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President's e-newsletter – February 2019

President's Messages of the Month

Contingency planning

As some of you will be all too acutely aware, there is a current problem with the supply of a key reagent for B12 analysis on one platform in some laboratories.

This is a timely reminder to have a think about the detail of your business continuity plans and consider undertaking an exercise to test those plans, especially should transport or supply issues affect specific reagent or consumable supplies. There has been a great deal of work by the Department of Health and NHS England with suppliers about their contingency plans in the event of import issues arising during British exit from the EU. But you will all be best placed to understand what your team and your suppliers will do in the event of particular items being in limited supply, and what your ordering schedule is and how it might be affected by delays in delivery.

There have also been interruptions in drug supplies over the last few years - Epipen being one of the last events, and contingency planning has been going on about this. To find out more about drug supply please follow the link [Medicine supply update](#).

The pathology community is a strong and collaborative one, and work together at all times for our patients. Thank you for all you do!

Mapping our work – Launch of regional map

We are delighted to be able to launch the first instalment of the [College's regional map](#), which shows recent and upcoming activities the College has organised and supported across the UK.

The map shows highlights of our regional work across the UK. As well as meeting our members, we also run events, support professionals, provide students with careers advice and organise events aimed at engaging the public about pathology.

This map provides a snapshot of key activities coming up in February, March and April. The map will be updated quarterly to make sure you have the latest news about what's happening locally.

Frontiers in Laboratory Medicine (FILM) Meeting

The annual FILM event took place in Birmingham, bringing together senior laboratory staff and managers across all pathology disciplines. I was very pleased to have the opportunity to contribute and to discuss workforce pressures and potential solutions and priorities for investment in laboratory medicine. A great event and fantastic community of practice!

Medical Examiners - new resources

Last month I highlighted the forthcoming roll-out of the Medical Examiner network in April. As the lead royal college we hosted a conference in Birmingham on implementing the medical examiner system. Dr Suzy Lishman provided a superb overview of all the great work. Dr Aidan Fowler, National Director of Patient Safety at NHS Improvement, gave updates including about the seven regional medical examiner leads who will provide a link between local medical examiners and the National Medical Examiner. Chief Coroner HHJ Mark Lucraft QC spoke about the key relationship between medical examiners and coroners. The Patients Association contribution was particularly valuable also. The College has also produced new resources for members and commissioning bodies about becoming a medical examiner.

Medical examiners will initially start work in England and Wales. Dame Janet Smith, who oversaw the inquiry into the murders by Harold Shipman and who first recommended the introduction of medical examiners, has expressed concerns about the lack of such a network in Northern Ireland.

Workforce

We continue to advocate strongly for workforce support, for improved IT, for better workforce planning in the event of major changes (cytopathology for example!), and for a range of support for you all and for our future workforce. We had a very useful discussion with Professor Steve Powis about this, and will input into the workforce review to be chaired by Baroness Dido Harding. In the meantime, the analysis of the clinical biochemistry survey is being undertaken, and the laboratory haematology and transfusion survey has been sent out. Please complete these - we need the data to help you!

Round-up

- I attended a valuable meeting with Matt Hancock, Health and Social Care Secretary, and Baroness Dido Harding, Chair of NHS Improvement, with other medical royal colleges. We discussed the Long Term Plan, IT, workforce and prevention. There is a lot to do with good opportunities for joint working.
- Some excellent meetings have been taking place in different parts of the country with Dr Jonathan Kell, recently appointed Chair of the Wales Regional Council, meeting Dr Rob Orford, Chief Scientific Adviser for Health

in Wales, for wide ranging discussion on areas such as pathology workforce concerns. We are glad to see the issues of pay parity in training across the UK getting news coverage.

- I was delighted to chair a session at the Topics in Infection meeting hosted by the Royal Society of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene. Areas covered at the conference included the plague in Madagascar, monkey pox in the UK, emerging zoonoses, antimicrobial resistance, One Health, rabies, fungi, strep pyogenes and interprocess communication (IPC). Our pathology disciplines in infection and IPC in microbiology and virology are rising to a series of very tough challenges with fantastic professionalism and expertise!
- The Secretary of State's recent announcement about the sale of whole genome sequencing to healthy adults is a cause for concern and breaches a core-principle of the NHS by creating a two-tier access to services. I co-signed a letter to *The Times* expressing these concerns which was published with an accompanying article *Gene tests 'threaten core NHS principle'*. Other co-signatories included senior academics, Royal College of Physicians, Joint Committee on Genomics in Medicine, UK National Screening Committee, Clinical Genetics Society, and the Association of Genetic Nurses and Counsellors.

New Fellows Ceremony

I will be welcoming new College members at the New Fellows Admission Ceremony in the College's new building this month. The ceremony is always a joyful occasion and something I very much look forward to,

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COLLEGE NEWS

Percy Oliver Memorial Award

This award is given to an individual who has made an outstanding contribution to the field of blood transfusion. This year the award will be given for transfusion medicine nursing.

Nominations and accompanying citations should be submitted to the [Transfusion Medicine Specialty Advisory Committee](#) for consideration by 26 May 2019 via Clare Young (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.

Percy Oliver Trainee Travel Bursary

The 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 the [College website](#). Deadline - 5 pm on Friday 29 March 2019.

Results and recommendations from our LEPT satisfaction survey 2018

During April and May 2018, the College undertook a survey to measure trainees' satisfaction with [the Learning Environment for Pathology Trainees \(LEPT\) system](#). Over 100 trainees provided their feedback. In response, we will be making a number of changes to help our trainees log in with more ease and also enable them to track their learning more effectively. Read the [full report](#) Please note that you will need to sign in using your 'member log in details'.

GET INVOLVED AT THE COLLEGE

Trainees' Advisory Committee (TAC) roles

Trainees - Take up an active role on the TAC! The committee covers all specialties and all College regions. Representatives on the TAC 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.

What TAC roles are available?

- Medical Virology Representative
- Veterinary Pathology (Microbiology) Representative

Deadline for applications: 5:00pm on Thursday 28 February 2019. Further details can be found here [TAC vacancies](#).

PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

[Science Communication Training – 27 February and 25 - 26 September](#)

If you're interested in getting involved in science communication and/or public engagement this year, there's still time to book a free place on one of our popular science communication training courses. The next standard level session is 27 February in London. For further information about this session and the advanced course in September, please visit the [website](#).

School Science Conference – volunteers for digestion-related workshops, 24 April

We are looking for enthusiastic members who would like to help us deliver interactive workshops for sixth formers at this year's annual Schools Science Conference, taking place at the University of Westminster on 24 April. This interactive event for 14-to-16 year-olds is a chance to bring pathology to life and raise awareness of pathology careers. The College will also be hosting 40-minute workshops exploring digestion and 'poo-in-the-post' tests used in bowel cancer screening. We are looking for up to 20 members to facilitate groups of students. While the workshops are perhaps most relevant to those working in clinical biochemistry and histopathology, members from all specialties and stages of career are welcome to volunteer as full training and briefing information will be provided. Approx times are 9:30 – 15:30. If you would like to find out more please contact the College's Public Engagement Manager, Penny Fletcher

Public Engagement Grant scheme now open – apply for up to £1000 for your events and activities

If you have a great idea for a public engagement project but need a bit of a cash injection to get going why not consider applying for one of our public engagement grants? Run annually, 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 who wish to develop pathology-related public engagement activities or events. The deadline for applications is not until June 2019 but it is never too early to get started on plans. Get in touch if you'd like to discuss your ideas; we also have some inspiring examples of the kind of activities you could run from previous recipients.

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Be a Global Health Challenger for the world! Register now for this summer's Prudential RideLondon-Surrey 100

Prudential RideLondon is the world's greatest festival of cycling where more than 26,000 amateur cyclists take on a cycling challenge like no other through London and Surrey on a similar route to that of the London 2012 Olympic Road Cycling Races.

Next year's Prudential Ride London- Surrey 100 Cycle Challenge, which will take place on Sunday 4th August 2019 will have Cellular Pathologist Dr Tina Matthews, ST1 Histopathology trainee Dr Natasha Cutmore and her partner Alexander Stephenson- Brown taking part in the event. To show your support, please visit their fundraising page

As a 'Golden Bond Charity' with the Prudential RideLondon-Surrey 100, the College has guaranteed places for the 2019 challenge. This summer, there are still places if you want to join. We will look after you every step of the way, offering advice and tips, of course, the coveted College cycling vest! Registration fee is only £50 and a minimum sponsorship pledge of £500.

Help make a difference and register now to take part. To secure your place, please email **Deborah Ko**, our International Coordinator.

NEW CONSULTATIONS

- [Dataset for histopathological reporting of carcinomas of the ovaries, fallopian tubes and peritoneum](#)
- [Dataset for histopathological reporting of peripheral neuroblastic tumours](#)
- [Dataset for histopathological reporting of oesophageal and gastric carcinoma](#)

COLLEGE CONFERENCES AND SYMPOSIA

Challenges in the Clinical Biochemistry Laboratory and Beyond

Thursday 28 February 2019

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

CPD credits: 6

This meeting is aimed at those with an interest in Clinical Biochemistry. It aims to provide an update on a range of current analytical and clinical issues, and will challenge some conventional thinking. The topics covered will look at interpretation of results, and also factors that can cause spurious results to be produced. There will be an update on topical areas in paediatric endocrinology as well as a session challenging some common (mis)conceptions. The final session of the day will look at the impact of laboratory medicine on patient outcomes.

Investing in the Laboratory Workforce of the future

Tuesday 19 March 2019

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

CPD Credits: 6

Attracting, recruiting and retaining staff is one of the most pressing issues facing the NHS. The pathology workforce is no exception - [a recent College census](#) found that only 3% of histopathology departments across the UK have enough staff to meet demand. The College is also working to identify issues in other specialties.

Ensuring you have enough staff with the right skill mix is crucial to creating a safe and thriving working environment to deliver high quality patient care. This workshop will help you understand the steps to create working environments to retain a sustainable workforce.

Working with pathology colleagues from across the UK, the day will explore:

- Understanding the changing nature of the pathology workforce.
- What influences people to choose pathology as a career.
- Creating and sharing ideas to help find SMART local, regional and national solutions.
- Delivering safe patient care by securing the safety of staff.

- Current and future College guidance around workforce design and demand management.

CM-Path Biomarker Workshop: A Practical Guide to Pathology Research

Tuesday 2 April 2019

To be held at the Royal Society of Medicine, 1 Wimpole Street, London, W1G 0LZ

CPD credits: 5

The CM-Path biomarker workshop series aims at discussing the current and future challenges of innovative biomarker developments, and agreeing on the barriers for delivery of clinical diagnostics assays. The third workshop is organized by the CM-Path Discovery Workstream and focuses on advances in tissue based research and presents a practical guide to developing your research ideas.

We will cover:

- Latest advances in technology including FFPE based whole genome sequencing, multiplex tissue assays and single cell analysis
- Sources of research funding and opportunities for support and collaboration for pathology based research
- Practical guide for becoming involved with tissue based research including; ethical and legal considerations, developing a tissue archive to support research, supporting clinical trials and developing ideas for translational research.

Advanced Molecular Brain Tumour Classification with Epigenetic Profiling

Friday 3 May 2019

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

CPD credits: 7

This one-day workshop will provide a multifaceted view of epigenetic profiling in adult and paediatric brain tumour diagnostics. The workshop will convey the biological principles of epigenetics in health and disease with a focus on brain tumours and explain how methylation profiles of brain tumours are detected with current array technologies. The day will be supplemented with an interactive practical session where participants will have the opportunity to discuss the diagnostic approach of challenging adult and paediatric CNS tumour cases. These cases will be available to registered participants for viewing in a digital format before and during the workshop.

NEWS FROM EXTERNAL ORGANISATIONS AND JOINT WORKING

Tips for Academic Pathology Trainees (APT)

A new website [APT](#) funded by a PathSoc Open Scheme grant and created by a team working at the University of Leeds, has been launched. It provides tips and advice for academic pathology trainees covering academic skills and career progression and doctors and medical students considering histopathology as a career, including information about the specialty and how to apply.

Newcastle haematologists and computing scientists project for children with cancer in Malawi (Africa)

Haematologists, computing scientists and paediatric oncologists from Newcastle University and Royal Victoria Infirmary have launched a fundraiser campaign to provide Malawi (Africa) a manual whole slide scanner so that consultants in the UK will be able to enhance their existing service which provides rapid diagnosis for children with blood cancer in Malawi remotely. This is an extension of the [Malawi](#)

Telepathology MPathE project to help connect more pathologists to deprived or rural areas around the world.

Please visit the fundraising page Fund a Malawi Scanner or visit the twitter page @X_WowCom. As a return they will be offering 'one-of-the-kind' pillows with very special pattern designs composed of hundreds of white blood cells.

Webinars on the Suspicion of Sepsis (SOS) Insights Dashboard.

The Suspicion of Sepsis (SOS) Insights Dashboard tool for the first time, enables organisations to see an overall picture of hospital admissions coded in the SOS category and to base improvement initiatives on reliable, stable and consistent data. The Dashboard provides intelligence as to whether interventions and innovations in sepsis/infection care are improving outcomes for patients. It also helps to better plan and prepare local services potentially saving lives across the country.

A series of webinars are being held.

- Exploring the work of the Suspicion of Sepsis Dashboard - Register and read more. How to Generate Powerful Insights from the SOS Dashboard to Address Local Issues - Tuesday 12 Feb 2019 11:00 -12:00.
- Looking ahead for the Suspicion of Sepsis Dashboard - Register and read more. How to use the SOS Dashboard to drive sustainable quality improvement - Thursday 14 Mar 2019 11:00 – 12:00.

Funding available to improve analytical capability in health and care services

The Health Foundation has launched the third round of its Advancing Applied Analytics programme.

£750,000 of funding is available to support up to 12 projects across the UK that can demonstrate how they will improve analytical capability in support of health and care services and provide lessons for the wider care system.

The deadline for applications is noon, Tuesday 26 February 2019.

BMA Foundation for Medical Research grants open for online applications

The BMA Foundation for Medical Research awards research grants each year (totalling just over £800,000) to encourage and further medical research in a variety of areas. Applications are invited from doctors and research scientists and can be for either research in progress or prospective research.

All BMA Foundation grants are available now to apply for online on the BMA Foundation website. Deadline is 1 March 2019.

OTHER EVENTS OF INTEREST

See external conferences. RCPATH CPD accredited online resources can be found at the following link

- BAGP Course on Placental and Obstetric Pathology – 1 March 2019
- BDIAP Molecular Pathology Study Day – 4 March 2019
- Embryo biopsy workshop – 4-5 April 2019
- The 15th British Association of Urological Pathologists Advanced Prostate Pathology Course – 29-30 April 2019
- Histopathology of the Bone Marrow – 25 March 2019
- 8th Annual Oxford Bone Infection Conference – 21-22 March 2019
- Fungal Update 2019 – 15-16 March 2019

- Diagnostic Histopathology of Breast Disease – 8-12 April 2019
- The Fourth International Symposium on Immunotherapy – 24-25 May 2019
- Microbiology Society Annual Conference – 7-11 April 2019
- UKMF Scientific Workshop - Myeloma Patient Journey – 13 March 2019
- Focus 2019 – 2-3 May 2019
- National Breast Pathology Update Course – 16-17 April 2019
- Cardiac Markers 2019 – 5 April 2019
- BSAC Spring Conference 2019 – 21-22 March 2019
- Central Sterilising Club – 1-2 April 2019
- Rise of The Zombie Drugs – 2 April 2019
- 120th Meeting of the British Neuropathological Society – 6-8 March 2019
- The London Haematopathology Course: A Practical Integrated Approach to the Diagnosis of Haematological Malignancies – 6-8 March 2019
- UK CLL Forum Annual Scientific Day – 7 March 2019
- RCPATH CPD accredited online resources can be found at the following [link](#)

