

Celebrating our Diamond Jubilee

EST 1962

President's newsletter – April 2022



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President's Message

Ockenden Maternity Review

The [Ockenden report](#) has highlighted shocking and distressing failures in maternity medical practice. It is yet another review of failing and inadequate NHS care which resulted in avoidable deaths, and our hearts go out to the affected families.

As the lead medical royal college for [medical examiners](#), we agree with the view that investigating stillbirths should be added to the remit of medical examiners and they should work with coroners to investigate stillbirths and neonatal deaths. This would help identify unusual patterns, such as high numbers of deaths at one hospital, which can be a strong indicator of poor care. A letter outlining the College's views [was published in The Times](#).

Further independent reviews, including those of maternity care at Nottingham University Hospitals and East Kent University NHS Foundation Trust, are due to report this year.

Clive Treacey Independent Review

This [review](#), commissioned by NHS England, looked at the circumstances leading up to Clive Treacey's death and the care he received from various organisations during his life. Dr David Bailey, Chair of College's Death Investigation Committee, led the first meeting of a Task and Finish Group to agree the best way to take forward the review's recommendations for pathology. We are working with Jane Hanna, Chief Executive of SUDEP Action, and representatives of the Learning Disability & Autism Programme, the National Medical Examiner's

office and the Chief Coroner's office; we will update members soon on the actions from this first meeting.

Northern Ireland elections

In May, the people of Northern Ireland will elect their representatives to the Northern Ireland Assembly. A new government will take responsibility for a range of devolved areas, including health services. The College Regional Council for Northern Ireland, with Dr Gareth McKeeman as Chair, has [published a set of priorities](#) for pathology services that we will be putting forward to the new government.

College influence

We were very pleased to see the influential House of Commons Public Accounts Committee report on [NHS backlogs and waiting times in England](#) feature College evidence highlighting pre-pandemic pathology workforce shortages.

We welcome the committee's recommendations for an assessment of the number of staff that will be available to deal with the backlog and how staff who have been working under intense and consistent pressure will be supported.

It was also gratifying to see the [Health and Social Care committee expert panel on cancer services](#) use much of our evidence on cancer services and workforce in their evaluation report.

Highlighted areas included concerns that certain specialties do not have enough staff in post to meet patient demand and that there have been workforce shortages for some time.

The evaluation also reflected our concerns about how the new Cancer Diagnostic Centres (CDCs) across England would be staffed, and how the capacity of the workforce would expand to match the investment in diagnostic pathways.

Stakeholders

- I had many useful and informative discussions as the IBMS Congress around improving diagnostics and pathology services with key stakeholders such as former Health Minister Lord Bethell and the IBMS President Debra Padgett.
- I attended an influential roundtable discussion on Tumour Agnostic policy and associated genomic issues hosted by the [PHG Foundation](#). It will highlight issues to policymakers & stakeholders to help improve patient care.

GMC National Training Survey

The General Medical Council's (GMC) 2022 national training survey gives trainees and trainers an opportunity to share their views on postgraduate training in the UK.

The survey is open until 3 May and the results will give the GMC, medical education bodies, and employers the data they need to check that trainees are receiving high-quality training, and that trainers are supported in their roles. This year's survey will also provide vital information about the ongoing impact of the pandemic on doctors' progression, work, and wellbeing.

I strongly encourage everyone who is eligible to complete the survey. Visit [GMC Training Survey](#) for more information.

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Diamond Jubilee – Celebrating 60 years of the College

[2022 is the College's Diamond Jubilee year](#). The College was founded on 21 June 1962 to develop and support the evolving specialties of pathology.

RCPATH Diamond Jubilee – Pet Portrait Competition

To celebrate National Pet Month (1 April–2 May) and the practice of veterinary pathology, we have the pleasure of launching the [RCPATH Pet Portrait Competition](#).

Submit a photo of your pet by 2 May on Twitter using [@RCPATH](#) and #RCPATHPets to win a pet hamper. There are two categories: cutest pet and pet that looks most like its owner.

Visit our [competition page](#) for inspiration and more information. We look forward to seeing your entries!

[Enter our Art of Pathology Competition to win up to £1,000!](#)

The Art of Pathology Competition is kindly sponsored by [Sonic Healthcare UK](#) and open to adults and children from the UK and abroad until Monday 30 May. £1,000 will be awarded to the winners of the over 18 and 11–17 categories. For the under 11s category, the winner will receive £500 and another £500 will be awarded to their school. Find out more about this year's theme, 'Pathology: past, present and future' and the full terms and conditions on our [competition webpage](#).

[Encourage undergraduates and Foundation doctors to enter our essay competitions](#)

Both of our annual essay competitions are now open to UK undergraduates and Foundation doctors. To celebrate the College's 60th anniversary, both essay questions are centred around the impact of pathology over the last 60 years. Undergraduates have until 25 April to submit their essay, while Foundation doctors have until 23 May. Download and share the e-flyers with those in your network from our [essay competitions page](#).

[Listen to our latest Pathologists in Profile podcast episodes](#)

Our March podcast episodes feature consultant chemical pathologist, Dr Bernie Croal. Having had a humble start to life, Bernie's story is one of resilience and determination. Listen to both of Bernie's podcast episodes and keep an eye out for our April episodes on the [podcast webpage](#).

[Living Autopsy Tour](#)

The Living Autopsy tour continues across the UK presented by past President Dr Suzy Lishman CBE. Check out our calendar [here](#) and spread the word for your [local area](#).

Devolved nations regional council Diamond Jubilee events

[Diamond Jubilee celebrations – Join in the College's Wales Coastal Path Walk Saturday 2 July 2022](#)

To mark the College's Diamond Jubilee, the Wales Regional Council is organising a walk of the Wales Coastal Path.

A [spreadsheet is available on the College's website](#) with information on the different sections of the walk, dividing the path into some manageable chunks.

Those taking part in the challenge are encouraged to select one (or two adjacent sections!) as a contribution – either your favourite stretches or one near your home or workplace. The aim is also to attract Assembly Members and even local MPs to join and walk parts of the coast. The plan is to walk toward the Senedd and meet with some AMs there as the walkers converge at the end of the walks (coming from Penarth and Chepstow–Cardiff directions). If you would like more information or are interested in taking part, please email Dr Jonathan Kell at jonathan.kell@rcpath.org.

Improving Disability Adjustments in Pathology: Current Perspectives and Looking to the Future (A free virtual event on Monday 25 April)

The College is proud to host an event on behalf of its Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Network exploring how the College can improve pathology careers for people with a disability.

The panel will discuss their personal experiences, what motivated them to choose a career in pathology and what adaptations and innovations are possible to ensure a fulfilling pathology career. They will also consider the experience of pathology professionals who have been diagnosed with long-term illness or disability during their career and the impact it has had.

We will also be hearing from an expert in the field of human resources and inclusion as to the ways in which we can continue to grow and improve our disability access, with the hope that many more people with a disability will choose a career in pathology in future.

Please follow the [link to register](#) for the event; once you have registered you will receive joining instructions directly from Zoom.

Pathology Standards – Webinar Series on Guidance for Implementation

Register for our next new free bite sized webinar on Implementation guidance for carcinoma of nasopharynx and oropharynx – Thursday 19th May 1.00–1.45pm.
1CPD credits.

Deadline for CPD returns extended to 30 September 2022

The College recognises and appreciates the tremendous effort made by our members during the global pandemic. To alleviate the pressure of submitting within the normal deadline, we have extended the 2021/2022 CPD deadline to 30 September 2022.

If you need more time to submit or have any queries please contact the CPD Department: cpd@rcpath.org.

E-learning module for Advisory Appointment Committee representatives

The Workforce team has available e-learning training for representatives attending Advisory Appointment Committees (AAC) or wishing to act as a representative. The training offers an overall view and guidance for the role of an assessor. It is available to established College representatives and those who are interested in becoming a representative.

If you would like the training to attend an AAC and are an established consultant – i.e. more than 3 years in a substantive post, undertaking CPD, have equality and diversity training, and would be interested in representing the College on an ACC/s – we can provide access to the half hour online training module. The training has been assigned 1 CPD point. Ideally, we would like you to follow up the training by attending one AAC in the first 12 months. If you are interested, please contact: workforce@rcpath.org.

Percy Oliver Memorial Award

This award is given to an individual who has made an outstanding contribution to the field of blood transfusion. The category for this year's award is *Lay category*.

Nominations and accompanying citations should be submitted to the Transfusion Medicine Specialty Advisory Committee for consideration by 5pm Friday 27 May 2022 via Alison Morgan (alison.morgan@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 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](#). The deadline for spring applications is 5pm on Friday 27 May 2022.

Survey on mortuary occupational health – histopathology and forensic pathology

Please [complete a short survey](#) on behalf of a College member who is researching the occupational health of people who work regularly in mortuaries. The results will be analysed and then shared with the College, and will be used to inform its advocacy work.

The survey will only take five minutes to complete and is open until the end of April. There is an optional prize draw for £30 of Amazon vouchers as an incentive to encourage you to respond (this is not linked to survey answers to preserve anonymity). If you have any questions about the survey, please contact t.estrin-serlui@nhs.net.

Get involved at the College

Chair of National Quality Assessment Advisory Panel for Cellular Pathology

The Cellular Pathology NQAAP is responsible for monitoring participant performance in interpretative and technical External Quality Assessment schemes in cellular pathology. Further details about the role can be found in the role description below. 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. For more information, please visit [NQAAP for Cellular Pathology](#).

Medical Microbiology and Medical Virology Audit Evaluators – Urgently needed

We are urgently looking for Medical Microbiology and Medical Virology evaluators to evaluate whether the criteria and standards for audits submitted to our audit certification scheme are met appropriately.

For more information and how to apply, please go to [Get Involved at the College](#). Contact us on 020 7451 6737 or clinicaleffectiveness@rcpath.org for a brief information about this role.

Regional news

Regional surgeries in England

The College's Regional Representatives on College Council have introduced new and innovative ways to hear from members and understand the views across the region that they represent.

A series of 'surgeries' will be held over the next few months, where all members in the region are warmly invited to meet with their Regional Representative via a Microsoft Teams virtual session. This will be an open time for Regional Representatives to meet with you and hear of your work, areas of concern and points of interest that you wish to raise. These are planned to be held in the time before College Council meets in order to present the region's interests and concerns to this body. These surgeries are hopefully also an opportunity for you to meet via Teams with colleagues across your region.

The next round of regional surgeries will be held on the following dates:

- **South of England surgery:** held on 26 April 2022, 10am–12pm – *led by Dr Negar Maghsoodi (negar.maghsoodi@rcpath.org), English Regional Representative to Council (South)*
- **Midlands and East of England surgery:** 21 April 2022, 10am–12pm – *led by Dr Laszlo Igali (laszlo.igali@rcpath.org), English Regional Representative to Council (Midlands and East of England).*

REGIONAL SYMPOSIA

[Northern Ireland Symposium 2022](#)

Thursday 26 May 2022, 9.30am–1pm

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 and share some of the great developments happening in Northern Ireland. They will hear from the President, Professor Mike Osborn, and find out what the College does in Northern Ireland. Trainees will have the opportunity to meet with the President and discuss any relevant matters. Please note that this event will be held online via Zoom on Thursday 26 May 2022, 9.30am–1pm.

Wales Symposium 2022

Thursday 30 June 2022, 1.30pm–5pm

Please save the date for this event. Further information will follow shortly.

RCPATH Scotland 60th Anniversary Symposium: What has Pathology ever done for us?

November 2022 – date to be confirmed

Further information to follow.

Promoting pathology

[Public Engagement Training](#)

The standard level training will go ahead on 12 May 2022 at the College and attendees will be encouraged to volunteer at the College Open Day in June. We still have a few places left, so please let us know if you want to join by contacting publicengagement@rcpath.org.

[Public Engagement Innovation Grant Scheme](#)

The grant is to support for delivery of a range of pathology-related public engagement events throughout the UK. Grants of up to £1,000 are available for individuals or organisations to help with the events. The applications will close on 1 June 2022. For further information please check [Grant Scheme webpage](#) or contact publicengagement@rcpath.org.

College conferences and events

[Infection Study Day – Virtual Event](#)

Wednesday 27 April 2022

CPD credits: 4

This half day session has been devised for those working or interested in infection specialties including microbiology, virology and infectious diseases. The programme should be of interest to all levels and aims to give trainees the opportunity for consultant led, interactive teaching to equip them with knowledge and skills for specialist medical microbiology and virology practice.

[New Consultants' Day – Face to Face](#)

Friday 29 April 2022

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

CPD credits: 5

The New Consultants' Day is a new event, intended to help and support anyone who has recently been appointed to a consultant post, or who will very soon be taking one up. It is appropriate for all pathology specialties and much of the content will be suitable for both medical consultants and consultant clinical scientists (with the exception of the GMC and BMA presentations).

You will hear from experienced consultants on a range of topics such as how to prepare a business case to secure resources, how to set up new services and how best to deal with complaints, and learn more about appraisal, revalidation and pension arrangements, among other areas. To register, you should ideally have been appointed to a consultant post within the last year or have passed FRCPath and/or made a successful CESR application and expect to be appointed to a consultant within the next year.

[Solving the Enigma of the Liver Biopsy – Virtual Event](#)

Friday 6 May 2021

CPD credits: 6

Following excellent feedback during our inaugural 'Solving the Enigma of the Liver biopsy' course in 2021, for 2022 we have revised the programme, aiming to cover other aspects within the specialty of liver pathology based on delegates' feedback. This virtual liver day is aimed at consultants and SAS who report liver biopsies as part of their everyday workload, and senior trainees who may wish to enhance their understanding of liver pathology.

This course should provide updates and advancements on areas of liver pathology which can sometimes be found more challenging, focusing predominantly on medical liver, but also briefly touching on neoplastic pathology with regards to the diagnosis of hepatocellular lesions. The invited speakers are all experts within their field. At the end of each session there will be an opportunity for delegates to ask questions.

Bitesize Liver Pathology webinar series

Monday 30 May – Monday 4th July

CPD Credits: 6 (for all sessions)

We are excited to announce the return of our bitesize liver pathology sessions for a second year. These will take place on Monday afternoons from 4.30–5.30pm, via zoom. This years' topics have been selected to cover different areas of the field of liver pathology and are based on delegate feedback from last year.

These one-hour webinars are mainly aimed at senior registrars but may also be of interest to SAS doctors and consultants who report liver biopsies occasionally as part of their everyday work. The aim is to provide attendees with the opportunity to view example digital slides before each session, followed by case-based discussions by an expert in the field. There will also be the opportunity for speakers to provide hints and tips to aid in diagnosis and interpretation, and for delegates to ask questions.

Medical Examiner Annual Conference – Virtual Event

Wednesday 18 May 2022

CPD Credits: 6

The second annual Medical Examiners Conference will take place on Zoom on Wednesday May 18 2022. This meeting will be of interest to anyone involved in the care of the bereaved. The final programme is still to be confirmed but will be available soon. The day will run from 9.15am (registration for a prompt 9.30am start) to 5pm at the latest.

In addition to updates on national policy and implementation, local and regional medical examiners will share their experience of challenges such as out of hours cover and community roll out. There will also be a panel discussion of some challenging scenarios and plenty of opportunity to ask questions throughout the day.

Confirmed speakers include:

- Dr Alan Fletcher, National Medical Examiner, who will launch his 2021 Annual Report at the conference
- His Honour Judge Thomas Teague QC, Chief Coroner
- William Vineall, Director of NHS Quality, Safety and Investigations at the Department of Health and Social Care
- Dr Aidan Fowler, National Director of Patient Safety in England at NHSI and a Deputy Chief Medical Officer at the Department of Health and Social Care
- Dr Esther Youd, Autopsy Pathologist, University of Glasgow
- Tracy Frisby, Registration Service Manager, NE Lincs Council

[Undergraduate Pathology Summer School 2022](#)

This annual event held every August is open to UK medical students in any year of training, offering the opportunity to find out about the wide range of pathology specialities through a mixture of lectures and small-group interactive breakout sessions. This free two-day course will give you a chance to talk to current trainees and established consultants about their careers. This year, the Summer School is back taking place in person after three years.

The next summer school is scheduled for 11 and 12 August 2022; places will be offered based on a formal application process. Students will have opportunities to interact with trainees and consultants in various pathology specialities as well as take part in numerous interactive activities. Plus enjoying informal networking at the BBQ on the Thursday night.

The Summer School is hosted by the Royal College of Pathologists and sponsored by the College, the British Division of the International Academy of Pathology, the Pathological Society, British Society for Haematology, Association of Clinical Pathologists, the British Infection Association and the British Neuropathological Society. [Registration is now open](#). Applications will close on Friday 29 April 2022.

Medical examiner training

The College is the [lead medical royal college for medical examiners](#) and provides training for any doctor wishing to work as a medical examiner. Participants will need to complete mandatory 26 e-learning modules and attend an entire face-to-face training day to receive a certificate of completion. The day includes short presentations, small group discussions of case scenarios and the opportunity to share experience. Medical Examiner Training is open only to medically qualified individuals who work in England and Wales.

New medical examiners who successfully complete the training and the e-learning modules will be invited to join the College as members.

[Medical examiner training session – Virtual Zoom Training](#)

Thursday 21 April 2022

CPD credits: 6

[Medical examiner training session – IN PERSON](#)

Tuesday 7 June 2022

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

CPD credits: 6

Medical examiner officer training

The College also leads on the training of [medical examiner officers](#) (MEOs).

MEOs work closely with medical examiners and undertake tasks such as coordinating the completion of death certificates and referrals to the coroner, and speaking to clinicians and bereaved families.

MEOs may come from a wide range of backgrounds. For example, nurses, healthcare scientists or bereavement officers although this list is not exhaustive. More information, including a [model job description, is on the College website](#).

The face-to-face training day is the second part of MEO training. Everyone attending

the course must have completed the 26 mandatory core e-learning modules before the date of the course 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 training session – Virtual Training](#)

Friday 23 September 2022

CPD credits: 6

For further information, please contact the RCPATH Conference Department at meetings@rcpath.org or on 020 7451 6700.

News from external organisations

The COSTrans-MDRGNB study

You are invited to participate in an e-Delphi survey study to identify the most important outcomes to assess the impact of infection prevention and control interventions for prevention of transmission of multi-drug resistant gram-negative bacteria.

Clinical trials, systematic reviews and guidelines have compared various interventions for the prevention and control of MDRGNBs. However, studies on IPC measures often do not address the same outcomes, making it difficult to draw conclusions when the evidence is synthesised. If all studies in IPC used the same outcomes, they could all be compared and combined. When a set of main outcomes has been agreed for a health condition, it's called a 'core outcome set' (COS). A COS would help in bringing together all the studies to get a better understanding of which interventions are best and avoid the problem of some studies only reporting a selection of the outcomes that were measured.

The participant information sheet in [this link](#) provides you with a more detailed overview of the research and what this study involves.

Other external events of interest

28–29 April 2022

[British Society for Oral & Maxillofacial Pathology 2022 Meeting](#)

29 April 2022

[Economic Evaluation](#)

05–06 May 2022

[British Association of Urological Pathologists Advanced Bladder Pathology Course](#)

05 May 2022

[BSAC Infection Clinical Dilemmas webinar: Bone & Joint Infections](#)

10 May 2022

[Take control of Pseudomonas aeruginosa and improve patient safety](#)

10–11 May 2022

[BSAC Spring Conference 2022: Reigniting the AMR Agenda](#)

12–13 May 2022

[Antibiotic Resistance and Mechanisms \(ARM\) Workshop for Researchers](#)

24 May 2022

[Transforming Digital Pathology & AI: The Path Forward](#)

08 June 2022

[London GI pathology update 2022 webinar 1](#)

15 June 2022

[London GI pathology update 2022 webinar 2](#)

17 June 2022

[Nottingham Breast Pathology Masterclass - Live](#)

22 June 2022

[London GI pathology update 2022 webinar 3](#)

09–10 June 2022

[BAGP 18th Annual Meeting](#)

27–28 September 2022

[Infection 360](#)

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