



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



President's e-newsletter – June 2019

President's Messages of the Month

Volunteers' Week

This week marks Volunteers' week (1-7 June) held to celebrate the diversity and breadth of contributions that volunteers make across the country.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the many College members who volunteer. They bring their energy, expertise and time to the College, ultimately helping to improve pathology services for the benefit of patients. Without them the College couldn't carry out its work.

We are always looking for new volunteers. If you are a member interested in becoming a volunteer, we've made getting involved easier. [Our new Get involved at the College pages](#) lets you to search volunteer roles and governance positions that are suitable for your membership category, location and specialty.

Response to the Interim NHS People Plan

The [Interim NHS People Plan](#) was published on 3 June with the aim of addressing workforce challenges across the NHS. You can read my [statement in response to the plan on the College website](#).

Medical examiners

Since the start of the year [training sessions to become a medical examiner](#) have been held across England and Wales. Open to all medical specialties and senior trainees, more sessions are planned for later in the year and there are still places left for the [face-to-face training in Leeds](#) which is being held later this month.

I thoroughly recommend the training which I have attended, and I am now a fully qualified medical examiner! We have also launched a separate new membership

category and the RCPATHME post nominal for our medical examiners on successful completion of their training.

An update on NHS England Cervical Screening Programme (CSP)

Following our previous announcement in April that NHS England confirmed it will formalise contracts with bidders in respect of seven of the nine lots, we have had a further update in relation to Lots 1 (London) and 2 (North East). For further information please see NHS England HPV Screening Procurement Update. We continue to press for improvements in the processes around commissioning, in workforce planning and in IT supporting our key cytopathology colleagues.

Rapid Diagnostic Centres

We have been advising on the panel of tests for the expansion of these centres across England, with learning from pilots and the centres in Wales. We have also advised that they should include blood cancers and that they should all have a clinical biochemist as a core part of the team!

Round-up

- I was pleased to see following a consultation which the College contributed to, that the Migration Advisory Committee has published a review giving recommendations of professions to be added to the Shortage Occupation List including medical practitioners and biochemists. These categories cover the majority of the College specialties which will make it easier for pathology services to recruit from overseas.
- Prof Sir Mike Richards published his interim report on cancer screening services following a call for evidence. I am pleased to say that the College advice, through our workshop on cancer screening and in our response to the call for evidence, has been heeded in the report. Workforce planning, procurement, impact on existing services and the financial consequences of implementation are key.
- I was delighted to join the Blood Cancer Alliance to discuss workforce concerns and the role pathologists in diagnosing blood cancer. I also met Gemma Peters, CEO of Bloodwise to talk about ways to help early diagnosis of blood cancers, and support for the haematology, histopathology and transfusion workforce. We're looking forward to working together, particularly during Blood Cancer Awareness month in September.
- At the European Congress on Digital Pathology 2019 I presented on the importance of training needed when implementing the use of artificial intelligence in clinical practice, and there are some interesting developments including a move to 'handcrafted' AI, moving from a 'black box' approach.
- I really enjoyed meeting so many talented and innovative pathologists on my #labtour to the Viapath pathology labs at St Thomas's Hospital. I was also pleased to see their planned investment in advanced practitioners. These visits really help us to get a picture of life on the ground for all our specialties, and to understand how we can help press for investment and support for all our pathologists.

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COLLEGE NEWS

Launch of clinical immunology audit templates

The College is launching nine online clinical audit templates in clinical immunology to support pathologists with quality improvements for patient care and safety. The audit templates are available on the [College website](#):

CPD Reminder

If you have not done so already please would you submit your 2018/2019 [CPD return](#) by 30 June 2019.

Trainee Research Medals 2019

The RCPATH Research Committee has launched the 2019 Research Medal Awards for trainees. Applications are open until 5.00 pm on Friday 2 August 2019.

The medals are awarded annually for outstanding research work undertaken by pathologists or scientists in training. Medals are awarded for research published in the specialties in the relevant year (1 July - 30 June).

Medals awarded are:

- A Gold Research Medal is awarded for the best research published.
- Specialty Research Medals are awarded to the best candidates in each of the major specialties of the College.

Full details of the submission process and eligibility criteria are available on the [College website](#):

Call for nominations for President Elect and Northern Ireland Regional Chair

Nominations are now open for Honorary Officer College positions to take effect from the College's Annual General Meeting in November.

The two Honorary Officer roles are:

- President Elect

- Northern Ireland Regional Council Chair.

College fellows will receive an email with details of how to submit a nomination from the [Electoral Reform Services](#), who are managing the election on behalf of the College. If you have not received the email, please contact elections@rcpath.org

Trainees' Advisory Committee (TAC) roles

Trainees! Take 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 by working 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?

- **Transfusion Medicine Representative**

The deadline for applications is 5pm on Friday 28 June 2019 and further details about the role can be found at [TAC roles](#).

Events @ No 6 at 6 Alie Street – sixth floor roof terrace

British summer time is upon us and we have already hosted board meetings and evening receptions in our sixth floor Terrace Room. This space has two outdoor terraces providing excellent views across the iconic London skyline. Please visit the Events @ No 6 [website](#) or contact the team sales@eventsatno6.com to find out more about catering offers and discounts to hire our meeting and event spaces available for members and medical associations.

REGIONAL NEWS

[Northern Ireland Symposium 2019 - New Directions in Pathology](#)

Friday 21 June 2019

3 CPD credits

The event will be held at the Postgraduate Medical Centre, Belfast City Hospital Belfast, BT9 7AP

This symposium is aimed at College fellows, members, trainees and others interested in pathology in Northern Ireland. Delegates will hear from speakers about upcoming themes in pathology and will have the opportunity to share some of the developments happening across Northern Ireland. They will also hear from the President, Professor Jo Martin, about the College's work in Northern Ireland. Trainees will have the opportunity to meet with the President and discuss any relevant matters.

[Wales Regional Symposium 2019](#)

Wednesday 26 June 2019

4 CPD credits

The event will be held at the National Imaging Academy Wales, Pencoed Business Park, Bridgend, CF35 5HY

This symposium is aimed at College fellows, members, trainees, medical students and others interested in pathology in Wales. Delegates will hear from speakers about

upcoming themes in the field of pathology and have the opportunity to share some of the developments happening in Wales. They will also hear from the College President, Professor Jo Martin, about the College's work in Wales. Trainees will have the opportunity to meet with the President and discuss any relevant matters.

PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

Art and essay competitions now open

Our annual competitions give both pathologists and non-pathologists the chance to explore pathology in a range of interesting and creative ways. Open for entries until 23 September, our popular Art of Pathology Competition invites people of all ages to create a piece of art around the theme of *Pathology: a new point of view*.

The Paola Domizio Undergraduate Essay Prize challenges undergraduates to write an essay on the theme of genomics. More information about this competition and the brand new Hugh Platt Foundation Essay Prize aimed at Foundation Doctors, are available on the website.

Public engagement volunteering opportunities this summer

We're looking for members to help us engage public audiences in June and July. The details are on our new Get Involved volunteer role listing:

- Pathology activity facilitators at Basildon Street Science, Basildon town centre, Saturday 13 July 2019
- Pathology activity facilitators for Big Bang @Sutton Family Day, Sutton high street, Saturday 13 July 2019
- Workshop facilitators at Marylebone School, London, Tuesday 16 July 2019

Members from at all grades working in any specialty are welcome to get involved. All details including information on how to apply can be found via the links.

Take pathology to a school near you – get matched by the Inspiring the Future programme

We would also like to encourage all members who are interested in public engagement to sign up as a volunteer with the Inspiring the Future Volunteer programme, a national scheme which matches up schools with speakers. Their online match-making platform means you can search for volunteer opportunities in local schools or colleges, or respond to schools invitations. You can also say how you would like to get involved. It is a really quick and easy way to get involved in public engagement work and a great way of running an event for National Pathology Week (4 -10 November).

COLLEGE CONFERENCES AND SYMPOSIA

Foundation Taster Day

Saturday 29 June 2019

CPD credits: TBC

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

The newly launched Foundation Taster Scheme is an exciting opportunity for foundation doctors to explore pathology careers. It combines a regional clinical taster day with an event in the College's new building. The event is sponsored by the British Division of the International Academy of Pathology (BDIAP). Participants will be able to meet consultants and trainees from each of the major specialties to talk to them about their work, what training involves and the variety of opportunities available for trainees. In addition, they will receive advice about the application process and how to

be successful at interview, as well as how to pursue academic and research opportunities in pathology. There will be a chance to put pathology specialties to the test: can they help diagnose what is wrong with the mystery patient who is unconscious in the park? There will also be the chance to submit a pathology-related poster and win a prize of £100 from the Association of Clinical Pathologists (ACP). Delegates will be given support to organise their own clinical taster day in a speciality of interest.

Getting to Grips with Genomics workshop – 17 and 18 July: Genomics for Pathology Trainees

Wednesday 17 and Thursday 18 July 2019

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

As genomic analysis becomes increasingly important in cancer diagnostics and precision medicine, there is a knowledge gap to fill in the clinical workforce. Supported by the College; CM-Path and Health Education England have linked with the US Training Residents in Genomics group to deliver a team-based learning programme developed to meet the training needs of pathologists. This will be combined with 'state-of-the-art' lectures on specific topics and an overview of the new NHS Genomic Medicine Service. There will be an opportunity to undertake a competency test following the workshop. This will be an interactive, hands-on, practical workshop that will empower you to embrace the exciting advances in molecular pathology.

There will be a small charge of £15 for the workshop. There are also 10 travel bursaries available for trainees to attend this workshop. If you would like to apply for a travel bursary, please email cmpath@ncri.org.uk explaining why you want to attend this meeting and what you hope to gain.

Getting to Grips with Genomics workshop: Training the Trainer, 17 July – morning session

Molecular pathology is advancing rapidly and is a growing part of daily practice. An important part of being a consultant pathologist is educating trainees, formally and informally. This workshop is designed to equip consultants with the skills and tools to guide trainees through a Molecular Pathology Training Programme. It is aimed at TPDs and those active in education delivery to enable development of local and regional training sessions to fulfil the requirements of trainees. This workshop is a half a day session on the morning of the 17 July 2019. Please register your interest by emailing helen.pitman@ncri.org.uk. There will be no charge for this event, but you will have to fund your own travel expenses.

Retired Fellows' Lunch

The Retired Fellows' Lunch will take place on 17 September 2019. This lunch is open to all fellows formally registered with the College as retired. It will be held at the new College building at 6 Alie Street, London E1 8QT. This is an opportunity for retired fellows to meet old friends and perhaps make new acquaintances. It follows on from the previous successful lunches. Tickets are priced at £40 for a three course lunch with wine. More details will be available shortly.

Digital Pathology: Best practice recommendations and validation

Friday 15 Nov 2019

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

Medical Examiners, Face-to-face training

Event dates below.

Medical examiners will ensure accurate death certification across a local area, provide much-needed support for bereaved families and improve patient safety. Medical examiners will be doctors registered with the GMC holding a current licence to practise. Any doctor wishing to work as a medical examiner will need to attend a face-to-face training day and complete mandatory e-learning modules.

The Royal College of Pathologists, the lead medical royal college for medical examiners, is providing the essential training which will equip you with the knowledge and skills you will need for this important role. The day will include short presentations, small group discussions of case scenarios and the opportunity to share experience. The training has been trialled with experienced medical examiners from pilot or early adopter sites.

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 the Royal College of Pathologists. This is dependent on completion of this training and evidence of satisfactory completion of the e-learning modules. Important, it is 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 20 June 2019

CPD Credits: 6

To be held at Well Met, Cloth Hall Court, Quebec Street, Leeds, West Yorkshire, LS1 2HA

Medical Examiner face-to-face training session

Wednesday 11 September 2019

CPD Credits: 6

To be held at the University of Birmingham, Aston Webb Boulevard, Selly Oak, Birmingham, B15 2GR

Medical Examiner face-to-face training session

Thursday 14 November 2019

CPD Credits: 6

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

NEWS FROM EXTERNAL ORGANISATIONS AND JOINT WORKING

Cancer Research UK/ Wellcome Trust Clinical PhD Programme

The Institute of Cancer Research are offering clinical PhD fellowships funded through its Cancer Research UK Centre and Wellcome Trust Clinical PhD programme to develop and support future leaders in clinical cancer research.

Applicants from a range of clinical specialties are invited to apply, including pathology. For more information visit [ICR PHD](#)

GMC consultation on getting effective feedback from patients

The GMC is consulting on proposed changes to how doctors collect and reflect on patient feedback as part of their revalidation. The closing date for responses is 23 July. [Visit GMC consultation.](#)

OTHER EVENTS OF INTEREST

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

- [44th Oxford Muscle Symposium](#) – 12 July 2019
- [Haematology and Critical Care](#) – 21 June 2019
- [Prosthetic valve endocarditis \(PVE\): Challenges and opportunities](#) – 08 July 2019
- [BSAC Residential Workshops for EUCAST Susceptibility Testing 2019](#) – 20-22 August 2019
- [BIMDG Annual Conference \(British Inherited Metabolic Disorders Group\)](#) – 26-27 June 2019
- [Infection Prevention 2019](#) – 22-24 September 2019

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

