



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



## **President's e-newsletter – September 2020**

### **President's Messages of the Month**

We have had a really good response to the consultation on proposed governance changes to the College, including voting rights for Diplomates and a lay chair for Trustees, and especially to the option that future Presidents (following Dr Osborn!) don't come from the same specialty as the preceding one. So, subject to approval at the Annual General Meeting in November, you will have the significant changes to the College that so many of you have requested. I am pleased to have seen so much engagement with this consultation, and very glad to see a formal decision on these changes during my tenure.

We have seen considerable progress in many other areas that we have been working on – a new £50 million investment in LIMS and interoperability infrastructure in England is a significant development that we are pleased to see. We have also seen more investment in clinical biochemistry and molecular equipment in the UK, and announcements of additional development funding for digital pathology. I am really delighted to see another year of full recruitment to histopathology specialty training, with infection, haematology and other disciplines maintaining their excellent uptake.

We have had great interest in the upcoming elections, and you will have the opportunity to elect some superb colleagues to represent you in our future work. Keep an eye out for the election papers!

Once again, I, and so many others, deeply appreciate all you are doing regarding the pandemic. Your work across all our specialties is crucial, especially as we try to return to normal working. The recent resurgence in cases, and some of the sad consequences of infections within hospitals, are all too stark a reminder of the human tragedies that we are working to avoid. You are superb. Thank you.

### **RCPATH Achievement Awards 2020**

I am delighted to announce the launch of the RCPATH Achievement Awards 2020. This is your chance to nominate your colleagues to thank them for all the fantastic work they do.

We launched the RCPATH Achievement Awards (formerly the Excellence Awards) in 2019 to celebrate excellence in pathology and promote high standards in pathology education, training and research to deliver the best patient care. We had some wonderful winners in 2019 from a range of specialties and I am sure there will be some marvellous entries this year.

Our colleagues have been truly awe-inspiring throughout the coronavirus pandemic. Their work continues as we face a possible second wave of COVID-19 and need to tackle the backlog of cases. We will also need to manage the additional pressures that the winter will inevitably bring. So please recognise your amazing colleagues and nominate! Visit RCPATH Achievement Awards.

### **Working to make opportunity and inclusivity a reality at the College**

We recognise that representation, especially at senior levels in the College, does not reflect the wealth of diversity of our members. As a first step to address this, we have been listening to colleagues about their experiences, and have asked many organisations with expertise in this area how we can support a more diverse leadership culture. We are recruiting an Advisory Group to make further recommendations to the College Trustee Board on how we can encourage and enable more people of all identities and from all backgrounds to become involved in the College.

We are looking for members, trainees and lay representatives to bring their expertise and own experiences to the group to explore issues and advise the Trustees.

I would encourage you to apply – information is on the College website and application is straightforward. Dr Esther Youd is leading this work with Dr Lance Sandle, and they would be happy to speak to you informally.

### **The Art and Science of Practical Management – new webinar series**

Together with the chair of the Trainee Advisory Committee Dr Matthew Clarke, I am launching a new webinar series – Core skills for leadership and management – to help support training in these domains while face-to-face opportunities are limited.

This programme of case-based and reflective learning about the management of complex or difficult situations will draw on real-life experience. I will cover the theory and practical aspects of leadership and management in a healthcare setting.

This series is for everyone – from trainees and students to new and established consultants, clinical scientists, biomedical scientists and all staff who want to reflect on their skills and learn tips and tactics to deal with difficult situations.

There will be a chance to ask questions at each session so do join us on Wednesday evenings from 7:00 to 7:30pm starting on 7 October until 25 November.

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## Round up

- Following a letter I sent to the Health Secretary, Matt Hancock, I spoke [in the media about the risk from home antibody tests](#) for COVID-19 and also took part in a series of local radio interviews. We are aware that COVID-19 antibody testing devices, intended for professional use only, have been offered for direct sale to consumers without the required reassurance of appropriate laboratory or professional back up. The use of these for unsupervised self-use test falls outside current regulations, and can mislead the public and put individuals at risk.
- I was delighted to contribute to an evidence session organised by the All Party Parliamentary Group on coronavirus about COVID-19 Test and Trace. You can find out more and watch the session on our [On the Agenda page](#).
- We were pleased to submit evidence to [the Justice Committee inquiry on the Coroner Service](#). The Justice Select Committee has expressed concern that not enough progress has been made to improve the Coroner Service, since reforms were introduced in 2009, and has launched an inquiry. We will publish our findings on this as soon as possible.
- For the past few months, we have held weekly [COVID-19](#) seminars on the disease, its [pathology](#) and its clinical implications. For those of you who missed them, or would like a recap, you can [view all 17 videos on our website](#).
- Somewhere in the UK someone is diagnosed with blood cancer every 14 minutes. This September we are supporting [Blood Cancer Awareness Month](#) to highlight the huge breadth of expertise in the pathology workforce that supports blood cancer diagnosis.

**Professor Jo Martin**  
**President, The Royal College of Pathologists**  
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## WORKING FOR MEMBERS

### COLLEGE NEWS

Service Spotlight: Nottingham University Hospitals Microbiology Laboratory service  
In the latest instalment of our blog series highlighting outstanding practice, we found out how the team in Nottingham rose to the enormous challenge of testing for SARS-CoV-2 and pulled together to respond to a rapidly changing environment.

#### **World Patient Safety Day – 17 September**

The College is supporting World Patient Safety Day to raise awareness about the importance of addressing the safety of those working in healthcare as a prerequisite to patient safety.

#### **College Patient Safety Resources**

The College is working towards supporting its members with the continual improvement of the safety of services that pathologists and their teams provide.

We have a number of resources to help our members develop the confidence, knowledge and skills needed to improve patient care. Some of these resources are:

- Patient safety bulletins that are designed to help members learn from other members' past experiences in the workplace
- Patient safety awareness resources - podcasts, videos and other interactive activities
- A CQI Mentoring Scheme to help members improve the quality of pathology practice.

#### **RCPATH Consulting – apply to be an adviser**

We are recruiting advisers for RCPATH Consulting, which operates as part of RCPATH Trading Ltd, a wholly owned subsidiary of the College.

RCPATH Consulting was established eight years ago. It provides expertise across all pathology specialties to NHS and private healthcare organisations and national bodies looking for an independent and authoritative view on how best to deliver pathology services.

Advisers are senior members of the College and the Institute for Biomedical Science, who are appointed following open advertisement and interview. Advisers are paid for their time, and all profits from RCPATH Consulting are gifted to the College. We are currently looking to expand our current list of advisers to ensure that we have the right range of expertise to match the work.

If you have experience in laboratory management and governance and would like to make please visit: RCPATH Consulting. If you are already an advisor for RCPATH Consulting and would like to be considered for a future role as Clinical Lead, please contact Richard Sams via [rcpathconsulting@rcpath.org](mailto:rcpathconsulting@rcpath.org).

#### **Educational Update**

**Friday 4 December 2020, 10am–12pm**

**CPD credits: 2**

This virtual event is principally for trainers, senior trainees and assessors in chemical pathology, cellular pathology, medical microbiology and virology specialties. Trainers from the JRCPTB specialties are also welcome to attend. The event will comprise a

series of short talks on current and future developments affecting the College. Dr Mike Osborn, RCPATH President Elect will be giving a talk as will Professor Jonathan Van-Tam, England Deputy Chief Medical Officer.

Deadline for CPD returns extended to 30 September 2020

The College recognises the tremendous effort made by our members during this difficult period.

To alleviate the pressure of submitting within the normal deadline, we have extended the 2019/2020 CPD deadline to 30 September 2020. If you need more time to submit or have any queries, please contact the CPD team: [cpd@rcpath.org](mailto:cpd@rcpath.org)

## **GET INVOLVED IN YOUR COLLEGE**

Represent your specialty – Intercollegiate committee vacancies

The College would like to invite applications for the following vacancies on two joint committees between the Royal College of Pathologists and the Royal College of Physicians:

Intercollegiate Committee on Haematology

- Two vacancies for an RCPATH representative (one medical and one clinical scientist). The term of office is three years from the date of appointment.

Joint Committee on Immunology and Allergy

- One vacancy for an RCPATH representative. The term of office is four years from the date of appointment.

The deadline for applications is 5.00pm on Friday 16 October 2020.

### **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 shape College activities and policies by building the profile of your specialty.

### **How to apply**

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

## **REGIONAL NEWS**

**Scotland Symposium 2020 – to be held via Zoom on Wednesday 30 September 2020, 9.30am -1pm**

**CPD credits: 3**

This year's theme will be 'molecular diagnostics' with a series of talks, including:  
Current NHS molecular diagnostics in Scotland by Professor Zofia Miedzybrodzka  
Use of NGS in the real-time sequencing of COV2 outbreak in the COG-UK collaboration by Dr Kathy Li

Molecular advances for neuropathology by Dr Olimpia Curran  
Genomes and liquid biopsy by Professor Tim Aitman  
Establishing molecular diagnostics for pancreatic cancer' by Dr Susie Cooke.

Delegates will also hear from the President Professor Jo Martin and find out about the College's work in Scotland.

**Northern Ireland Symposium 2020: Challenges and Developments in Pathology – to be held via Zoom on Tuesday 6 October 2020, 9.30am—1pm**  
**CPD credits: 3**

The Northern Ireland Symposium will include:  
opening remarks from Dr Michael McBride (Chief Medical Officer)  
a keynote speech entitled: 'A biochemist's guide to the ideal diet'  
presentations on 'Demand management in an NHS laboratory?'  
a trainee presentation on the 'ICAT Programme'.

Delegates will also hear from the President Professor Jo Martin and find out about the College's work in Northern Ireland.

**Wales Symposium 2020 – to be held online on 27 October 2020 (Save the Date)**

Joining the online symposium is free, but we do require formal registration. Joining instructions will be circulated to all attendees one week before the event.

We will shortly be providing more information on the Wales Symposium and how to register – please watch this space.

**INTERNATIONAL NEWS**

**International Pathology Day 2020 – Wednesday 11 November**

This year's International Pathology Day (IPD) will be held on-line, bringing the global pathology community together for a virtual conference.

As the world continues to reel from the devastating effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, this year's IPD will explore infection. Focusing on the methods and models that have been developed to manage infection around the world, the day will also explore how the global pathology community has managed infectious outbreaks in the past and how it is dealing with the current outbreak of COVID-19. For more information about planned activities for the day visit [IPD 2020](#).

**PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT**

**National Pathology Week – - 2 to 8 November 2020 – Pathology: at the heart of healthcare**

We're taking [National Pathology Week \(NPW\)](#) online this year and our theme Pathology: at the heart of healthcare, gives an exciting opportunity to show how much the health of the nation relies on the amazing work of pathology teams in hospitals across the UK and beyond, including the many ways pathology supports heart health.

There are lots of ways members can get involved -- from running your own online event to taking part in our social media campaigns. If you're thinking of running an online or socially -distanced event for NPW, you can download the NPW logo in various formats from our [event-organiser resource page](#), where we will also be

launching new guides and other resources for organisers during September. If you'd like to get involved in NPW, or need some advice on how to get started, please get in touch with the public engagement team.

The Furness Prize for Science Communication

Do you know an undergraduate student or trainee who has demonstrated exceptional science communication throughout the year? If yes, please encourage them to apply by 23 October at Furness Prize. The winner will receive £200 and will be invited to receive their certificate at the New Fellows Ceremony in February 2021.

## **COLLEGE CONFERENCES AND SYMPOSIA**

### **COVID-19 – College Conferences Update**

All RCPATH scheduled conferences and events have been postponed until the end of September 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.

### **Virology Study Day – Virtual Learning – Last chance to book**

**Friday 18 September 2020**

**CPD credits: 4**

Book onto this exciting interactive consultant-led study day. The aim of this day is to give trainees and consultants the opportunity for virology- focused interactive teaching to equip them with knowledge and skills for specialist medical virology practice and assessment. There will be a broad range of topics delivered by leading experts that include COVID-19 and plenty of other interesting areas of virology practice as well.

There is an exciting line up of speakers including:

Professor Peter Horby, Professor Graham Foster, Professor Ian Brown, Dr Neil Almond, Dr Kevin Brown and Dr Stephen Winchester.

Special 2020 rates are available to attend this exciting event.

Please contact the team at meetings@rcpath.org for further details.

### **Association of Breast Pathology 3rd annual conference**

**Friday 9 October 2020**

**CPD credits: TBA**

The Association of Breast Pathology (ABP) will hold their 3rd annual conference as an online interactive event on the afternoon of Friday 9 October via Zoom.

The aim of the event is to give consultants and trainees the opportunity for consultant-led, interactive teaching, to equip them with the knowledge and skills for breast pathology practice and assessment.

The virtual programme will be delivered with a mixture of specialty-specific short lectures, followed by a live Q&A session. CPD points to be advised once full programme is finalised.

Topics to include:

- COVID-19 and breast cancer

- how to assess a specimen following neoadjuvant or bridging endocrine treatment?
- what's new in the updated RCPATH and ICCR (International Collaboration on Cancer Reporting) cancer datasets?
- live Interactive MDT cases (time and technology permitting).

### **Birmingham Breast Pathology Update Course – Virtual Learning**

**Friday 6 November 2020**

**CPD credits: TBA**

Join us for the Birmingham Breast Pathology Update Course. Now in its 13th year, this annual multidisciplinary breast course will be held virtually.

This is an exciting opportunity to learn from the experts in an interactive and interesting way. The course will include an update on challenging breast lesions and the latest guidelines, educational MDT scenarios, Q&As and slide seminars. CPD points to be confirmed once full programme is finalised.

Confirmed speakers: Dr Elena Provenzano (Cambridge), Prof Emad Rakha (Nottingham), Prof Daniel Rea (Birmingham), Prof Sarah Pinder (London), Dr Nisha Sharma (Leeds) and Dr Abeer Shaaban (Birmingham) and Miss Vidya Raghavan and Mr Naren Basu. For further details, please contact [meetings@rcpath.org](mailto:meetings@rcpath.org).

### **Advances in transfusion medicine – Virtual Learning**

**Thursday 26 November 2020**

**CPD credits: 5**

There are exciting ongoing developments in transfusion medicine and science with high-quality research supporting evidence-based practice. This one-day virtual meeting 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. The best abstracts will be accepted for either oral or poster presentation at the symposium. Contact [meetings@rcpath.org](mailto: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](mailto: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/fetal 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. Requests for placental examination have grown exponentially in recent years, but this has not been matched by 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 examiner 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 you will need 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 that 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.

Further availability will be announced shortly. If you have any questions about training or scheduled events, please contact the Events team at [meetings@rcpath.org](mailto:meetings@rcpath.org).

**Medical examiner officer training**

The College is also leading on the training of medical examiner officers (MEOs). The training days are open to anyone who has been appointed or is considering applying to work as a 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 an MEO including a [model job description on the College website](#).

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 modules [can be accessed here](#). (Registration with e-Learning for Healthcare is required.)

### **Medical Examiner Officer (MEO) training**

**Thursday 3 December 2020**

**CPD credits: 6**

For further information, please contact the RCPATH Conference department at [meetings@rcpath.org](mailto:meetings@rcpath.org) or on 020 7451 6700.

### **EXTERNAL EVENTS OF INTEREST**

12 September 2020

[Virtual Blood Club in the Covid Era](#)

16 September 2020

[Takeda Oncology: Mental Health Considerations for Patients during Treatment webinar](#)

21 September --12 October 2020

[Virtual Lymphoma Management Course](#)

23 September 2020

[Takeda Oncology: Mental Health Considerations for Patients during End of Life/Ongoing Treatment webinar](#)

23 September 2020

Rare Bone Diseases Symposium - For more information, please contact: Jacqui McAleer: [jmassociates1@me.com](mailto:jmassociates1@me.com)

28--30 September 2020

[Molecular Diagnostic Training School](#)

29 September 2020

[Sepsis - are we really starting smart then focusing?](#)

1--2 October 2020

Image Analysis Training School

For more information, please contact: <mailto:MS-NMPN@nottingham.ac.uk>

8 October 2020

[UK CLL Forum Clinical Sciences Day](#)

14 October 2020

Into clinical practice: Meeting the challenges of Gram-negative infection management

17 October 2020

30 Histopathology Webinars in the East of England

4 November 2020

BSBMTCT Education Day

9--12 November 2020

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

12 November 2020

UKFHD 50th Academic Meeting

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>

22 January 2021

Into clinical practice: Pneumonia

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



