



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

## President's e-newsletter – May 2018



A PDF version of this e-newsletter is available at [RCPATH E-newsletters](#)

### President's Messages of the Month Patient Safety

I am very pleased to announce the launch of the first in a new series of [Patient Safety Bulletins published by the College.](#)

Patient safety is vital to all our practice but we do not always get the opportunity to learn from each other's mistakes as much as we should.

Each Safety Bulletin will focus on a different theme to help members learn from events across organisations in a quick and simple way. The first Safety Bulletins are available now and focus on cross-disciplinary IT problems and issues in cellular pathology. Other specialties and topics will be published shortly.

### College Trainee Research Medals

One of the roles of the College is to champion research.

Our Trainee Research Medals are awarded annually for outstanding research work undertaken by pathologists or scientists in training.

The Gold Research Medal is awarded for the best research published in any specialty in the relevant year (1 July -

30 June) while the Specialty Research Medals are awarded to the best candidates in each of the major specialties.

The winning paper or a related extract will be published on the College website and in the College Bulletin with a medal presented at a College ceremony. Please encourage any trainees who you think could qualify to apply. The closing date is 5 July 2018. [Visit College Trainee Research Medals.](#)

#### **On the agenda**

- We have been working with colleagues at the Royal College of Physicians London during the recent problems with ST3 recruitment. We hope that this will be resolved shortly and will support our trainees through this very difficult time.
- The College is actively raising our concerns about the risks in service delivery in the Cervical Screening Programme with the move to primary HPV screening and the tender process for a significantly reduced number of centres. There are workforce shortages now, and very few staff in training for the future. The uncertainty around where future centres will be has been worsened in initial pre-tender meetings by lack of clarity regarding the pricing structure and what the organisations are tendering for. The process is being carried out independently of NHSI pathology work streams, missing important opportunities to align with networks. IT systems

underpinning the service are also a risk.

- We have already raised, and are continuing to raise, these concerns and are working with kindred organisations to try to make sure women continue to get a safe and effective cervical cytology service.
- #Labtour so far this month has included visits to Edinburgh, Southampton and Portsmouth. Brilliant experience and lots of learning. Do follow me via Twitter [@JoMartin\\_path](#) and soon via a blog.
- The Pathology Alliance meeting brings together colleagues from pathology specialist societies to talk through common issues including networks, genomic medicine and Brexit.
- I had a good meeting with Dr Philippa Whitford MP, Shadow Scottish National Party (SNP) spokesperson for health. We discussed patient safety, workforce challenges and cancer targets.
- We were delighted to see our evidence submitted to the House of Commons Science and Technology Committee quoted in their recent report [Genomics and genome editing in the NHS](#)
- Baroness Finlay of Llandaff very helpfully raised our concerns about pathology staffing levels not rising in line with demand during a House of Lords debate on the long term sustainability of the NHS and Adult Social Care.

- In a debate on bowel cancer screening in the House of Commons Nick Thomas-Symonds MP for Torfaen [quoted from a briefing](#) we sent him on Faecal Immunochemical Test (FIT) testing.
- I also attended a reception organised by the All-Party Parliamentary Group on personalised medicine on harnessing science and technology for personalised medicine. The guest speaker was Lord O'Shaughnessy, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Health.

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



[Facebook](#)



[Twitter](#)



[Website](#)

**In this issue:**

[PRESIDENT'S MESSAGES](#)

[COLLEGE NEWS](#)

[PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT](#)

[INTERNATIONAL NEWS](#)

[NEW PUBLICATIONS](#)

[NEW CONSULTATIONS](#)

[COLLEGE CONFERENCES AND SYMPOSIA](#)

[NEWS FROM EXTERNAL ORGANISATIONS](#)

[OTHER EXTERNAL EVENTS OF INTEREST](#)

## COLLEGE NEWS

### **Undergraduate and Foundation Pathology Education Lead**

The College is looking for a new lead for Undergraduate and Foundation Pathology Education. Working closely with the Vice-President for Learning, this exciting and challenging role requires an individual who can, amongst other things, provide leadership and strategic development for Undergraduate Education and Foundation Training activities in the pathology specialties, including the development of a coordinated undergraduate education strategy for the College.

Please send your application to [joanne.brinklow@rcpath.org](mailto:joanne.brinklow@rcpath.org) by 5pm on Thursday 24 May. A description of the role and further information is available on the [College website](#).

### **Dr Neera Patel Travelling Bursary**

The College administers the Dr Neera Patel Travelling Bursary, set up in memory of Dr Neera Patel, FRCPath, who trained in cellular pathology and worked as a consultant specialising in breast pathology.

The bursary is for a histopathology trainee enrolled in a recognised UK training scheme who hopes to develop an interest in breast or head and neck pathology, to enable their participation in a national or international meeting.

The recipient will need to demonstrate how they will benefit from attending the conference and feedback a brief outline of the conference and how it has helped their career pathway.

The bursary has an annual budget of up to £1000 to cover travel, accommodation and conference registration. One award is available per year and is paid retrospectively. For full details visit [Dr Neera Patel Travelling Bursary](#). The deadline for applications is Friday 24 August.

## PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

### **Funding for Events: Public Engagement Innovation Grant Scheme – Apply by 4 June**

The [Public Engagement Innovation Grant Scheme](#) is open for applications. Grants of up to £1000 are available for individuals or organisations who wish to develop pathology-related public engagement activities or events. We have lots of resources and ideas that can help in the resources area of our website. For more information, please see our [website](#). If you would like to ask anything about the scheme and/or discuss your initial ideas, please contact the College's Public Engagement Manager, [Penny Fletcher](#).

### **Free ethics workshops for schools - Nottingham**

We are running our popular [Your Body, Your Consent?](#) biomedical ethics workshop in Nottingham on 20 July. Please pass on details of this opportunity to

any secondary schools and sixth form colleges you know of. The event is aimed at A-level biology and chemistry students and introduces them to [pathology](#) and its ethical implications, allowing them to share their views on important topics such as organ donation, consent and the use of human tissue in research. Facilitated by pathologists, students will have the opportunity to consider different perspectives from the public, pathologists, other medical professionals, legislative bodies and the media, as well as to share their views. There are also opportunities to [volunteer](#) as a facilitator at this event. If you would like more information please email [publicengagement@rcpath.org](mailto:publicengagement@rcpath.org).

## **INTERNATIONAL NEWS**

### **Are you Involved In drug discovery and development?**

Drug discovery and development involves a range of clinical disciplines. Crucially however, it all starts in the laboratory. The International Department is currently exploring the important role and contribution of pathologists, scientists and laboratory medicine professionals in the drug development process and how the results from research undertaken in the laboratory are directly used to develop new ways to treat patients and combat disease.

We are keen to hear from College members who are involved in drug discovery, design, research and development with a view to showcasing this work as part of the 2018 International Pathology Day celebrations. If you would like to get involved, please email [pathologyday@rcpath.org](mailto:pathologyday@rcpath.org)

### **GMC Registration: New verification checks introduced for international medical graduates**

The GMC is introducing a new process to verify the medical qualifications of international medical graduates (IMGs). From 11 June 2019, applicants for provisional or full registration with a licence to practice will need to have their primary medical qualification independently verified before registration is granted. The checks will apply to doctors who have qualified at a medical school outside of the UK, EEA or Switzerland; and those who are nationals of a country outside the UK, EEA or Switzerland who graduated from a medical school outside the UK.

Verification will be carried out by the [Education Commission for Foreign Medical Graduates \(ECFMG\)](#) through their online system – known as the [Electronic Portfolio of International Credentials \(EPIC\)](#) service. ECFMG will verify that the qualification is genuine by checking this directly with the doctor's awarding institution. Further information can be found on the [GMC website](#).

### **Occupational English Test (OET)**

The Occupational English Test (OET) is now being accepted by the GMC as proof of an overseas doctor's English language competency. International medical graduates can now submit an OET certificate as part of their application for GMC registration as an alternative to the more commonly known IELTS certificate. The OET has been developed with a specific focus on the healthcare profession and includes scenarios that reflect real workplace tasks and situations. The test can be taken in more than 100 locations in 40 countries.

The College now also accepts the OET certificate as a proof of English language competency for doctors applying for the [MTI](#) and [Sponsorship Scheme](#).

Further information can be found on the [GMC website](#) and the [OET website](#).

### **Cycle 100 miles for the College! Prudential RideLondon - Sunday 29 July 2018**

Join College fellow and Regional Council for Wales's member [Dr Jim Seale](#) at this year's Prudential RideLondon challenge, which is taking place on Sunday 29 July 2018. Prudential RideLondon is the world's greatest festival of cycling and as a Golden Bond Charity, the College has guaranteed places for this year's challenge. There are still places available if you would like to join in. Family and friends are also welcome.

Help make a difference and register to take part. For further information and to secure your place, please email [Deborah Ko](#).

### **Be a Global Health Challenger! Get active and register now | Global Health Challenges 2018**

Get active and do something fun by taking on an exciting adventure challenge event to raise money for the College's Global Health Fund. Here is a selection of the challenges this year:

#### **The Great Wall of China Trek**

This five-day challenge will take you over ancient watch towers, mountains and through historic battlement stations that are well off the tourist trail. Trek dates: 8 - 16 September 2018.

#### **London to Paris Tour de France Bike Ride**

Join hundreds of other enthusiastic cyclists in our London to Paris Tour de France bike ride and experience this famous route as well as the opportunity to join in with the finale of the world's greatest cycle race, entering Paris in one large peloton. Ride dates: 25 - 29 July 2018.

#### **Three Peaks Challenge**

This is the most highly regarded trekking challenge in the UK, covering 26 miles and with a total trekking time of 15 hours or fewer, you will climb around 10,000 feet. If you think you have the grit and determination to complete this fast-paced challenge please get in touch! Trek dates: 12 – 14 October 2018.

To find out more about any of the above challenges or to secure your place, please email [Deborah Ko](#).

### **NEW PUBLICATIONS**

- [Tissue pathways for cardiovascular pathology](#)

## **NEW CONSULTATION**

- [Guidelines on autopsy practice: Autopsy for bodies recovered from water](#)

## **COLLEGE CONFERENCES AND SYMPOSIA**

### **Digital Pathology: Best practice recommendations and validation**

**Wednesday 4 July 2018**

**To be held at Coin Street Conference Centre, 108 Stamford Street, London SE1 9NH**

**CPD Credits: 6**

The aim of this event is to introduce the RCPATH best practice recommendations for digital pathology and explain digital pathology validation for primary diagnosis.

### **Disruptive Technology in Pathology**

**10 – 11 October 2018**

**To be held at the Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists  
27 Sussex Place, Marylebone,  
London NW1 4RG**

The Royal College of Pathologists and the [Association of Clinical Pathologists](#) held in collaboration with the [British In Vitro Diagnostics Association](#).

Rapid advances in technology are impacting all areas of pathology. Over the next few years we can expect to see even more amazing innovation in pathology practice. This meeting highlights some of the most advanced recent developments, and the ways in which these developments are about to change patient care. This is a special meeting bringing together pathologists, industry and world experts across a range of areas, to showcase innovations that are changing healthcare, and are changing the way we think about pathology practice. The event will feature internationally renowned individuals who are at the cutting edge of developments such as hand-held gene sequencers, scanning mass spectroscopy, and augmented reality, as well as speakers at the forefront of international therapy developments who are putting real innovation into practice, both in the setting of clinical trials, but also large scale clinical implementation.

The programme includes a *Path Dragon* session where cutting edge start up and SMEs will pitch to the audience and an expert panel. The programme is aimed at current and trainee pathologists who want to find out what they will be doing and dealing with in the near future, and how they can innovate and bring their innovations into practice.

### **The Golden Hour – Why do people die?**

**Saturday 10 November 2018**

**To be held at the Wellcome Collection, 183 Euston Road, London NW1 2BE**

**CPD Credit: 5**

The Golden Hour Conference in association with the College is a meeting for key figures in the field of pre-hospital trauma ranging from clinicians, radiologists, pathologists and representatives of HM coroner - in fact, anyone who is interested in helping the clinical pre-hospital sector understand more fully the causes of death in injured patients.



This conference will mark a new era in transforming current knowledge and understanding of why patients die from traumatic injury. It will be significant in helping to change the culture of working between clinicians, radiologists, pathologists and coroners to build a case for change in the area of death from injury, as well as prompting the development of new therapies and strategies that could reduce the number of deaths from severe injury. We also hope this event will enable all those working across this sector to join speakers from across the disciplines of pre-hospital, pathology and virtual autopsy to discuss how best to understand and study this important field.

### **[Advances in Transfusion Medicine](#)**

**Thursday 22 and Friday 23 November 2018**

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

**11 CPD Credits for the both days**

There are ongoing significant advances in transfusion medicine and science with high quality research supporting evidence-based practice. This two-day meeting brings together experts from various clinical disciplines together with leaders in transfusion science to provide a broad overview of current key developments. The meeting will be of wide interest to all those involved in transfusion medicine.

### **NEWS FROM EXTERNAL ORGANISATIONS**

#### **independent government advisory Committee on Carcinogenicity of Chemicals in Food, Consumer Products and the Environment (COC) Vacancies**

There are currently vacancies for a pathologist and an epidemiologist to join the COC.

The vacancies have been posted on the Department of Health and Social Care [website](#). – reference number EC17-69. The deadline is midday on Monday 14 May 2018.

The Committee meets three times per year, and while there is no remuneration for these posts, travel and subsistence expenses can be claimed. More information on the COC can be found on the [Committee website](#):

### **OTHER EVENTS OF INTEREST**

See [external conferences](#)

- [Histopathology of the Bone Marrow](#) – 10 September 2018
- [ACB Microbiology Professional Group Annual Scientific Meeting](#) – 6 June 2018
- [HIS 2018](#) – 26-28 November 2018
- [Focus 2018 Training Day](#) – 6 June 2018
- [Breast Pathology Masterclass Rome 2018](#) – 19-20 September 2018
- [Infection Prevention 2018](#) – 30 September- 2 October 2018

- [Annual SHOT Symposium 2018](#) – 12 July 2018
- [Updates in Thoracic Pathology](#) – 21 June 2018
- [Clinical and Laboratory Haemostasis 2018](#) – 13-14 June 2018
- [DIPC Development Programme - Taking surveillance forwards: making the most of your data](#) – 3 July 2018
- [Edinburgh Dermatopathology Tutorial](#) – 31 May – 1 June 2018
- [Embryo biopsy workshop](#) – 11-12 September 2018
- [All Scotland Let's Talk Clots VTE Conference](#) – 10 May 2018
- [Challenge or Conform: Finding Consensus in an Evolving Specialty](#) – 27-28 September 2018



