



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



## President's e-newsletter – February 2020

### President's Messages of the Month

#### Coronavirus outbreak

As I write, there have been more confirmed cases of the novel Coronavirus infection in the UK following cases across many countries.

This is a rapidly developing and changing situation and we will cascade guidance to you from the Chief Medical Officer and others as it becomes available.

Thank you, especially to all the microbiology, virology and infection control teams, for all you continue to do to support patients, the public and our colleagues at this time.

#### Digital Now

I'm very pleased let you know that we have partnered Health Education England to develop Digital Now, a new online training platform for pathologists.

Using technology to enhance learning, the first module will cover histopathology and haematopathology, with the aim of developing the technology for other specialties in the future.

The College will work with NHS Improvement and local providers to ensure that trainees have facilities to access the materials. The platform will be able to be used on tablets with good resolution, enabling wider use than just departments that have already made the step to digital pathology.

Our clinical lead for the project is Dr Hasan Rizvi, and we will be running workshops and seeking key leads for a range of areas in this project.

### **Patient Safety Awareness Week coming soon**

I'm delighted to announce that we will be holding our next Patient Safety Awareness Week from 8 to 15 March. The aim of the week is to raise awareness about patient safety and pathology services and to support members to improve safety in their workplace.

The programme for the week will comprise a range of activities to provide members with opportunities for learning including podcasts and videos. There will also be an essay competition. More details to follow in the March e-newsletter, on the College website and on social media.

### **Round up**

- I was pleased to present again at the annual Frontiers in Laboratory Medicine event. This annual event brings together leading figures in pathology and diagnostics from the UK and across the world to debate important issues and reflect on future developments. My presentations focused on the pathologist perspective on NHS funding and workforce pressures, practical solutions and advice.
- We published an excellent blog on the College website from Dr Chris Tiplady, Director of Education at Northumbria Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust, on getting through the challenging days as a medical professional. 'Medicine is an amazing career but there will always be hard days, so be willing to forgive and forget.'
- We were pleased to see the recent announcement from the Department of Health and Social Care for £40m funding for IT. We have been asking for investment in pathology IT. Pathologists need better IT for day-to-day work including modern, functional laboratory information systems.
- It was also really good to see £58.7m investment from the National Institute for Health Research in crucial public health research in areas such as understanding new infectious diseases.
- There has been further discussion in parliament, during a debate on the NHS Funding bill, highlighting the workforce challenges facing pathologists. We have written to health ministers raising our concerns as well as following up on other areas such as investment in IT, patient safety and genomic testing.
- We are waiting for and working for a permanent solution to the NHS pensions issue. It was good to see the Welsh government taking heed of this. We need a long term UK-wide government solution.
- I was pleased that our letter about medical examiners was published in The Independent. The College supports the role of medical examiners to be widened to review stillbirths and neonatal deaths.
- I contributed to an excellent roundtable discussion organised by the Health Service Journal on 'How can the NHS deliver precision medicine for all oncology patients who would benefit?' The HSJ will be publishing an article about the roundtable in the next few weeks.

## **New Fellows Admission Ceremony**

One of the privileges of my role as President is welcoming new Fellows to the College. Meeting our wonderful new members at the Admission Ceremony is such a joy, and I look forward to meeting them this week.

### **Professor Jo Martin**

**President, The Royal College of Pathologists**

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## **COLLEGE NEWS**

### **Regional map – February to April**

College officers are involved in across the UK and the Republic of Ireland, helping to ensure that the College's work caters for and represents the diverse range of perspectives and experiences of the pathology workforce. This [regional map](#) provides a snapshot of key activities coming up in February, March and April. It also shows the President's lab tours and the location of regional representatives. The map is updated quarterly to make sure you have the latest news about what's happening near you.

### **Summer on the terrace at Alie Street**

Thinking of booking a summer reception or meeting? Our lovely Terrace Room is flanked by two open air terraces, perfect for a summer BBQ, meeting, reception or celebration. For more information or room hire enquiries, please contact [sales@eventsatNo6.com](mailto:sales@eventsatNo6.com)

### **Diagnostic Neuropathology Training Guidance**

The College has published [diagnostic neuropathology training guidance](#) for all diagnostic neuropathology trainees. The guidance has been published following consultation with the Neuropathology Specialty Advisory Committee, Histopathology CSTC, Trainee Advisory Committee and the General Medical Council.

### **Pathology External Quality Assurance**

The College has set up a new pathology wide External Quality Assurance (EQA) review programme to improve the governance and culture of pathology Quality Assurance (QA). The two-year collaborative programme supports the development of a robust

framework for the system-wide governance and oversight of technical EQA including point of care testing (POCT).

We are looking for experienced professionals with expertise in the oversight and delivery of technical EQA including POCT and/or quality improvement, and patient safety to join our work-streams. There will be a minimum of four meetings (a mix of teleconference and face to face) per year, with actions progressed via e-mail between meetings. All reasonable travel costs will be reimbursed and the work will be recognised for CPD. For more details please see the website or contact Shane Johns at [shane.johns@rcpath.org](mailto:shane.johns@rcpath.org).

### **LEPT System**

The LEPT system is now open to Certificate of Eligibility for Specialist Registration (CESR) applicants to help them collect evidence for CESR applications. The LEPT guidance notes and application form for CESR applicants are available at: [LEPT system](#).

### **Specialty Advisory Committee (SAC) vacancy**

The College is seeking a new Chair for the [Immunology Specialty Advisory Committee](#).

The successful applicant will be requested to be available for a handover with the current Chair and would ideally be able to attend the next meeting on 27 May 2020. The term of office will be until November 2023. The deadline for applications is 5:00pm on Friday 20 March.

### **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.

### **How to apply**

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

### **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 via Clare Young at the Royal College of Pathologists ([clare.young@rcpath.org](mailto: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. Please also 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.

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

The four best abstracts selected for oral presentation at the symposium will receive free registration for the two-day meeting together with a £250 travel grant as above. Abstracts selected for poster presentation will receive one day's free registration.

The deadline for submission of young investigator abstracts and applications for the Percy Oliver trainee travel bursary is Wednesday 1 July 2020. Further details about how to apply can be found on the website.

## **REGIONAL NEWS**

### **Northern Ireland Symposium 2020: Challenges and Developments in Pathology** **Wednesday 22 April 2020**

**To be held at the Postgraduate Medical Centre, Belfast City Hospital, 51 Lisburn Road, Belfast BT9 7AB**

**CPD credits: 3**

This symposium is for College fellows, members, trainees and others interested in the range of pathology specialties in Northern Ireland. Delegates will hear presentations about emerging themes in the field of pathology as well as having the opportunity to share some of the great 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 and speak to the President.

This is a free event but registration is required. The symposium will be take place between 9.30am-2pm (including lunch). A trainee forum will take place between 2-3pm.

Other regional symposia dates have also been confirmed – please save the dates below in your diaries. Further information will follow shortly.

- Wales Regional Symposium 2020 will be held in North Wales on Tuesday 16 June 2020.
- Scotland Regional Symposium 2020 will be held on Wednesday 30 September 2020. Venue to be confirmed.

If you have any queries or would like more information about our symposia, please contact [Jessica.Zago@rcpath.org](mailto:Jessica.Zago@rcpath.org).

## **PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT**

### **Apply for funding for your public events**

Our Public Engagement Innovation Grant Scheme provides financial support 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. Find out about the aims and eligibility criteria of the scheme on the College website. The deadline for applications is 1 June 2020 and funded activities can be run at any time up to 1 July

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](mailto:penny.fletcher@rcpath.org) .

### **Why not use our free resources during Healthcare Science Week?**

Get ahead and start planning for this year's Healthcare Science Week. The week takes place from 6-15 March alongside British Science Week and we've got lots of free resources and activity ideas for you to try out including quizzes and hands-on activities. If you're running an event please let us know by adding it to our website. You can also request some of our branded materials and careers materials here.

### **Essay competitions**

The College runs two annual essay competitions: The Hugh Platt Foundation Essay Prize and the Paola Domizio Undergraduate Essay Prize. The essays allow participants to explore pathology through a written piece. We will be accepting entries until 30 April for the undergraduate competition, while foundation doctors will have until 29 May to submit their essays. Read the winning essays from 2019 and find out more on our essay competitions page.

### **NEW PUBLICATION**

- Published: Dataset for histopathological reporting of gastrointestinal stromal tumours

### **NEW CONSULTATION**

- Best practice recommendations: staffing and workload for neuropathology departments - open until 16 April 2020.

### **COLLEGE CONFERENCES AND SYMPOSIA**

#### **Dermatopathology study day – Bookings now open**

**Friday 13 March 2020**

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

**CPD credits: 6**

Join us for the first RCPATH dermatopathology event in three years. With an exciting programme and excellent speakers, this study day will provide an update on the 'hot topics' in dermatopathology for the trainee, consultant pathologist and specialist alike. There will be practical pointers and helpful hints for in day-to-day reporting and examination of specialist cases. Don't miss out on what should be a great event.

#### **Soft tissue tumors from infants to young adults: the age matters!**

**Thursday 19 and Friday 20 March 2020**

**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.

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](mailto:meetings@rcpath.org) if you have any questions.

### **The Beautiful Brain**

**Thursday 23 and Friday 24 April 2020**

**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 for candidates interested in fetal medicine and human neurodevelopment, including pathologists, neuropathologists, neuro-radiologists, neurologists, gynaecologist-obstetricians, geneticists and neuroscientists.

### **Update on placenta: physiology and new concepts**

**Thursday 2 and Friday 3 July 2020**

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

**CPD credits: TBC**

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.

### **Virology Study Day – Save the date**

**Friday 18 September 2020**

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

**CPD Credits: 6**

This study day is an exciting opportunity for trainees and consultants to gain the knowledge and skills needed for specialist medical virology practice and assessment through interactive consultant-led teaching.

### **Advances in Transfusion Medicine – Save the date**

**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, organised on behalf of the College, 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, with the best abstracts accepted for either oral or poster presentation at the symposium. Full details to follow. For any queries, please contact [meetings@rcpath.org](mailto:meetings@rcpath.org)

### **Coroner and Medical Examiner Training – Save the date**

The College is pleased to provide its support for this joint training for all coroners and Medical Examiners (MEs) currently in post. With a working party comprising Coroners and Dr Suzy Lishman Chair of the College's Medical Examiner Committee, a

programme has been put together to seek to ensure that the aims of the Coroners and Justice Act 2009 continue to be met. The College has been instrumental in the provision of accommodation and oversight of the materials that are being used.

The training will run from March through June 2020. The objective of the course is to assist all Coroners and Medical Examiners to understand each other's roles, consider together what an unnatural death might look like and when deaths need to be referred to a coroner, to think about what a good Medical Certificate of Cause of Death (MCCD) looks like, how deaths are registered with reference to the General Registration Office (GRO) guidelines and consider bereavement and its impact on the family and how to deal with difficult situations. Presentations will be made by coroners and by MEs.

We are aiming to deliver the courses regionally for coroners and MEs. Practitioners will have the option to attend an event of their choosing but are strongly encouraged to take advantage of this opportunity to network and establish relationships with fellow medical examiners and coroners in their respective areas.

This event is supported by the Chief Coroner, and also by Dr Alan Fletcher, the National Medical Examiner.

#### **Upcoming dates**

- 25 March 2020 - South East
- 17 April 2020 - South West
- 30 April 2020 - East
- 4 May 2020 - London
- 15 May 2020 - Wales
- 22 May 2020 - North West
- 19 June 2020 – Midlands
- 24 June 2020 – North East

Full details to follow. For any queries please contact [meetings@rcpath.org](mailto:meetings@rcpath.org)

#### **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 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 College is the lead medical royal college for Medical Examiners, 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.

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**

**Tuesday 23 June 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 leading on the training of medical examiners and has recently also agreed to provide training for Medical Examiner Officers (MEOs). 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.

This 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).

### **Medical examiner officer training**

**Tuesday 17 March 2020**

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

**CPD credits: 6**

For further information, please contact the RCPATH Conference Department at [meetings@rcpath.org](mailto:meetings@rcpath.org) or on 020 7451 6700.

## **NEWS FROM EXTERNAL ORGANISATIONS AND JOINT WORKING**

### **Get 20% off pathology books from Cambridge University Press**

Did you know that as a College member you are eligible for an exclusive 20% discount off Cambridge University Press Pathology books? New and forthcoming publications include 'Non-Neoplastic Pathology of the Gastrointestinal Tract: A Practical Guide to Biopsy Diagnosis', 'Pearls and Pitfalls in Head and Neck Pathology', and 'Infectious Diseases, Microbiology and Virology and 'A Q&A Approach for Specialist Medical Trainees'. Browse the [whole range](#) and make sure to enter the promotional code 'RCPATH' at the checkout to benefit from the discount.

### **NICE impact report on lung cancer**

National Institute for Health and Care Excellence's (NICE) has published its [latest impact report on lung cancer](#). The impact report brings together NICE recommendations and real-world data.

### **BMA Foundation for Medical Research – on line applications now open**

[Online applications](#) for the 2020 grant round are now open. The closing date is 6 March.

## **OTHER EVENTS OF INTEREST**

27 Feb 2020

Sepsis and biological agents: when patients make you sick. For more information, please contact <mailto:204HOSP-ROSO@mod.gov.uk>

11 March 2020

[Rare Bone Disease Education Day](#)

12 March 2020

[UK CLL Forum Annual Scientific Day](#)

12-13 March 2020

[Spotlight on Liver and Digestive system Tumors : Updates and diagnostic challenges](#)

19 March 2020

[UKMF Scientific Workshop](#)

20 March 2020

[Placental and Trophoblastic Pathology](#)

30 March – 3 April 2020

Diagnostic Histopathology of Breast Disease – For more information, please contact: <mailto:Inf0@W12cnferences.co.uk>

7-9 April 2020

[Residential Workshops for EUCAST Susceptibility Testing 2020](#)

24 April 2020

[PMDD & Me - The Professionals](#)

1 May 2020

[All England National Thrombosis Nursing Conference](#)

6 May 2020

[All Wales National Thrombosis Conference](#)

7 May 2020

[North West National Thrombosis Conference](#)

12 May 2020

[All Scotland National Thrombosis Conference](#)

14 May 2020

[All Ireland National Thrombosis Conference](#)

14-15 May 2020

[Focus 2020](#)

21 May 2020

[Oxford National Thrombosis Conference](#)

10-11 June 2020

[40th anniversary celebration](#)

12 June 2020

UK Clinical Vaccine Network Conference 2020

17-20 June 2020

20th International Congress on Oral Pathology & Oral Medicine

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



