



President's e-newsletter – April 2020

President's Messages of the Month

Coronavirus outbreak

As the coronavirus outbreak accelerates, I want to continue to offer our huge thanks to all our members coping with this pandemic. I am incredibly proud of all the pathology teams, the retired pathologists who have answered the call to help, and our trainees who have been so fantastic.

We've pulled together a hub of guidance and advice that has been incredibly popular and the feedback has been excellent. This includes links to the latest coronavirus information and resources from the College, and we know that this is being used by members all over the world. Thanks to everyone for their contributions to this, and especially to the Specialty Advisory Committees who have done such great work producing guidance and reviews at such speed for our members. We are constantly updating this COVID-19 hub so please do keep checking back to this and our social media channels for the latest updates. There is so much content being added weekly, that I have not listed it here, but do visit.

It has been breakneck speed in all we have been doing across the College and, in particular, we have been working with the microbiology, virology, infection, blood sciences and immunology communities to look at viral and antibody testing. We have made strong representations at all levels of government, and I am now meeting once or twice weekly with the UK Secretary of State for Health and Social Care as part of the testing task force. I have weekly calls all with the Chief Medical Officer of England, and with the Emergency response team. The daily calls regarding testing also continue, and we have been pivotal in the Testing Methods Crowdcity platform looking at diagnostic innovations to help solve specific challenges and to then share these with the community of pathologists. I am also creating and sharing my own video updates about the crisis, which you can [find here](#).

I am particularly looking forward to joining hundreds of you at this evening's COVID-19 virtual learning event, the first of a virtual series of short updates from experts....do register and join in with the [future seminars](#)!...again accessible via the resource hub.

You can find out more about the College's work during this outbreak below and on the resource hub. If you have specific questions you can also email us at covid-19@rcpath.org.

I am particularly aware of the pressures you are all under at this time. Your work has been outstanding, our sense of community has never been stronger and the support from each to the other has been truly heartwarming. I also know that many of you have been unwell, and that many of you will have lost loved ones. Our pathology community has also lost several extremely valued colleagues during this period. My heart goes out to you all, and all of us wish you all the very best during this extremely difficult time.

In other news

- We welcomed the [proposals set out in the March 2020 Budget](#) that recognised the problems that current pension tax issues have caused for the NHS. The government's proposals address the position for the majority of doctors and other senior staff which I welcome. It will be important to have detailed and transparent guidance that will make clear who will now be excluded from the taper tax and, for the very small proportion of individuals still affected, what this means and what measures they can take to mitigate the financial burden, if required.

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WORKING FOR MEMBERS

COVID-19 - COLLEGE ACTIVITY

College staff are working remotely during the COVID-19 outbreak in line with current advice. Our aim is to try and ensure that as many of the College's activities carry on as usual. You can get in touch with your [usual staff contact](#) via email or phone. You can also find out more about on [our website](#).

COVID-19 members' forum

The College is facilitating a members-only forum group on NHS Networks, to help you stay connected in matters related to COVID-19. Members can create discussion threads, reply to comments and upload documents.

If you would like to join the network, please visit [COVID-19 members forum](#) and click 'Apply to join'. Please note: you will need to be logged into an NHS Networks account to view and join the group. If you do not have an account on NHS Networks, please follow the instructions [here](#).

Advice regarding Advisory Appointment Committees (AACs)

If you are seeking to appoint to a consultant post at this time, please note the following:

- Foundation Trusts can go ahead without a College rep as these Trusts are legally permitted to do so. Please contact workforce@rpath.org to let us know that you have had the interview and the outcome of it for our records.
- NHS Trusts are still legally required to have a College rep, so will be asked to postpone the interviews, or find someone in their geographical area but with no close links to the Trust. Please let us know at workforce@rcpath.org who acts as the College rep and the outcome of the interview for our records.

If you are a potential College representative on an AAC, please note the following: For the duration of the pandemic, we encourage the use of virtual meetings to conduct interviews. However, the AAC will wish to reassure itself that a candidate interviewed in this way is not given an unfair advantage or disadvantage over a candidate interviewed face to face. It is important that the AAC satisfies itself as to the candidate's identity.

International - Medical Training Initiative (MTI) and sponsorship schemes

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the College has made the difficult decision not to accept any new applications for our MTI and Sponsorship Schemes from Monday 30 March 2020 until further notice. More information is available on our [website](#). If you have any queries or concerns regarding a secured placement, please contact our International Department at international@rcpah.org

Deadline for CPD returns extended to 30 September 2020

The College has extended the 2019/2020 CPD deadline to 30 September 2020.

RCPATH Achievement Awards

The launch of this year's achievement awards has been rescheduled for September.

COLLEGE NEWS

College President election

Nominations for the College President are open until 4 May 2020. College Fellows eligible to vote 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. Both proposers must also be Fellows of the College.

Service Spotlight: the Mortuary Department at West Herts NHS Trust

In the [second instalment of our Service Spotlight series](#), we asked the RCPATH Excellence Award winning team at the Mortuary Department at West Herts NHS Trust how they encourage learning and stay positive in a practice that can be mentally tough.

Medical Examiner – claiming CPD credits

Did you know that Medical Examiners may claim CPD credits?

We've put together a helpful document for more information on how to claim CPD (the Medical Examiners section is on page 4).

Percy Oliver Memorial Award

The College's Transfusion Medicine Specialty Advisory Committee (SAC) is inviting nominations for this year's Percy Oliver Memorial Award.

The Memorial Award is given to an individual who has made an outstanding contribution to the field of blood transfusion. This year's category is medical transfusion.

Nominations and accompanying citations should be submitted to the SAC for consideration by 24 May 2020 to 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. Furthermore, please demonstrate the impact that they have made to the field.

Percy Oliver Trainee Travel Bursary

This year the trainee bursary will be used to provide four travel grants of £250 each to support the attendance of young investigators selected for the presentation of abstracts at the College's biennial Advances in Transfusion Medicine Symposium on 26–27 November 2020.

We invite young investigators (medical trainees, scientists and transfusion practitioners) to submit abstracts for oral and poster presentation at the symposium.

The deadline is Wednesday 1 July 2020. Further details about how to apply can be found on the [website](#).

PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

Activities to keep you and your family occupied at home

We've put together a hub of some of our most popular pathology-themed activities and resources to aid learning and alleviate boredom during the current lockdown. From curriculum-linked resources to support students, to fun hands-on and creative activities, including the ever-popular [Incredible You activities](#), we hope the range of [free materials](#) will offer some light relief during this challenging period.

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. The Paola Domizio Undergraduate Essay Prize invites medical, biological science and veterinary undergraduates to consider the question 'could pathologists be replaced by robots?'. [View details](#)

Meanwhile, the Hugh Platt Foundation Essay Prize asks 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. Visit our [essay competitions page](#) for more information.

The Art of Pathology Competition 2020 is now open

Adults and children within the UK and abroad are encouraged to get creative and explore this year's theme, 'Pathology: at the heart of healthcare'. Email your artwork to publicengagement@rcpath.org to be in with a chance to win £50 and have your work featured on our website and in *The Bulletin*.

Apply for funding for your public events – deadline extended

We've moved the closing date of our [Public Engagement Innovation Grant Scheme](#) to 1 July, giving an extra month to put together an application 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 run activities aimed at non-specialist audiences.

More information on the [College website](#). Funded activities can be run at any time up to 1 August 2021. Feel free to 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.

NEW CONSULTATION

- [Dataset for histopathological reporting of testicular neoplasms](#)

NEW PUBLICATIONS

- [Dataset for histopathological reporting of tumours of the central nervous system in adults, including the pituitary gland](#)
- [Tissue pathways for non-neoplastic thoracic pathology](#)

COLLEGE CONFERENCES AND SYMPOSIA

Please see the [COVID-19 hub](#) for details of the free virtual learning sessions!

COVID-19 - College Conferences Update

All RCPATH scheduled conferences and events have been postponed until the end of May 2020 due to COVID-19. We will continue to review the situation and its impact on our events, as there could possibly be other postponements. We are however looking at virtual meetings and video-based learning options. Relevant details will be shared if there are changes to any events.

Update on placenta: physiology and new concepts

Thursday 2 and Friday 3 July 2020

To be held at the Royal College of Pathologists, 6 Aisle 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. 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. 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.

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 specialities 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

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 – Bookings now open

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

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.

Medical examiners: 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

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

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

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.

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 [can be accessed here](#). (Registration with e-Learning for Healthcare is required).

Further dates will be announced soon. For any queries and to add your name to the waiting list please contact meetings@rcpath.org

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

NEWS FROM EXTERNAL ORGANISATIONS

Funding Opportunities from the Healthcare Infection Society

- **Career development bursary** up to £2,500 for healthcare professionals to use for the cost of a learning experience (e.g. courses or workshops) to further the skills and knowledge of HCAI/IPC (UK and Ireland only). The applicant must be a HIS member for at least two years. Deadline: 1 June. Visit: [HIS website](#).
- **Small research grant up to £10,000** can be used for small-scale research projects lasting up to 12 months. The research must be healthcare associated infections(HCAI) focused. Deadline:1 September. Visit: [HIS website](#).
- **Public engagement grant up to £1,000** may be used to support a diverse type of events and activities, which will help raise awareness on the topic of HCAI. Deadline: 1 September. Visit: [HIS website](#).
- **Pilot research grant** up to £5,000 for small research projects lasting up to 24 months. There is no deadline for this. Applicants must be HIS members for the last two years. Visit; [HIS website](#).
- **Mike Emmerson International Fellowship** up to £2,500 for a healthcare professionals from a low or middle-low income country to come to the UK and undertake observership in the UK or Ireland. No deadline. The applicant must identify a host institution and a sponsor who is a HIS member. Visit: [HIS website](#).
- **Major research grant** up to £99,000 for a large research project (up to three years) with a clear HCAI/IPC question. Deadline: 1 September. Visit: [HIS website](#).

JOINT WORKING AND OTHER EVENTS OF INTEREST

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

19 June 2020

[Turn On, Tune In, Drop Out](#)

18 September 2020
Oxford National Thrombosis Conference

25 September 2020
All England National Thrombosis Nursing Conference

28-30 September 2020
Molecular Diagnostic Training School

8 October 2020
All Ireland National Thrombosis Conference

13 October 2020
All Scotland National Thrombosis Conference

21 October 2020
All Wales National Thrombosis Conference

30 October 2020
North West National Thrombosis Conference

2 November 2020
Pathognomics: 1st Annual Coroners Symposium 2020

27 November 2020
UK Clinical Vaccine Network Conference 2020

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](#)

