



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



President's e-newsletter – October 2020

President's Messages of the Month

Another busy month to report

As COVID-19 infections continue to rise, I wanted to say a big thank you to all members who are still going above and beyond, working long days and shifts for the benefit of their patients.

The recent events resulting in severe and prolonged supplies shortages across the UK have also been very trying, and everyone has been working so hard to make sure that services are secured, even whilst expanding testing...so thank you.

Lots of work is continuing internationally on vaccine development for COVID-19, and we are seeing a range of approaches coming to clinical trial. The work on the immunology and the immunological response to COVID-19, and the manifestations of 'long COVID' also continues. These will clearly be areas where we continue to learn so much so fast, but even more questions arise as we learn.

FRCPATH Autumn Exams

The FRCPATH autumn examinations are in progress in line with the revised plans.

Some FRCPATH candidates' exams were delayed as a result of the national lockdown in the spring. The College has been doing everything it can to give all candidates the opportunity to sit their examination, including providing additional sittings of the FRCPATH Part 2 examinations for histopathology and haematology in January 2021.

Statements have been issued by the College and the Academy of Medical Royal Colleges emphasising the importance of examinations and compulsory courses taking place in person as necessary, within local and national guidelines.

I am very pleased to report that we have been able to accommodate everyone who applied for an exam in this extended autumn session. This is important on a personal and professional level for each candidate. It also matters for the specialties concerned, as any delays to training could affect future recruitment, with long-term ramifications for specialties that already have shortages.

The College's examiners and Exams team have worked extremely hard to prepare and move the autumn examinations while taking into account the safety of all involved. Moving many examinations, where possible, to online formats has been a massive undertaking, and one fraught with challenges, for the exams and learning teams. I would like to take this opportunity to thank them and wish all candidates the best of luck!

November features two highlights of the College calendar:

National Pathology Week **and** International Pathology Day

National Pathology Week (NPW) – 2–8 November

NPW is an annual celebration of pathology. Throughout the week, members will run a programme of events and activities to engage people of all ages and improve public awareness and understanding of how pathologists and scientists diagnose disease.

All of the activities have been adapted to work online, with lots of great ideas available at [NPW resources](#).

To open the week, we will be taking part in a special '[Meet the Presidents' event](#) on 2 November. At the event, which is open to all, I will be joined by President Elect, Dr Mike Osborn, to discuss why pathology is 'at the heart of healthcare' and take questions. You can book your free place [here](#).

International Pathology Day (IPD) 2020 – Wednesday 11 November

I hope you will be able to join me for this year's IPD. This year, the event will be held virtually and explore infection and how the global pathology community has been working tirelessly to manage the devastating effects of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The day will also examine how infectious disease outbreaks have been managed in the past. For more information about activities for the day, please visit [IPD 2020](#).

Join me for the Art and Science of Practical Management webinar series

With the Chair of the Trainees' Advisory Committee Dr Matthew Clarke, I recently launched a new webinar series – *Core skills for leadership and management* – to help support training in these domains while face-to-face opportunities are limited.

My first webinar – *The role and the objectives...why? and why bother...?* – took place on 7 October.

Drawing on case-based and reflective learning about the management of complex or difficult situations, and using real-life experiences, future seminars will cover the theory and practical aspects of leadership and management in a healthcare setting.

This series is for everyone – from trainees and students, to new and established consultants, clinical scientists, biomedical scientists and all staff who want to reflect on their skills and learn tips and tactics to deal with difficult situations.

There will be a chance to ask questions at each session, so do join us on Wednesday evenings from 7:00 to 7:30pm until 25 November.

Round up

- I was interviewed on BBC's Newsnight along with Dr Dan Poulter MP to talk about the huge demand for COVID-19 tests and the stress on the healthcare system.
- I was pleased to have the opportunity to present, along with the College lead on digital pathology, Dr Darren Treanor, at a Westminster Health Forum event on *Next steps for diagnostics and pathology – innovation, collaboration, standards, and the response to the COVID-19 pandemic.*
- We are delighted that College Fellow Professor Ravi Gupta has been included in the prestigious Time magazine 100 most influential people list 2020 for his work on HIV and stem cell transplantation, culminating in the world's second HIV 'cure' in a patient.
- Following my evidence session on Track and Trace to the All Party Parliamentary Group (APPG) on Coronavirus in August, College Vice President, Dr Rachael Liebmann, was invited to provide further evidence at a follow-up session on the system earlier this month. You can watch both our sessions on the College website.
- Dr Mike Osborn, College President Elect, was invited to give evidence to the House of Commons Justice Committee on 8 September. You can watch a recording of his evidence session on parliament TV and read the evidence submitted by the College on our website. Dr Osborn made many valid and important points about the shortage of histopathologists to carry out post mortems.

New role

This is my penultimate newsletter before demitting office. I will be taking up the role of National Specialty Adviser for Pathology for NHS England and Improvement, to help provide some clinical input and continuity of advice.

Professor Jo Martin

President, The Royal College of Pathologists

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In this issue:

- PRESIDENT'S MESSAGES
- WORKING FOR MEMBERS
- GET INVOLVED IN THE COLLEGE
- PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT
- REGIONAL NEWS
- COLLEGE CONFERENCES AND SYMPOSIA

- NEWS FROM EXTERNAL ORGANISATIONS
- OTHER EXTERNAL EVENTS OF INTEREST

WORKING FOR MEMBERS

COLLEGE NEWS

Consultation on the International Collaboration on Cancer Reporting (ICCR) – draft datasets for Ductal carcinoma in situ (DCIS) and Surgically removed lymph nodes for breast tumours

Please review and provide comments on the draft datasets for *Ductal carcinoma in situ (DCIS) and Surgically removed lymph nodes for breast tumours* developed by the ICCR.

The documents will be available for comments until Friday 27 November 2020. Feedback on the documents should be sent directly to datasets@iccr-cancer.org

Submit a case study and claim CPD credits

Would you like to share your knowledge and experiences with colleagues and earn CPD credits?

We are looking for case studies on experiences that have impacted or may have impacted on patient safety. The case study should describe what went well or less well and why.

We would also like to hear: how this was approached and resolved; what was learned; and how this was shared. This constitutes high-quality learning and you may claim 1 CPD credit per case study you send us in your online CPD portfolio.

For an example of a published case study, please see [haematology – ‘High or low’](#). For more information, please email cpd@rcpath.org

Educational Update

Friday 4 December 2020, 10am–12pm

CPD credits: 2

This virtual event is principally for trainers, senior trainees and assessors in chemical pathology, cellular pathology, medical microbiology and virology specialties. Trainers from the JRCPTB specialties are also welcome to attend. The event will comprise a series of short talks on current and future developments affecting the College. Dr Mike Osborn, RCPATH President Elect will be giving a talk as will Professor Jonathan Van-Tam, England Deputy Chief Medical Officer.

GET INVOLVED IN YOUR COLLEGE

Help shape the work of the International Committee by becoming the International Regional Advisor for South East Asia

The College would like to invite applications for the role of International Regional Advisor for South East Asia.

International Regional Advisors play an important and strategic role in representing the College within a specified overseas geographical region. They act as key points of contact for members residing in these regions and for UK-based members who

have an interest in or wish to engage with global pathology issues. The term of office is three years from the date of appointment. A full role description can be found via the [College website](#).

REGIONAL NEWS

Northern Ireland Council Member (four vacancies)

Applications are invited from Fellows for Northern Ireland Regional Council Member posts. Successful applicants will take up office immediately until the Annual General Meeting in November 2023.

As a member of the Council, your role will be to provide professional leadership in Northern Ireland and contribute at a national level to the maintenance and development of pathology services and the quality of care that patients receive. For more information about the role and how to apply, please access the link above. The closing date for nominations is Monday 2 November 2020.

Wales Symposium 2020 – Tuesday 27 October (1–5pm), online via Zoom. (4 CPD points)

This symposium is aimed at RCPATH Fellows, members, trainees and others interested in the range of pathology specialties in Wales. Presentations will focus on upcoming themes in the field of pathology as well as sharing some of the great developments happening in Wales. Delegates will also hear from the President Professor Jo Martin and find out about the College's work in Wales.

PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

National Pathology Week 2020 – there is still time to get involved.

This year's [National Pathology Week](#) (NPW) offers a fantastic opportunity for members to share their work with diverse audiences between 2 and 8 November. We're keen to support members who would like to run their own NPW activities and events. If you are organising something (online or otherwise), please [register your event](#) with us so we can help promote it and send you an exclusive organiser's goody bag. We're constantly adding to our [resources for event organisers](#), including a new guide about how to run successful online events. We're taking all College-led events online and we welcome any support in spreading the word about our undergraduate quiz events for [medical students](#) and [veterinary medicine students](#). Further information can be found on our [NPW page](#).

The Furness Prize for Science Communication

Do you know an undergraduate student or trainee who has demonstrated exceptional science communication throughout the year? If yes, please encourage them to apply by 23 October at [Furness Prize](#). The winner will receive £200 and will be invited to receive their certificate at the New Fellows Ceremony in February 2021.

NEW CONSULTATIONS

- [Dataset for histopathological reporting of cervical neoplasia](#) – closes 27 October

COLLEGE CONFERENCES AND SYMPOSIA

COVID-19 – College Conferences Update

All RCPATH scheduled conferences and events have been postponed until the end of October 2020 owing to COVID-19. We will continue to review the situation and its impact on our events, as there is the possibility that other postponements will be announced. However, we are looking at virtual meetings and video-based learning options. Details will be shared if there are changes to any events.

The Art and Science of Practical Management: Core skills for leadership and management Virtual Training Series

Occurs every Wednesday from 7 to 7.30pm until 25 November 2020

President of the Royal College of Pathologists Professor Jo Martin will present a programme of case-based and reflective learning about the management of complex or difficult situations. Facilitated by the Chair of the Trainees' Advisory Committee Dr Matthew Clarke, this programme will look at the theory and practical aspects of leadership and management in a healthcare setting.

Register once for either all seminars or select which dates you are able to attend at the time of booking. For further details, please contact the Events team on meetings@rcpath.org.

Birmingham Breast Pathology Update Course – Virtual Learning

Friday 6 November 2020

CPD credits: TBA

Join us for the Birmingham Breast Pathology Update Course. Now in its 13th year, this annual multidisciplinary breast course will be held virtually.

This is an exciting opportunity to learn from the experts in an interactive and interesting way. The course will include an update on challenging breast lesions and the latest guidelines, educational MDT scenarios, Q&As and slide seminars. CPD points to be confirmed once full programme is finalised.

Confirmed speakers: Dr Elena Provenzano (Cambridge), Prof Emad Rakha (Nottingham), Prof Daniel Rea (Birmingham), Prof Sarah Pinder (London), Dr Nisha Sharma (Leeds) and Dr Abeer Shaaban (Birmingham) and Miss Vidya Raghavan and Mr Naren Basu. For further details, please contact meetings@rcpath.org.

Advances in transfusion medicine – Virtual Learning

Thursday 26 November 2020

CPD credits: 5

There are exciting ongoing developments in transfusion medicine and science with high-quality research supporting evidence-based practice. This one-day virtual meeting brings together experts from various clinical disciplines with leaders in transfusion science to provide an update on key developments. The meeting will be of interest to all those involved in transfusion medicine.

For any queries, please contact meetings@rcpath.org.

Soft tissue tumours from infants to young adults: the age matters

Thursday 28 and Friday 29 January 2021

To be held at the Crowne Plaza Royal Victoria Sheffield, Victoria Station Road, Sheffield S4 7YE

CPD credits: 10

This event will be a case-based approach to the current major clinicopathologic issues in soft tissue tumours in different paediatric ages. The event is targeted

at paediatric pathologists, histopathologists and trainees. This event was originally scheduled for March 2020.

We will also be hosting a dinner at the Crown Plaza on the first evening of the event. This will be a great opportunity to network with colleagues and presenters attending the two-day event. Bookings can be made at the time of booking the conference. Please contact meetings@rcpath.org if you have any questions.

The Beautiful Brain

Thursday 15 and Friday 16 April 2021

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

CPD credits: 13

This special course focuses on the instrumental role of neuropathological study in the analysis of human brain disorders, examining prenatal onset, management, cause identification, genetic advice, and research on human neurodevelopment and new therapies. This course is recommended to health professionals involved in prenatal/fetal medicine, perinatal and paediatric pathologists, neuropathologists, neuroradiologists, neurologists, gynaecologist-obstetricians, geneticists and neuroscientists.

Update on placenta: physiology and new concepts

Thursday 17 and Friday 18 June 2021

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

CPD credits: 9

Placental pathology is a unique area of perinatal pathology. Its understanding requires knowledge of normal development, physiology and histopathology as well as fetal and maternal medicine. Requests for placental examination have grown exponentially in recent years, but this has not been matched by histopathologists trained in reporting them. This course will provide an update on placental physiology, current classification and new insights into the knowledge of placental conditions.

The course is designed for paediatric/perinatal and general histopathology trainees at any stage of their training, as well as consultants. The course will also be of benefit to obstetricians, both consultants and in training.

Medical examiner training

The College is the lead medical royal college for medical examiners, providing the essential training that will equip you with the knowledge and skills you will need for this important role. Any doctor wishing to work as a medical examiner will need to complete mandatory e-learning modules and attend a face-to-face training day. The day will include short presentations, small group discussions of case scenarios and the opportunity to share experience.

A certificate will be awarded to provide evidence of completion of the face-to-face component of the medical examiner training. This training complements the e-learning that you must complete before attending this training. The College is inviting new medical examiners to join as members. This is dependent on completion of this training and evidence of satisfactory completion of the e-learning modules. Please note, it will be necessary to stay for the entire day to receive a certificate of completion of this training. You must have completed all 26 core e-learning modules before attending the face-to-face training.

Medical examiner face to face training session

Tuesday 9 February 2021

CPD credits: 6

Medical examiner training session - virtual training

Wednesday 10 March 2021

CPD credits: 6

If you have any questions about training or scheduled events, please contact the Events team at meetings@rcpath.org.

Medical examiner officer training

The College is also leading on the training of medical examiner officers (MEOs). The training days are open to anyone who has been appointed or is considering applying to work as a MEO.

MEOs work closely with medical examiners and will undertake tasks such as coordinating the completion of death certificates and referrals to the coroner and speaking to clinicians and bereaved families. There is more information about the role of an MEO including a [model job description on the College website](#).

MEOs may come from a wide range of backgrounds. It is anticipated that many will be nurses, healthcare scientists or bereavement officers by background, although this list is not exhaustive.

The face-to-face training day is the second part of basic MEO training. Everyone attending the course must have completed the 26 mandatory core e-learning modules before the date of the course. It is vital that you have completed this preparatory work to enable you to get the most out of the training day. The e-learning modules [can be accessed here](#). (Registration with e-Learning for Healthcare is required.)

Further dates for 2021 to be announced shortly.

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

NEWS FROM OTHER ORGANISATIONS

Hospice UK—Care After Death: Guidance for staff responsible for care after death (third edition)

Endorsed by the College, this guidance is written to support the care of the deceased adult during the time of the COVID-19 pandemic.

COVID-19-specific guidance published for doctor complaints

The General Medical Council (GMC) has issued [guidance](#) for its staff detailing how to take the context created by COVID-19 into account when considering complaints about doctors.

The guidance takes account of the extraordinary circumstances of the pandemic, including additional pressures on resources and ways of working outside of normal routines.

EXTERNAL EVENTS OF INTEREST

4 November 2020

[BSBMTCT Education Day](#)

9–12 November 2020

Power of Process Champion – For more information, please contact:

<mailto:andre@joinpop.org>

10 November 2020

[BDIAP Molecular Pathology Study Day](#)

11 November 2020

[UKMF Autumn Day](#)

11 November 2020

[22nd London Lymphoma Forum](#)

12 November 2020

[Webinar: Pneumonia – diagnosis, treatment and stewardship challenges](#)

12 November 2020

[UKFHD 50th Academic Meeting](#)

27 November 2020

[UK Clinical Vaccine Network Conference 2020](#)

27 November 2020

[Current Thinking in Haematological Malignancies in 2020](#)

30 November – 4 December 2020

Power of Process Master - For more information, please contact:

<mailto:andre@joinpop.org>

22 January 2021

[Into clinical practice: Pneumonia](#)

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

