse audiences. The standard level one-day training course takes place on 4 March followed by the advanced training on 27–28 May. The training sessions will be led by a team from the Science Museum.

Attendance on these courses is free for members, provided you agree to volunteer at a public engagement event or run one of your own within a year of the training (there is also an option to pay). Funding to help cover travel to the training is also available. If you would like to express an interest in either or both courses, please email publicengagement@rcpath.org.

Funding for your public events – our grant scheme re-opens for 2020

We are pleased to open the next round of the [Public Engagement Innovation Grant Scheme](#), which provides financial support for the delivery of pathology-related activities and events in the UK. Grants of up to £1,000 are available for individuals or organisations to run activities aimed at non-specialist audiences. More information is available on the [College website](#). The deadline for applications is **1 June 2020** and activities can be run at any time up to 1 July 2021. Please get in touch with the College's Public Engagement Manager [Penny Fletcher](#) if you have any questions or would like to discuss an initial idea.

Why not use our free resources during Healthcare Science Week?

Get ahead and start planning for this year's [Healthcare Science Week](#), which takes place from 6–15 March alongside [British Science Week](#).

We've got lots of free resources and activity ideas for you to try including [quizzes](#) and [hands-on activities](#). If you're running an event or activity, please let us know by [adding it to our website](#). You can also request some of our branded materials and careers materials [here](#).

NEW CONSULTATION

- [Best Practice Recommendations for workload management in laboratory medicine](#)

COLLEGE CONFERENCES AND SYMPOSIA

2nd Bi-Annual UK Endocrine Pathology Society/RCPATH Endocrine Pathology Update

Thursday 6 and Friday 7 February 2020

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

CPD credits: 9

Hear the latest developments in endocrine pathology and oncology from nationally and internationally recognised experts in the field. Join us for a two-day update on endocrine pathology, covering topics including:

- the thyroid cancer 'epidemic'
- pathological criteria for papillary thyroid carcinoma
- surgical approaches to thyroid cancer and pathology
- reporting thyroid FNA cytology using the UK 'THY' system

- WHO 2017 classification of thyroid tumours 2017: NIFTP, FTUMP, WDTUMP, WDTNOS (emphasis on diagnostic pitfalls)
- risk stratification of thyroid cancer
- pitfalls in thyroid diagnosis and medicolegal issues
- the thyroid patient – what the oncologist needs from pathology
- update on new therapies and clinical trials for thyroid cancer
- multidisciplinary working in thyroid disease
- MDTs, datasets and UK national guidelines
- case-based discussions.

Who should attend? Consultant pathologists and senior trainees reporting on thyroid pathology.

Liver biopsy in the assessment of medical liver disease

Thursday 5 and Friday 6 March 2020

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

CPD credits: 10

This year two annual courses will be linked to provide a two-day course of lectures and practical experience in liver pathology. Delegates have the option of attending either or both days.

Day 1 – Liver biopsy in the assessment of medical liver disease

This course, organised by Professor Stefan Hübscher, will be delivered for the tenth time. Presentations by hepatologists and histopathologists cover the investigation of medical liver diseases. This course will provide a practical diagnostic approach to reporting medical liver biopsies, focusing on the importance of clinicopathological correlation in assessing common patterns of liver damage.

Day 2 – Histopathology workshop on liver pathology

This slide-based practical workshop is devised for consultants working outside specialist liver centres, and trainees in stage C or D who have an interest in liver pathology. It is designed to complement the annual course 'Liver biopsy in the assessment of medical liver disease', but also works as a standalone course.

Dermatopathology study day – Save the date

Friday 13 March 2020

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

CPD credits: 6

This study day will provide an update on the 'hot topics' within dermatopathology for the trainee, consultant pathologist and specialist alike, with practical pointers and helpful hints to be used in day-to-day reporting and examination of specialist cases. Full details will follow. For any queries, please contact meetings@rcpath.org

Soft tissue tumors from infants to young adults: the age matters!

Thursday 19 and Friday 20 March 2020

To be held at the Crown 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.

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 23 and Friday 24 April 2020

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 for candidates interested in fetal medicine and human neurodevelopment, including pathologists, neuropathologists, neuro-radiologists, neurologists, gynaecologist-obstetricians, genetists and neuroscientists.

Update on placenta: physiology and new concepts

Thursday 2 and Friday 3 July 2020

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

CPD credits: TBC

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.

Advances in Transfusion Medicine – Save the date

Thursday 26 and Friday 27 November 2020

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

CPD credits: TBC

There are exciting ongoing developments in transfusion medicine and science with high-quality research supporting evidence-based practice. This highly popular two-day 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

Medical examiners: face-to-face training

Medical examiners will ensure accurate death certification across a local area, provide much needed support for bereaved families and improve patient safety. Medical examiners will be doctors registered with the GMC holding a current licence to practise. Any doctor wishing to work as a medical examiner will need to attend a face-to-face training day and complete mandatory e-learning modules.

The College is the lead medical royal college for medical examiners, providing the essential training which will equip you with the knowledge and skills you will need for

this important role. 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 entire day 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

Wednesday 19 February 2020

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

CPD credits: 6

Medical examiner: face-to-face training session

Tuesday 23 June 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 leading on the training of medical examiners and has recently also agreed to provide training for medical examiner officers (MEOs). 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.

This 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

Tuesday 17 March 2020

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

CPD credits: 6

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

Coroner and Medical Examiner Training - Save the date

The College together with the Coroner's Office will be providing a series of joint training sessions for coroners and medical examiners from March through June 2020

The objectives of the course are to assist coroners and medical examiners to

understand each other's roles, consider together what an unnatural death might look like and when deaths need to be referred to the coroner. Also explored will be what a good MCCD looks like, how deaths are registered with reference to the GRO guidelines and consider bereavement and its impact on the family and how to deal with difficult situations.

The aim is to deliver these courses regionally as a network opportunity for coroners and ME's but many of the events will be in the Royal College of Pathologists building in London. Practitioners will also have the option to attend an event of their choosing and are encouraged to take advantage of this opportunity to network and establish relationships with fellow medical examiners and coroners as well as learn good joint working practices.

Upcoming dates to be finalised:

25 March 2020 - South East
17 April 2020 - South West
30 April 2020 - East
4 May 2020 – London
15 May 2020 – Wales
22 May 2020 - North West
19 June 2020 - Midlands

This event is supported by the Chief Coroner and National Medical Examiner. Full details to follow. For any queries please contact meetings@rcpath.org

NEWS FROM EXTERNAL ORGANISATIONS AND JOINT WORKING

European Union Survey on HTLV Testing

The European Union is conducting a survey on HTLV testing in the UK. The survey is aimed at clinical infection doctors including virologists, microbiologists, and ID and GUM/HIV doctors. It is easy to fill out and should only take about 3 minutes to complete. The purpose of the survey is to collect information on the availability of HTLV testing in the UK, how it can be requested, how results are confirmed and distributed further, and how those with infections are referred for care. It is completely anonymous, and has few linked questions.

The survey can be accessed here: [Europa survey 2019](#). The deadline for responses is Friday 31 January 2020.

Funding for Women's Leadership Development in the Health Sector

A pool of scholarship funding is currently available from [Women and Leadership](#) for women in the UK's health sector to participate in a range of leadership development courses. The grants are provided with the specific intent of providing a powerful and effective development opportunity for women throughout the healthcare sector in the UK by providing women with scholarships of up to £2,500.

This is a limited pool of seed funding and prompt registration is advised. Expressions of interest close 31 January 2020. For more information visit: [Women and Leadership Health Sector](#).

Soulsby Foundation calls for applications for 2020 One Health Fellowships

The Soulsby Foundation has opened a call for applications for its 2020 Travelling Fellowships Programme.

The Foundation supports talented veterinary and medical researchers at an early stage in their careers through these competitively awarded Travelling Fellowships in 'One Health'. Applicants must be affiliated to a biomedically relevant academic institution in the UK, USA, EU or Australasia.

Further information is available at [Soulsby Foundation](#). The closing date for applications is 31 January 2020.

OTHER EVENTS OF INTEREST

24 January
[13th HIV Dilemmas](#)

29-31 January
[18th Annual BTOG Conference 2020](#)

11 February
[Post ISTH & ASH Headlines 2020](#)

21 February
[Gastrointestinal histopathology workshop](#)

28-29 April
[Non Operative Breast Pathology Update Course](#)

25-26 June
[Interactive Uro pathology course](#)

29-30 June
[Lymphoma Management](#)

9-10 July
[Nottingham Breast Pathology Masterclass](#)

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

