



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



President's e-newsletter – August 2020

President's Messages of the Month

Thank you!

The first thank you is for all you continue to do to support patients across the world during the pandemic. You have been amazing, not just through direct care of those infected (including animals – veterinary pathologists had existing expertise in the peculiar immune responses of cats to coronaviruses), but also through diagnosis, the development of vaccines and, especially, the care of those particularly vulnerable at this time (for example those with blood cancer, immune deficiencies and many others).

Lots more change will come – new tests are being developed, new technologies are becoming available and a new understanding of the immune response to SARS-CoV-2 is emerging. No doubt this will extend the ask for further testing! The responsiveness of our pathology services has been incredible.

The second thank you is to all those supporting each other with advice, guidance and your precious time. I have so appreciated every offer of help, every call, every briefing and everyone who has responded so brilliantly to often outrageously short deadline requests...could you possibly take a look at?... Can you help me with...? Your professionalism, dedication and sheer kindness is fantastic, so a personal and heartfelt thank you.

NHS People Plan

The [NHS England's People Plan](#) was published at the end of July. While we strongly support the vision for the way the workforce should be treated and valued in the NHS, the harsh reality is that a lot of the pressure and stress pathologists are dealing with relate to an unsustainable workload made even worse by lack of staff and enabling technology.

We have fantastic people who need practical support. The issues of lack of workforce, outlined in many previous reports, are clear. I think you will find the lack of detail in the People Plan and the lack of proposed solutions deeply disappointing. As a College we have used the key data you have provided and suggested solutions to these issues. We will continue to press for practical and tangible progress.

College COVID-19 webinars

The end of July saw the 17th and final COVID-19 online seminar presented by Dr Chris Smith, medical virologist and lecturer at the University of Cambridge (known to many for his [Naked Scientist](#) radio show). Dr Smith outlined the global efforts to develop a vaccine against the virus, with a lively discussion at the end.

During the [17-week seminar series](#) pathologists provided expert insight on diverse topics related to the virus, from its biochemical structure to cutting-edge research on potential treatments. The live online events have attracted many hundreds of people, and the video recordings have been viewed over 14,000 times. My thanks go to Professor Shelley Heard for initiating the idea and Professor Will Irving for hosting the programme – it's an excellent learning resource.

Get involved in your College – still time to apply

The window to apply for a number of roles on the Trustee Board and College Council is closing! All three Vice Presidents, the Chair of the Scotland Regional Council and eight elected roles on the College Council become vacant in November. These roles offer an excellent opportunity for you to shape the work of your College. We would particularly welcome nominations from eligible Fellows from all backgrounds since representation at senior levels in the College does not reflect the wealth of diversity of our members. Do consider standing! More details are available [on the website](#).

COVID-19 – College staff and offices

The majority of College staff are continuing to work remotely throughout the COVID-19 outbreak.

Staff have been working hard to ensure members continue to receive College services during this time. You can get in touch with your usual staff contact [via email or phone](#). You can also arrange a virtual video meeting with a member of staff if you wish.

Since March, the Facilities team has been maintaining the College building through an on-site presence. The College offices at 6 Alie Street are re-opening on 1 September, which will allow staff to carry out work that cannot be done at home. Additional measures have been put in place to make the building as safe as possible.

Non-contact temperature checks will be in place for all visitors and staff entering the building and they will be asked to adhere to social distancing guidelines. Additional regular cleaning will also be taking place.

If you do wish to visit the College offices, and a face-to-face meeting is essential with a member of staff, then please contact the staff member in advance to arrange this. The members' area is also open and is available between 9am and 4pm, Monday to Friday. No appointment necessary.

Our conference venue, [Events@No6](#), will be re-opening on a limited basis from 1

September. This will allow College and external clients to hold some events and the team has obtained safe venue accreditation.

Round up

- I have been taking part in a CICERO care home trial on testing for COVID-19 and had an excellent day with the [Queen Mary University of London](#) students as part of this. Thank you to all the amazing staff and residents in the care homes for helping us with this work.
- I attended an excellent [webinar run by the Royal College of Physicians](#) on racism in healthcare. The discussion covered how we, both as individuals and organisations, must be quicker to tackle systemic racism in the NHS and urgently reduce health inequalities.
- I was delighted to join the [APPG on Blood Cancer](#) at an event to discuss recent changes to shielding guidance and what it will mean for the blood cancer community. It was useful to hear from patients about their personal experience of shielding. We will be promoting [Blood Cancer Awareness Month](#) in September highlighting how the COVID-19 pandemic has affected how pathologists work with blood cancer patients. We will also raise our concerns about the backlog of cases for patients and pathologists.

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WORKING FOR MEMBERS

COLLEGE NEWS

Diary date – Please save the date for the yearly Educational Update event to be held virtually

Friday 4 December 2020, 10am–12pm

CPD credits: TBC

This training 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 consist of 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. There will also be a Q&A session. Additional information to follow soon.

RCPATH Veterinary Pathology recruitment survey in the UK 2020

Veterinary pathology is a rapidly evolving sector and the recruitment of veterinary pathologists has been highlighted as an issue for a number of years. Please help us to gain a better understanding of recruitment issues within the UK.

We have sent a survey to Heads of Veterinary Pathology Departments at relevant organisations. Receiving as many responses as possible will allow the RCPATH Veterinary Pathology Specialty Advisory Committee (SAC) to gain a better understanding of current issues surrounding the recruitment of veterinary pathologists in the UK.

The data will be analysed anonymously and will be shared in an anonymised format with the SAC. For further information, please contact Fiona.addiscott@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 are available on the College website.

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

GET INVOLVED IN YOUR COLLEGE

Represent your specialty – Committee chair roles

Chairing a College or intercollegiate committee is an excellent way to raise the profile of your specialty as well helping to shape College activities and policy.

A number of chair roles have become available in the following committees:

- Immunology Specialty Advisory Committee
- Intercollegiate Committee on Haematology
- Joint Committee on Immunology and Allergy
- Joint Medical Microbiology and Medical Virology Specialty Advisory Committee
- Pathology Informatics Committee
- Research Committee
- Toxicology Specialty Advisory Committee
- Transfusion Medicine Specialty Advisory Committee.

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.

How to apply

Visit the [volunteering opportunities page](#) on the College website and submit your application to elections@rcpath.org by **5.00pm on Friday 25 September 2020**.

Pre/Peri/Paediatric Specialty Advisory Committee (SAC) Trainees' Advisory Committee (TAC) role

Trainees – take up an active role on the TAC! The committee covers all specialties and all College regions. TAC representatives are responsible for raising issues on behalf of trainees in their specialty. The committee representatives are also active members of the College's specialty committees, participating in discussions and informing the committee of the views of specialty trainees.

Why should I apply?

Make a difference – work with other trainees in your specialty, network with your peers, get involved with the College's work and support your professional development.

The deadline for applications is **5.00pm on Friday 11 September 2020**. Further details about the role can be found on the [volunteering opportunities page](#).

REGIONAL NEWS

Devolved nations – Regional council symposia dates

Please save the date for your regional symposia which will be held online:

- Scotland Symposium – to be held online on 30 September 2020
- Northern Ireland Symposium – to be held online on 6 October 2020
- Wales Symposium – to be held online on 27 October 2020.

We will shortly be providing more information with details about how to register.

PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

Social media careers campaign: #CareerPath

We've seen a huge increase in visitors to our [careers pages](#) during the COVID-19 pandemic. In response, we have launched a social media careers campaign to highlight the diverse and rewarding range of careers on offer in pathology, using the #tag #CareerPath. We're expanding the campaign in the run up to National Pathology Week and are looking for pathologists and clinical scientists who want to share their careers stories through photos or selfie videos that we can post on RCPATH's [Twitter](#), [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#). If you would like to find out more about how to get involved, please contact publicengagement@rcpath.org. No previous experience necessary!

National Pathology Week 2020 – downloadable logos now online

If you're thinking of running an online or socially distanced event for National Pathology Week 2020 (2–8 November) why not download the National Pathology Week (NPW) logo from our [event-organiser resource page](#)? We've provided logos that are suitable for print and digital promotion, plus social media-friendly logos so you can brand your social posts about your NPW event. Next month we will unveil some new resources related to this year's 'Heart of Healthcare' theme.

Hugh Platt Foundation Essay Competition – closes 28 August

There are just a few weeks left for Foundation doctors to submit their essays on the impact a pathology test can have on a patient and their family. Why not spread the word about this competition within your networks? Find out more at [Hugh Platt Essay competition](#).

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.

NEW CONSULTATION

- [Tissue pathways for liver biopsies for the investigation of medical diseases and focal lesions](#)

COLLEGE CONFERENCES AND SYMPOSIA

COVID-19 – College Conferences Update

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

RCPATH Veterinary Pathology School for Residents – Virtual Learning

5 September 2020

CPD credits: 5

The College's veterinary pathology residency programmes comprise three main disciplines: anatomic, clinical and microbiology. Training is 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 ECVP exams may also find this programme of interest.

An update on diagnostic challenges in breast pathology

Tuesday 8 September 2020

CPD credits: 4

The International Society of Breast Pathology is delighted to announce its first online breast pathology masterclass. Organised in partnership with the British Association of Pathology (ABP), the European Working Group for Breast Screening Pathology (EWGBSP) and the PathLAKE consortium, the masterclass is sponsored by Roche.

The programme brings together leading histopathologists and experts from around the world to cover:

- the latest WHO updates on breast tumour classification
- approaches to diagnosis of challenging lesions (metaplastic carcinoma, fibroepithelial lesions and breast cytology)
- an update on the use of IHC and key molecular tests in breast pathology.

Virology Study Day – Virtual Learning

Friday 18 September 2020

CPD credits: 4

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.

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). For further details, please contact 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.

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/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.

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 or on 020 7451 6700.

EXTERNAL EVENTS OF INTEREST

5–9 September 2020 (2 hours/week up to 80+ hours)

Online Diagnostic Dermatopathology course – for more information, please email Dr Hend Mahfouz: hendmahfouz21@gmail.com

9 September 2020

[The role of telemedicine during the COVID-19 crisis and the use in Antimicrobial Stewardship](#)

11 September 2020

[St Mark's GI Histopathology workshop](#)

17 September 2020

[Antimicrobial Surveillance and consumption data – how, what and why to measure to provide meaningful data](#)

21 September to 12 October 2020

[Virtual Lymphoma Management Course](#)

1–2 October 2020

Image Analysis Training School

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

14 October 2020

[Into clinical practice: Meeting the challenges of Gram-negative infection management](#)

9–12 November 2020

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

27 November 2020

UK Clinical Vaccine Network Conference 2020

30 November to 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](#).

