



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



President's e-newsletter – August 2019

President's Messages of the Month

Nominations for President Elect and Northern Ireland Regional Chair

There's still time to nominate two Honorary Officer positions that serve on the Trustee Board of the College. They are President and the Northern Ireland Regional Council Chair.

The successful candidate for the role of President will hold the title of President Elect from the Annual General Meeting in November 2019 for one year. Their presidency will start from the AGM in November 2020 for a period of three years. Any fellow of the College is eligible.

It's a great privilege and responsibility to represent members in this role, and I recommend it highly! You will never be short of things to do, and especially good is all the wonderful pathologists from all the disciplines that you get to meet. I really look forward to working with the new President Elect.

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

Calling all UK haematology heads of department

We launched the haematology workforce survey in December but to date the response rate is only 33% which is very disappointing. We know you want us to help, so thanks to those who have responded to this already. Please pass this to your local head and encourage them to participate!

Without a higher response, we will find it hard to make a case on your behalf to policy makers and parliamentarians about issues affecting the haematology workforce. Please take the time to [share your data](#) with the College.

Cancer Research UK - Early Detection Innovation Workshop

We are delighted to host the next Early Detection Innovation Workshop run by Cancer Research UK (CRUK) and the Science and Technologies Facilities Council (STFC). The aim of the workshop is to encourage new collaborations and promote new thinking in the field of early detection of cancer.

The workshop, from 18-20 November, will focus on the application of artificial intelligence and related technologies to digital pathology. Applications to participate are now open with a deadline of 30 September. Selected participants will be notified by the w/c 14 October. I hope some of you will apply!

More information on the scientific theme of the workshop and how to apply can be found here: [Early Detection Innovation Workshop and Award](#).

Round-up

- I spent an excellent evening in parliament with the [Association of British Healthtech Industries](#), with MPs Chris Green, Jim Shannon and Derek Thomas. There were some really useful discussions about working with industry to innovate and the need to get procurement right.
- I had the pleasure of showing Sir David Behan, Chair of NHS [Health Education England](#), around the pathology labs at the Royal London, Barts NHS Trust. Sir David is leading on the [NHS People Plan](#), along with Baroness Dido Harding.
- Further medical examiner training has been taking place at the College. We're pleased that the benefits of the system have been recognised in the [NHS Patient Safety Strategy](#). The medical examiner system will provide much-needed support for bereaved families and is a vital step in the drive to improve patient safety in the NHS.
- We held an excellent workshop at the College – 'Getting to Grips with Genomics' with [Health Education England](#), [National Cancer Research Institute](#), [CM Path](#) and a full house! As genomic analysis becomes increasingly important in cancer diagnostics and precision medicine, there is a knowledge gap to fill in the clinical workforce. This workshop included a team-based learning programme combined with 'state-of-the-art' lectures on specific topics and an overview of the new [NHS Genomic Medicine Service](#).
- There has been more [discussion in parliament about the shortage of pathologists](#) to diagnose cancer. Chris Bryant MP (Labour, Rhondda) highlighted that only 3% of histopathology departments have sufficient staff. He also gave an [interview to the BBC](#) where he suggested there should be 'golden hellos' to attract recruits to certain parts of Wales.
- I met the [Office for Life Sciences](#), along with the Royal College of Physicians and Dr Helen Firth, Chair of the Joint Committee on Genomics, to discuss the [National Genomics Healthcare Strategy](#). We're really pleased to have the opportunity to help shape the strategy. We believe genomics has huge

potential to improve patient care, but we need a proper regulatory regime to ensure this potential is realised and the risks are mitigated.

Incredible you - a new pathology-inspired art resource

We've just launched [Incredible You](#), a fantastic new colouring-in resource for all ages which reveals the beauty of pathology. Featuring all 17 pathology specialties, it has been developed with scientist-turned-artist, [Dr Lizzie Burns](#).

[Incredible You](#) is free to download from the College website and can be used by College members and others for public engagement events, as well as for relaxation. The resource offers the chance to have in-depth discussions with participants about your work while they colour in the illustrations.

With the summer holidays in full swing, *Incredible You* is also a great resource to try and lure children away from their screens and learn about pathology!

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COLLEGE NEWS

Educational Update

Monday 4 November 2019

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

CPD Credits: TBC

This free training event is principally for trainers and assessors in chemical pathology, cellular pathology, medical microbiology and virology specialties but the aim is to engage infectious diseases, immunology and haematology specialties too. The main focus is to present an 'Educational Update' with a focus on credentialing, Shape of Training and the development of the new curricula. Please save the date.

REGIONAL NEWS

Scotland Symposium 2019 – Save the date

Wednesday 20 November 2019

The event will be held in Aberdeen.

Further information about the Scotland symposium will be provided in due course. Please hold the date in your diaries.

GET INVOLVED IN THE COLLEGE

Specialty Advisory Committee (SAC) vacancies

The College has two vacancies for committee Chairs in the following specialty areas:

- Pre/Peri/Paediatric Pathology Specialty Advisory Committee.
- Veterinary Pathology Specialty Advisory Committee.

The term of office for these roles will be 7 November 2019 – 7 November 2022 and the deadline for applications is 5:00pm on Friday 27 September 2019.

We are also seeking expressions of interest from members looking to join the Histocompatibility & Immunogenetics SAC as committee members. The deadline for applications is 5:00pm on Friday 20 September 2019. The next meeting of this SAC will be held on Tuesday 15 October 2019.

Why should I apply?

The College is committed to setting and maintaining professional standards and promoting excellence in the teaching and practice of pathology, for the benefit of patients. Those holding office in the College contribute to this important work by providing professional leadership and contributing at a national level to the maintenance and development of pathology services and the quality of patient care.

Make a difference and help to shape College activities and policy by building the profile of your specialty and pathology in general.

How to apply

Visit the volunteering opportunities page on the [College website](#) and submit your application to elections@rcpath.org.

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 travel and accommodation 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](#). Deadline is 5 pm on Monday 26 August 2019.

Become a RCPATH Consulting advisor

[RCPATH Consulting](#) operates as part of RCPATH Trading Ltd, a wholly owned subsidiary of the College. It provides expertise across all pathology specialties to NHS and private healthcare organisations as well as national bodies seeking an independent and authoritative view on how best to deliver pathology services.

RCPATH Consulting is currently looking to expand its current panel of advisers to ensure it has the right range of expertise to match its work. RCPATH Consulting Advisers are senior members of the College and the Institute for Biomedical Science who are appointed following open advertisement and interview. Advisers are paid for their time and any profits are gifted to the College. For more information about

becoming an advisor and for the person specification and application form, please visit, [RCPATH Consulting](#).

Celebrate Christmas in style at Events@No6!

It's never too early to think about booking your Christmas event. Our Christmas packages are designed for 40-200 guests, with canapes, bowl food, afternoon tea and fine dining options. We can also create bespoke proposals based on your requirements. RCPATH members are entitled to an exclusive 20% room hire discount. E-mail sales@eventsatno6.com for bookings and more information.

PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

Spread the word about our competitions for pathologists, students and the public

We are welcoming nominations for the [Furness Prize for Science Communication](#) until 28 October. The prize is awarded to a pathology trainee or undergraduate who has shown excellence in their science communication activities.

The College's [essay competitions](#) offer undergraduates and Foundation doctors the chance to explore pathology. The Hugh Platt Foundation Essay Prize is open to Foundation doctors until 30 August and the Paola Domizio Undergraduate Essay Prize is open to science, medical and veterinary undergraduates until 30 September.

Our [Art of Pathology competition](#) is open to people of all ages until 23 September. The competition invites participants to explore pathology in a unique and creative way. This year's theme is 'Pathology: a new point of view'.

Please visit our [competition pages](#) for more information and contact the [public engagement team](#) if you have any queries.

Would you like to give a careers talk in a school? Our new video guides can help

Careers talks are an inspiring way to highlight the diverse and exciting careers on offer in pathology to young people, particularly secondary school students. They're also relatively easy compared to other more 'hands-on' and practical engagement activities.

Find out how to organise and deliver a careers talk in a school near you with [a new set of resources](#) comprised of 'how-to' videos, presentation templates and accompanying notes. They provide practical advice on organising and delivering a careers talk on pathology. Presented by Dr Rachael Liebmann (RCPATH Vice-President for Communications), the videos also give ideas on structure and content of your presentation, and what other elements you can include, such as interactive demonstrations and props.

While schools may be out for the summer, it can still be a good idea to email teachers during school holidays as many of them will be using the time off to plan activities for their school from September. If you're interested in giving a talk in a school near you, sign-up to the [Inspiring the Future programme](#) and/or contact the College's [public engagement team](#).

Local MP engagement for National Pathology Week (NPW) - 4-10 November

It is never too early to [register your event](#) for this year's NPW. Our annual celebration of pathology is an opportunity to highlight the important contribution pathologists

make to healthcare. Please tell us as early as possible about your event as we may be able to invite a local MP or Councillor on your behalf - this is an excellent way of raising the profile of your work and a good way of connecting with local policy makers. Activities that would appeal to parliamentarians could be meeting staff or local school children, taking part in an interactive activity or a lab visit. We've got lots of ideas and free [resources](#) to help you get started with your NPW planning, and there will be more news about our new materials and social media campaigns on the [National Pathology Week](#) page in the coming weeks.

Please contact Janine Aldridge, the College's Public Affairs Officer. Email janine.aldridge@rcpath.org. Tel: 020 7451 6769 to find out more.

NEW PUBLICATIONS

- [Guidelines on autopsy practice: Autopsies after tissue and organ donation](#)
- [Guidelines on autopsy practice: Deaths in patients with epilepsy including sudden deaths](#)
- [Dataset for histopathological reporting of carcinomas of the ovaries, fallopian tubes and peritoneum](#)
- [Tissue pathway for native medical renal biopsies](#)

COLLEGE CONFERENCES AND SYMPOSIA

RCPATH & BARTS HEALTH SIMULATION: FOUNDATION COMPETENCIES STUDY DAY **Thursday 19 September 2019**

To be held at Barts Simulation Centre

Do you know a junior doctor or former pathology trainee who is applying/reapplying for specialist training in pathology but is struggling as their foundation competencies have expired? We have organised a 'Foundation Competencies Study Day' where delegates will be taught, perform and be assessed on the relevant clinical skills. Attendance will help a trainee to demonstrate their competence for their application.

Further information:

- A team of qualified clinicians and educators will provide both training and assessment for the clinical skills based foundation competencies.
- Delegates will be given a certificate to confirm completion of relevant competencies as part of the study day.
- Delegates will need to indicate which competencies they wish to undertake to allow the team to set up and prepare.
- Health Education England have said that this study day will help a junior doctor/trainee to demonstrate their competence and help towards gaining an Alternative Certificate of Competence' where it is needed.
- Cost: Discounted rate of £150.

If you would like to sign-up to this event, please contact Sharon Harman by 30 August 2019, sharon.harman2@nhs.net.

Retired Fellows' Lunch

The Retired Fellows' Lunch will take place on 17 September 2019. This lunch is open to all fellows formally registered as retired with the College. It will be held at the new venue for The Royal College of Pathologists, 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 successful lunches held previously. Tickets are

priced at £40 for a three-course lunch with wine. Invitations have been sent. Please contact Kristen.pontello@rcpath.org for more information.

Digital Pathology: Best practice recommendations and validation

Friday 15 November 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.

The Golden Hour Conference II - The pathology of traumatic injury

Friday 22 and Saturday 23 November 2019

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

Our second Golden Hour Conference once again brings together clinicians and others who are passionate about transforming outcomes for injured patients. Building on the success of last year's event, the team will bring together local and international experts who will help us define the path to novel diagnoses and interventions. It is increasingly recognised that the opportunity to intervene in potentially preventable trauma deaths occurs in the pre-hospital and early emergency room phase.

Increasingly, services are working much more closely with Her Majesty's Coroner's and Pathologists and this is transforming our understanding of why our patients die.

Supported by The Royal College of Pathologists, the conference is an opportunity to build on the lessons learned from previous years and to bring about further exciting discussions about the future of trauma care. As an additional section this year, we will be exploring the golden hour within the context of major incidents and multiple patient events, learning lessons of best practice from around the world.

Medical Examiners, Face to face training

Medical examiners will ensure accurate death certification across a local area, provide much-needed support for bereaved families and improve patient safety. Medical examiners are 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 College, 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 as members. This is dependent on completion of this training and evidence of satisfactory completion of the e-learning modules. Please note, 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 14 November 2019

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

Cytopathology Study Day

Friday 6 December 2019

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

This annual event is an update for pathologists and Biomedical Scientists (BMS) working in cytopathology. It will provide an overview of RCPATH documents relevant to cytopathology that have been written or revised this year. The recently proposed International terminology for reporting serous fluid samples will be presented. There is also a session dedicated to cytotechnology and molecular testing.

Trainee pathologists and BMS are encouraged to present interesting cases or audits to cover a wide range of topics in the afternoon session (20 min per presentation). Please contact Kristen.pontello@rcpath.com and ashish.chandra@gstt.nhs.uk to discuss your participation and free registration to the event.

NEWS FROM EXTERNAL ORGANISATIONS AND JOINT WORKING

PhD opportunity to research methods to prevent dementia

An opportunity has arisen for three full time clinical research fellows, who are trained in medicine or allied health professions, to work towards a PhD at the University of Edinburgh. Funded by the [Alzheimer's Society](#) and the University of Edinburgh, the selected fellows will be able to choose one of four PhD projects, in neuro-imaging, laboratory-based science including neuropathology, and big data/clinical epidemiology. The successful fellows will be based at the Royal Infirmary of Edinburgh site. The posts are available from late summer/early autumn 2019 for three years. You can apply at bit.ly/2LimQmz. Deadline 6 September 2019. If you would like to discuss further, please email william.whiteley@ed.ac.uk

New standard for shared care records

The [Professional Record Standards Body](#) (PRSB) has published a new standard for shared care records that determines the vital information about a person that should be shared between health and care systems so care is safer, timely and more effective. Working with NHS England, PRSB has asked citizens and health and care professionals to help produce a 'core information standard' that defines exactly what information should be shared in a person's care record throughout their life. [View full article](#)

Breast Cancer Care and Breast Cancer Now – Peer reviewers wanted

[Breast Cancer Care and Breast Cancer Now](#) are looking for pathologists to help peer review patient information. This is an invaluable role whereby volunteers help to ensure that the information given to people affected by breast cancer is clinically accurate and user-friendly.

Reviewers are:

- usually asked to review fewer than six times a year,
- given a minimum of two weeks to review
- free to decline any review request should it not be convenient.

If you would be interested in becoming a peer reviewer, please email Megan Stansfield at publications@breastcancercare.org.uk

OTHER EVENTS OF INTEREST

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

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- [BSBMT Education Day](#)
- [BSG Winter Pathology Meeting](#)
- [GI pathology update](#)
- [FIS 2019: Federation of Infection Societies Conference 2019](#)
- [DIPC development day - Managing services and infrastructure – getting the basics right](#)
- [Central Sterilising Club Autumn Study Day](#)
- [Blood Sciences Workshops - The Templates of Haematology](#)

