



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



## President's e-newsletter - March 2020

### President's Messages of the Month

This has been a very hectic period and one with real challenges, not least for all our microbiology and virology members. In light of the COVID-19 outbreak, we have been looking at our conferences and exams to assess the impact on members on a day-to-day basis. Some overseas exams have had to be cancelled, and the exams team is working with trainees to support them and manage the situation.

You will see below some of the fantastic work that has been going on around quality and safety and other areas. We will update you on the trainees work around bullying and harassment in the next Bulletin, particularly highlighting the safety aspects of poor behaviour. We have also had excellent engagement around workforce with governments across the UK, and the haematology briefing, based on the result of our workforce survey completed recently, is a real help in this.

### Haematology workforce briefing

Our new workforce briefing, The haematology laboratory workforce: challenges and solutions, highlights how haematologists are finding it increasingly difficult to undertake vital diagnostic work in the laboratory.

As demand and workloads increase haematology consultants need to be able to continue to provide diagnostic laboratory services, including interpretation of test results and liaison with other medical professionals. There needs to be a commitment by the NHS to support and expand these services and this will have implications for the workforce. We're promoting the need for expansion of medical and clinical scientist trainee and consultant numbers to Health Education England, the government and the devolved nations and this briefing will help us do this!

### **Patient Safety Awareness Week 8 - 14 March**

I am delighted to announce that [Patient Safety Awareness Week](#) is underway. Organised and hosted by the College, the aim of the week is to raise awareness about patient safety and pathology services and is part of our work on quality.

There are many ways you can find out more, including watching videos, making a photo pledge and entering the essay competition. More resources are being released throughout the week.

You can also get in involved by joining the conversation on social media by using #PatientSafetyAware.

### **Coronavirus outbreak**

As the COVID-19 outbreak continues to spread, I would like to express ongoing thanks from all of us to all the virology, microbiology and infection control teams coping with the coronavirus spread.

### **COVID-19 resources hub on our website**

We have launched a [COVID-19 resources hub](#), which provides the latest College guidance and advice. The hub also provides links to Public Health England and the Department of Health and Social Care, which provide the latest information on COVID-19 for health professionals, including guidance on the assessment and management of suspected UK cases. We will update the documents and links in the hub when we issue, or become aware of, updated guidance or advice.

### **Autopsy practice and COVID-19 briefing**

To support autopsy pathologists and mortuary staff, we've produced [a briefing on autopsy practice relating to possible cases of COVID19](#).

### **College President election**

Nominations for the College President opened on the 2 March and you should have received an email from Civica Election Services, who provide the independent administration for the elections.

Any Fellow of the College is eligible to stand, and both proposers must also be Fellows of the College.

I do hope you will consider standing. We hope for a good selection of nominations from the wide diversity of our Fellows and from across our specialties.

This is a vital role for the College and it is an honour and a privilege to represent our members.

### **Specialty and associate specialist (SAS) doctors – new strategy**

The College has published a [new strategy](#) to support SAS doctors. Three themes underpin this strategy: safety culture, continuous improvement and encouraging engagement. The strategy is intended to complement the College's [overall strategic aims](#).

### **Introducing Indextra**

I'm pleased to announce that the College has teamed up with [Indextra](#). This is an extensive digital subscription medical library app which provides access to a wide range

of medical titles including the BNF, Oxford Handbooks, including Clinical Haematology, Infectious Diseases & Microbiology and NICE guidelines.

Indextra is also working with the trainee committee to include their recommendations.

Indextra is offering College members a free one-month trial and an exclusive 25% subscription discount. Really importantly, for each subscription taken up by a College member, Indextra will match it by providing a free subscription to a pathologist in a low or middle income country.

For more information and how to subscribe, [visit RCPATH Indextra](#).

## Round up

- It was a pleasure to join our Fellows and Faculty of Pathology colleagues at the [Faculty of Pathology Annual Symposium at the Royal College of Physicians of Ireland](#). I was honoured to be welcomed into the RCPI fellowship. We were given excellent updates on digital networks and digital learning. I gave a talk on Pathology in Ireland – 2020 and beyond, the challenges and how our training needs have to adapt rapidly to changing technologies in the field.
- Jeremy Hunt MP was recently elected as the Chair of the [Health and Social Care Committee](#). When he was in office as Health Secretary, I joined Mr Hunt on patient safety visits to six NHS trusts in Doncaster, Sheffield and Chesterfield. The College also valued his support for the implementation of a National Medical Examiner system. We look forward to continuing to work with him in his new role and getting to know the new members of the select committee.
- I was delighted to welcome Lord Prior, Chair of NHS England, to the pathology building at Barts Health NHS Trust to showcase the excellent work pathologists do. He was so impressed with the expertise and enthusiasm of all of the team and sent a video message of support to all pathologists.
- I'm delighted to announce that the 500th medical examiner to complete their training is Dr Zaki Gaballa. [You can now book for the joint Coroner and Medical Examiner training this March and June](#).

**Professor Jo Martin**  
**President, The Royal College of Pathologists**  
**E: [jo.martin@rcpath.org](mailto:jo.martin@rcpath.org) [@JoMartin\\_path](#)**



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## **WORKING FOR MEMBERS**

### **Learning Environment for Pathology Trainees (LEPT) system for CESR applicants**

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

### **LEPT demonstrations**

Deaneries/Local Education Training Boards (LETBs) are reminded that demonstration of the LEPT system can be arranged. The LEPT system is an ePortfolio for histopathology and chemical pathology (metabolic medicine) trainees. It is a place to record workplace-based assessments, including multi-source feedback (MSF), and can be used to support the Annual Review of Competence Progression (ARCP) process. The ePortfolio also provides Educational Supervisor Structured Reports (ESSRs), which gives a snapshot of a year's training that can inform the ARCP process. Trainees also have the opportunity to include and record critical reflection. For further information or to make arrangements for a demonstration, please contact [assessment@rcpath.org](mailto:assessment@rcpath.org).

Please contact the Assessment Department should you require ePortfolio assistance – [assessment@rcpath.org](mailto:assessment@rcpath.org)

### **Pathology External Quality Assurance**

The College has set up a new pathology wide External Quality Assurance (EQA) review programme to improve the governance and culture of pathology Quality Assurance (QA). The two-year collaborative programme supports the development of a robust framework for the system-wide governance and oversight of technical EQA including point of care testing (POCT).

We are looking for experienced professionals with expertise in the oversight and delivery of technical EQA including POCT and/or quality improvement, and patient safety to join our work-streams. There will be a minimum of four meetings (a mix of teleconference and face to face) per year, with actions progressed via e-mail between meetings. All reasonable travel costs will be reimbursed and the work will be recognised for CPD. For more details please [see the website](#) or contact Shane Johns at [shane.johns@rcpath.org](mailto:shane.johns@rcpath.org).

### **Claiming CPD credits - how many credits you can claim for CPD activities?**

We have updated our [credit allocation guidelines](#) to help you claim the correct amount of CPD credits for various activities.

### **Summer on the terrace at Alie Street**

Thinking of booking a summer reception or meeting? Our lovely Terrace Room is flanked by two open air terraces, perfect for a summer BBQ, meeting, reception or celebration. For more information or room hire enquiries, please contact [sales@eventsatNo6.com](mailto:sales@eventsatNo6.com)

## **GET INVOLVED AT THE COLLEGE**

### **Specialty Advisory Committee (SAC) vacancy**

The College is seeking a new Chair for the Immunology Specialty Advisory Committee.

The successful applicant will be requested to be available for a handover with the current Chair and would ideally be able to attend the next meeting on Wednesday 27 May 2020. The term of office will be until November 2023 and the deadline for applications is 5:00pm on Friday 20 March 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.

### **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**

### **Northern Ireland Symposium 2020: Challenges and Developments in Pathology Wednesday 22 April 2020**

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

**CPD credits: 3**

This symposium is aimed at RCPATH fellows, members, trainees and others interested in the range of pathology specialties in Northern Ireland. Delegates will hear presentations about upcoming themes in the field of pathology as well as having the opportunity to share some of the great developments happening in Northern Ireland. They will hear from the President Professor Jo Martin and find out about the College's work in Northern Ireland. Trainees will have the opportunity to meet and speak with the President.

This is a free event, registration is required. The symposium will take place between 9.30am-2pm (including lunch). A trainee forum will take place between 2-3pm.

Other regional symposia dates have also been confirmed – Please save the date.

Further information will follow shortly.

- **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 or would like more information about our symposia, please contact [Jessica.Zago@rcpath.org](mailto:Jessica.Zago@rcpath.org)

## **PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT**

### **Help us spread the word about our annual essay competitions**

Undergraduates and Foundation doctors are invited to write a pathology themed essay for the chance to win £200 and have their essay published. This year's Paola Domizio Undergraduate Essay Prize invites medical, biological science and veterinary undergraduates to consider the question 'could pathologists be replaced by robots?'. Deadline for entries – 30 April.

Now in its second year, The Hugh Platt Foundation Essay Prize challenges Foundation doctors to reflect on how pathology had made a difference to patients and their families. This competition offers a unique opportunity for Foundation doctors to boost their CVs ahead of applying for specialty training. Deadline for entries - 29 May.

You can read year's winning essays and find out more on our [essay competitions page](#).

### **Give it a Shot! – New vaccine-related activities to use at your events**

Members are encouraged to take a look at our new [Give it a Shot' resources](#), and consider using them for [British Science Week](#) and [Health Care Science Week](#) (both 6 – 15 March).

With a focus on the MMR vaccine and herd immunity, the online materials include a free downloadable activity guide on running a series of hands-on and discussion-based activities with families and school students. We've also created a short [animation](#) about herd immunity, which can be used alongside the practical activities, or on its own. These [free resources](#) offer an engaging way to increase understanding about vaccination with diverse public audiences. Contact College's [Public Engagement team](#) if you have any queries about these or any of other [activity resources](#).

### **Apply for funding for your public events**

Our [Public Engagement Innovation Grant Scheme](#) 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. Find out more on the [College website](#). The deadline for applications is 1 June 2020 and funded activities can be run at any time up to 1 July 2021. Do 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: [penny.fletcher@rcpath.org](mailto:penny.fletcher@rcpath.org).

### **NEW CONSULTATION**

- [Best practice recommendations: staffing and workload for neuropathology departments](#). It's open until 16 April 2020.

### **COLLEGE CONFERENCES AND SYMPOSIA**

#### **Soft tissue tumors from infants to young adults: the age matters! – last chance to book**

**Thursday 19 and Friday 20 March 2020**

**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.

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 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.

**Foundation Taster Day**

**Saturday 4 July 2020**

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

The RCPATH Foundation Taster Scheme is an exciting opportunity for Foundation doctors to explore pathology careers. It combines a regional clinical taster day in pathology with an event at the College in London. Participants will be able to meet consultants and trainees from each of the major pathology specialties to talk to them about their work, what the training involves and the variety of opportunities available for trainees. In addition, they will receive advice about the application process for specialty training and how to be successful at interview, as well as how to pursue academic and research opportunities in pathology. At the event delegates will be also given support to organise their own clinical taster day in a specialty of interest. For more information please contact [meetings@rcpath.org](mailto:meetings@rcpath.org)

**Undergraduate Pathology Summer School**

**Thursday 13 and Friday 14 August 2020**

**To be held at the Royal College of Pathologists, 6 Alie Street, London, E1 8QT and the Gordon Museum of Pathology**

This annual event is open to medical students in any year of training, offering the opportunity to find out about the wide range of pathology specialties through a mixture of lectures and small-group interactive breakout sessions. This free two-day course will give you a chance for attendees to talk to current trainees and established consultants about their careers. This is not a revision course but a chance to learn more about the role of pathology in healthcare, including current research and future advances. The content is relevant for all medical students whether they are considering a career in pathology or not. All doctors use pathology services and benefit from a greater understanding of the speciality. For more information please contact

[meetings@rcpath.org](mailto:meetings@rcpath.org)

**Retired Fellows Lunch**

**Tuesday 15 September**

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

This lunch is open to all fellows formally registered as retired with the College. This is an opportunity for retired fellows to meet old friends and perhaps make new acquaintances. It follows on from the successful lunches held previously. Tickets are priced at £55 for a three-course lunch with wine. More details will be available shortly.

**Virology Study Day – Save the date**

**Friday 18 September 2020**

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

**CPD Credits: 6**

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.

**Advances in Transfusion Medicine – Bookings now open**

**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, 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. More details to follow. For any queries, please contact [meetings@rcpath.org](mailto:meetings@rcpath.org)

**Medical Examiner Update**

**Tuesday 16 June 2020**

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

**CPD credits: 6**

This is the first annual Medical Examiner update meeting, bringing together national and regional leaders to discuss current issues. Topics include the impact on the coronial system, the challenges of implementation, the view from the Healthcare Safety Investigation Branch and Care Quality Commission, the regional structure, role of the Medical Examiner Officer and gross negligence manslaughter.

**Coroner and Medical Examiner Training**

The Chief Coroner and Judicial College have developed this training day for all Coroners and Medical Examiners in England and Wales, with support from the National Medical Examiner and the College.

This is a series of regional events taking place between March and June. Delegates are strongly encouraged to attend their regional event to take advantage of this opportunity to network and establish relationships with Medical Examiners and coroners in their local areas. However, if you are unable to attend the event for your region, you may attend a different one.

The course will cover:

- Understanding the role of the Medical Examiner and Coroner.
- When to refer a death to the Coroner,



- What a good MCCD looks like.
- How deaths are registered.
- How to deal with challenging situations.

There will also be small group discussions, exploring scenarios where close collaboration between Medical Examiners and Coroners is essential.

Although there will inevitably be some overlap, this training is different from the RCPATH face-to-face-training and is suitable for all MEs.

### **Upcoming dates and locations**

- 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
- 24 June 2020 – North East

For any queries please contact [meetings@rcpath.org](mailto:meetings@rcpath.org)

### **Medical Examiners: face-to-face 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 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**

Tuesday 23 June 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 – Bookings opening soon**

Thursday 30 July 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 – Bookings opening soon**

Tuesday 1 September 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 – Bookings opening soon**

Tuesday 10 November 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 also leading on the training of Medical Examiner Officers. 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 session**

Tuesday 17 March 2020

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

CPD credits: 6

Further dates will be announced soon

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

## **NEWS FROM EXTERNAL ORGANISATIONS AND JOINT WORKING**

### **National Institute of Health and Care Excellence (NICE) Question Time and Public Board Meeting**

**Wednesday 25 March 2020**

**Manchester**

The event is to members of the public as well as those working across healthcare. It's an excellent opportunity for those who work with NICE guidance or want to know more about NICE, to put their questions directly to the senior management team and Chief Executive. Attendees will also get the opportunity to meet their local NICE Field Team representatives and hear about their work in the local area. For more information visit [NICE Manchester 2020](#).

## **OTHER EVENTS OF INTEREST**

9 March 2020

[BDIAP Molecular Pathology Study Day](#)

11 March 2020

Rare Bone Disease Education Day

12 March 2020

UK CLL Forum Annual Scientific Day

12-13 March 2020

Spotlight on Liver and Digestive system Tumors : Updates and diagnostic challenges

16-17 March 2020

BSAC Spring Conference 2020 – Into Clinical Practice

17-18 March 2020

Introduction to Next Generation Sequencing for Molecular Pathology

19 March 2020

UKMF Scientific Workshop

20 March 2020

Placental and Trophoblastic Pathology

20-21 March 2020

Junior Investigator Meeting

26-27 March 2020

9th Annual Oxford Bone Infection Conference

30-31 March 2020

Central Sterilising Club 60th Annual Scientific Meeting

30 March – 2 April 2020

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

30 March – 3 April 2020

Diagnostic Histopathology of Breast Disease – For more information, please contact:  
<mailto:Info@W12conferences.co.uk>

7-9 April 2020

Residential Workshops for EUCAST Susceptibility Testing 2020

24 April 2020

PMDD & Me - The Professionals

26-29 April 2020

British Society for Haematology 60th Annual Scientific Meeting

1 May 2020

All England National Thrombosis Nursing Conference

6 May 2020

22nd London Lymphoma Forum

6 May 2020

All Wales National Thrombosis Conference

7 May 2020

North West National Thrombosis Conference

7 May 2020

BSBMTCT Scientific Day

12 May 2020

All Scotland National Thrombosis Conference

14 May 2020

All Ireland National Thrombosis Conference

14-15 May 2020

Focus 2020

18-22 May 2020

Engineering aspects of infection control

21 May 2020

Oxford National Thrombosis Conference

3 June 2020

Outbreaks training course

3-4 June 2020

Clinical and Laboratory Haemostasis 2020

10-11 June 2020

40th anniversary celebration

12 June 2020

UK Clinical Vaccine Network Conference 2020

17-20 June 2020

20th International Congress on Oral Pathology & Oral Medicine

18-19 June 2020

Adult Cardiovascular Pathology Course - For more information, please contact:

<mailto:bvazefer@sgul.ac.uk>

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

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



