



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



President's e-newsletter – December 2019

President's Messages of the Month

It has been a very busy period for the College, with enormous activity across curriculum work, exams, and work with the General Medical Council (GMC). To all those involved, including our examiners, many, many thanks.

Lots of activity around workforce also - is really good to see an emphasis on flexibility in discussions with Health Education England (HEE) and the GMC, in terms of making life easier for those in training and those wishing to achieve specialist registration - we will see what will come out, but we have hope!

Our health priorities for the next government

As the date of the election draws near, we have been highlighting our key [health priorities for the next government](#).

The priorities are:

- investing in pathology workforce for patient care
- investing in pathology IT and infrastructure
- equitable and accessible genomic testing
- a solution for pensions issues.

Once the new government is in place, we will follow up with communications to ministers and MPs to ensure that pathology services are a key priority.

NHS pension arrangements for doctors and senior clinicians

The current pension arrangements for doctors have led to some consultants reducing their hours or taking early retirement. This is affecting patient care and making pressures on pathology services – which already face acute workforce shortages – even worse. It is crucial that our experienced clinicians continue working in the health service. We welcome proposals from the [NHS in England](#) to reimburse

pension tax paid by doctors undertaking extra work for the NHS but we call on the next government to implement a long-term UK-wide solution for the benefit of patients.

Microbiology/Virology Workforce Survey – Deadline: 20 December 2019

We need you to contribute and help to shape the planning of the future workforce by encouraging your clinical lead/head of department to complete the microbiology and/or virology survey.

We need this information to provide an accurate picture to influence and lobby policy makers and parliamentarians on your behalf. The survey results provide us with a comprehensive snapshot of the UK medical and scientific workforce. We also need to obtain a realistic idea of the number of vacant posts. The resulting data will be used as aggregated statistics to make a strong case.

Round-up

- I was really pleased to host Dr Ifeoma Ijei, our first secondee from the ARISE project, and the ARISE General Assembly at the College. The aim of the ARISE project is to improve laboratory diagnosis and quality assurance systems for population screening for sickle cell disease in newborn babies and infants in sub-Saharan Africa.
- The College fully supports a new report from the Royal College of Physicians, *Benefiting from the Research Effect*, which outlines how trusts can take practical steps to ensure clinicians are supported in embedding research into clinical and laboratory practice. We know that healthcare organisations which undertake research benefit from the 'research effect' and provide better care and outcomes for patients.
- I was in Newcastle for National Pathology Week (NPW) and had a fantastic lab tour at Queen Elizabeth Hospital in Gateshead with amazing teams and great facilities. I was also delighted to speak at the NPW event *Path to Success* organised by the College and Health Education England. There was also an interactive *Pathology Battle*, a poster competition and application and interview advice. Around 60 trainees and students met 20 enthusiastic pathologists to encourage them to choose pathology as their future career.
- We held a lively Discover Pathology Careers event as part of NPW for students and foundation doctors at the College. This introduced school students, undergraduates and foundation doctors to the diversity of both human and veterinary pathology through interactive talks and networking sessions involving around 20 College members. Cllr Victoria Obaze, Speaker of the local council (Tower Hamlets) also joined us. She spoke about the inspiring work of pathologists, and told attendees 'you could be the future of pathology.'
- The College organised International Pathology Day at the College on 13 November. Packed full with fantastic talks and a roundtable event from The Pathologist, the atmosphere was buzzing as we shared experiences and celebrated advances in rapid and diagnostic testing.
- It was my pleasure to be able to join the RCPATH Scotland Regional Council at their symposium in Aberdeen. It was great to be with such an expert, enthusiastic group. We had some very constructive discussions around the tough issues that pathology services are facing. The event was a great

success, with 90 delegates and super feedback. Many thanks to Prof Peter Johnston and Jessica Zago for their fantastic organisation of this.

- The College hosted the [Cancer Research UK-Science and Technology Facilities Council Innovation Workshop](#) this month. Early diagnosis of cancer is vital if we are to improve survival rates for our patients – the theme of this three-day workshop was applying artificial intelligence techniques to digital pathology images for cancer early detection. Teams who successfully pitched proposals at the workshop will receive seed-funding for one year to cover the costs of pilot/feasibility studies. It was an intense and hugely productive and inspiring few days.

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COLLEGE NEWS

Curriculum update news now available on College website

The College's Training department is reviewing all College specialty curricula in response to the [Shape of Training](#) report and the General Medical Council's subsequent [Excellence by Design](#) standards for postgraduate education. Information about proposed changes to the chemical pathology, cellular pathology, infection, immunology and haematology specialty curricula, along with an overview of the curriculum review process, is now available on the [College website](#).

Learning Environment for Pathology Trainees (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](#).

Take a virtual tour of 6 Alie Street

[Events @ No 6](#) have created a virtual tour of the College building. You can take a look inside at our conference and meeting spaces at [6 Alie Street virtual tour](#).

Key assurance indicators (KAIs) for pathology services published

The College is pleased to announce the publication of a set of KAIs for pathology services. This document is the result of the revised key performance indicators (KPIs) document that was published in 2013. The new KAIs focus on indicators that assure service quality rather than performance efficiency. You can download the document at [KAIs for pathology services](#).

Celebrating International Pathology Day 2019 – A look back

This year's International Pathology Day took place on 13 November and saw people all over the world getting involved in pathology-related activities. In celebration of the day, the College once again partnered with [The Pathologist](#) as well as sponsors [Sonic Healthcare UK](#) and [Visopharm](#).

Thanks for the contributions from everyone who got involved, not only at the conference but also the events that were run internationally and the activity across social-media. [See a roundup of IPD 2019 highlights here](#).

GET INVOLVED IN THE COLLEGE

Histocompatibility & Immunogenetics Specialty Advisory Committee (SAC)

The College has three vacancies for committee members on the Histocompatibility & Immunogenetics SAC.

The term of office for these roles will be three years from the date of appointment and the deadline for applications is 5:00pm on Friday 10 January 2020.

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.

PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

National Pathology Week 2019: diverse audiences reached through events and online engagement

NPW College and member-led events around the UK offered people from a range of age groups and backgrounds the opportunity to find out about pathology and its importance. Activities ranged from careers events for school and university students to new hands-on activity videos and an activity pack for Cub Scouts. You can read about some of the highlights from the week on the [National Pathology Week page](#) and by searching #PathologyWeek on Twitter. Save the date! NPW 2020 will run from 2 to 8 November.

Art of Pathology competition winners announced

We were delighted to announce the winners and runners up in our annual [Art of Pathology competition](#) in November. The judges, Vice President Dr Rachael Liebmann, Dr Shubha Allard, College Clinical Director of Publishing and Engagement, and science-based artist Dr Lizzie Burns were impressed by the creative responses to the 2019 theme 'Pathology: a new point of view'. You can see the winning entries in each age category on the [competition page](#), where we will announce the 2020 competition early next year.

Five College members to deliver activities at the Science Museum's 'Medicine Late' event

Five College members who attended our advanced [Science Communication training](#) have been accepted as activity contributors for the London Science Museum's '[Medicine Late](#)' event, which will run on 29 January 2019. The adult-only event will take place in the evening and is being held to mark the opening of the new [Medicine Galleries](#) at the Science Museum. The successful pathologists will run two histopathology, one haematology and two medical microbiology-themed activities at this high-profile monthly event, which attracts up to 7,000 people.

NEW CONSULTATION

- [Dataset for histopathological reporting of tumours of the central nervous system, including the pituitary gland](#)

COLLEGE CONFERENCES AND SYMPOSIA

[Haematology 2020: Updates, Controversies, Uncertainties](#)

Tuesday 17 December 2019

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

Join the Intercollegiate Committee on Haematology (ICH) for a half-day, interactive meeting to debate and discuss key issues facing haematology consultants and trainees. With short presentations from key opinion leaders and room for discussion, don't miss an opportunity to debate important issues facing haematology now and in the future. Senior representatives from the medical royal colleges, British Society for Haematology, Association of Clinical Pathologists, British Society of Blood and Marrow Transplantation and British Blood Transfusion Society will be present to inform and energise the discussions and debates.

With a highly discounted rate of £30 to attend this meeting, don't miss out what is going to be a hugely exciting event.

Innovation and Technology: Clinical Scientists Challenging Healthcare Boundaries

Thursday 30 January 2020

**To be held at the Royal College of Pathologists, 6 Alie Street, London E1 8QT
CPD credits: 7**

This event will showcase the role the clinical scientist plays in translating innovations into the clinic. Internationally leading academics will present leading examples of emerging and postulated technologies and discuss how they can revolutionise healthcare. Leading clinical scientists will present on current and emerging innovations in the use of novel technology in healthcare. The event will provide opportunities for

networking and open discussion to direct future interdisciplinary research and technology development.

2nd Bi-Annual UK Endocrine Pathology Society/RCPATH Endocrine Pathology Update

Thursday 6 and Friday 7 February 2020

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

CPD credits: 9

Hear the latest developments in endocrine pathology and oncology from nationally and internationally recognised experts in the field. Join us for a two-day update on endocrine pathology, covering topics including:

- the thyroid cancer 'epidemic'
- pathological criteria for papillary thyroid carcinoma
- surgical approaches to thyroid cancer and pathology
- reporting thyroid FNA cytology using the UK 'THY' system
- WHO 2017 classification of thyroid tumours 2017: NIFTP, FTUMP, WDTUMP, WDTNOS (emphasis on diagnostic pitfalls)
- risk stratification of thyroid cancer
- pitfalls in thyroid diagnosis and medicolegal issues
- the thyroid patient – what the oncologist needs from pathology
- update on new therapies and clinical trials for thyroid cancer
- multidisciplinary working in thyroid disease
- MDTs, datasets and UK national guidelines
- case-based discussions.

Who should attend? Consultant pathologists and senior trainees reporting on thyroid pathology.

Liver biopsy in the assessment of medical liver disease

Thursday 5 and Friday 6 March 2020

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

CPD credits: 10

This year two annual courses will be linked to provide a two-day course of lectures and practical experience in liver pathology. Delegates have the option of attending either or both days.

Day 1 – Liver biopsy in the assessment of medical liver disease

This course, organised by Professor Stefan Hübscher, will be delivered for the tenth time. Presentations by hepatologists and histopathologists cover the investigation of medical liver diseases. This course will provide a practical diagnostic approach to reporting medical liver biopsies, focusing on the importance of clinico-pathological correlation in assessing common patterns of liver damage.

Day 2 – Histopathology workshop on liver pathology

This slide-based practical workshop is devised for consultants working outside specialist liver centres, and trainees in stage C or D who have an interest in liver pathology. It is designed to complement the annual course 'Liver biopsy in the assessment of medical liver disease', but also works as a standalone course.

Dermatopathology study day – Save the date

Friday 13 March 2020

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

CPD credits: 6

This study day will provide an update on the 'hot topics' within dermatopathology for the trainee, consultant pathologist and specialist alike, with practical pointers and helpful hints to be used in day-to-day reporting and examination of specialist cases. Full details will follow. For any queries, please contact meetings@rcpath.org

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 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, genetists and neuroscientists.

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

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. 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 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 11 February 2020

To be held in London

CPD credits: 6

Medical examiner face-to-face training session

Wednesday 19 February 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

Thursday 2 April 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 23 June 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,

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

Medical Examiner Officer training

Wednesday 6 May 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 or on 020 7451 6700.

NEWS FROM EXTERNAL ORGANISATIONS AND JOINT WORKING

NHS Improvement publishes pathology network reports

NHS Improvement has published the following reports:

- [NHS England and Improvement pathology networking in England 2019: the state of the nation](#)
- [Pathology Networks Toolkit](#).

Cancer Research UK (CRUK) survey on the future of cancer care

CRUK are conducting a survey on the future of cancer care to ascertain what the biggest challenges and opportunities for UK health systems and services in the next 20 years. The survey covers:

- What major barriers will stop health systems from preventing and curing more cancers, and giving people more time with their families?
- How can the NHS provide the best environment for conducting research?
- What are the opportunities on the horizon which we will need to embrace?

The survey is available at [CRUK – the future of cancer care](#).

Funding available to improve analytical capability in health and care services

The Health Foundation, an independent charity committed to bringing about better health and healthcare for people in the UK, has launched the fourth round of its Advancing Applied Analytics programme.

£750,000 of funding is available to support up to 12 high-quality projects across the UK that can demonstrate how they will improve analytical capability in support of health and care services and provide lessons for the wider care system.

Applications are now open. The deadline for applications is 12:00pm on Monday 13 January 2020. To find out more visit: [Advancing Applied Analytics programme](#).

UK Advancing Healthcare Awards 2020

The awards are open for entry to allied health professions (AHPs) and healthcare scientists working across the UK, recognising and celebrating the achievements of these professions and those who work alongside with them. More information can be found at [Advancing Healthcare Awards](#).

OTHER EVENTS OF INTEREST

12 December 2019

Complex Epilepsy Study Day

For more information, please contact Jacqui McAleer: <mailto:jmassociates1@me.com>

16 December 2019

[Quality Management of Logistics](#)

18 January 2020

Myeloma Information Session for Health Professionals 2020

For more information, please contact Sarah Felmingham: Email:
sfelmingham64@googlemail.com

4–6 March 2020

[The London Haematopathology Course](#)

27–28 April 2020

[Advanced Bladder Pathology Course 2020](#)

14–16 May 2020

ABCD A Basic Course in Dermatopathology

For more information, please contact: <mailto:abcddermpath@gmail.com>

18–19 June 2020

Practical and Clinical Microbiology of Anaerobes 2020

For more information, please contact Deborah Robinson:

Email: deborah.robinson@dwscientific.co.uk

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

