

Celebrating our Diamond Jubilee

EST 1962

President's newsletter – May 2022



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College of Pathologists

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President's Message

The Health and Care Act

The [Health and Care Bill](#) completed its legislative journey at the end of April and the bill has now received Royal Assent.

We were disappointed that the amendment to strengthen workforce planning was not passed but the debates pushed the argument forward and kept workforce at the top of the parliamentary agenda throughout the process.

Working with the coalition who put forward the amendment, we will continue to raise the issue of workforce at every opportunity with government and policymakers. Having the right number of correctly trained, skilled staff in the right place at the right time is vital if we are to provide the excellent healthcare our patients deserve.

The Health and Care Act is a major milestone towards statutory implementation of the medical examiner system in England and Wales.

The Act included the legislation required to enable acute trusts in England and NHS Wales Shared Services Partnership to employ [medical examiners](#) to scrutinise all non-coronial deaths. It does not mean that the medical examiner system immediately becomes statutory; secondary legislation is required and all stakeholders need time to prepare for the transition, but it is a significant and very welcome step in the right direction.

College influence

We welcomed the [Health and Social Care Committee report on Cancer Services](#) which used the evidence we provided on the shortage of pathologists. Now more than ever, it is vital that services are sufficiently funded and supported to tackle the diagnostic backlog, particularly in cancer services.

Health Service Journal webinar: Could the NHS make greater use of remote testing

I took part in a webinar organised by the HSJ in partnership with [Medichecks. Participants considered](#) whether the NHS could facilitate increased remote collection of testing and whether this could improve the efficiency of diagnostic and monitoring services. The College view is that home testing could reduce pressures on the NHS especially post pandemic but it must be carefully managed and clinically safe from the point that the sample is taken by the patient at home to the delivery of results.

Engaging our stakeholders

- We were delighted that our [article](#) on Female Presidents of the `Royal College of Pathologists: Their Achievements and Contributions' was published in Frontiers in Medicine.
- We republished our [questions and answers](#) on receiving the COVID-19 Vaccine during Ramadan. Thanks to Imam Mohsen Elbetagi, Dr Angharad Davies, Dr Sarah Coupland and Dr Rumana Hussain for developing this.
- I would also like to offer my congratulations to [Professor David Oliver](#) who was elected to be the next President of the Royal College of Physicians. I look forward to working with him and strengthening the partnership between our colleges.
- I was pleased to see Bambos Charalambous MP (Labour, Enfield, Southgate) who organised a [debate on Thalassaemia](#) in the House of Commons, refer to our briefing during the debate. It was a useful discussion on what more can be done to improve health outcomes for people with thalassaemia and to raise awareness of the condition among health professionals and the wider public.

Northern Ireland elections

Following the elections, once a government is formed, we will engage ministers and Members of the Legislative Assembly using our [priorities for pathology, drawn up by the College Northern Ireland Regional Council](#).

COVID-19 Post-Mortem Portal – last call for submissions

The College set up the COVID-19 Post-Mortem Portal in 2020 at the height of the COVID pandemic. This database was set up to help inform treatment and research about the disease.

We are now in a position to review and assess the data held within the portal and to produce learning materials. We plan to start the process in the next month and have won a £40,000 grant from Pfizer to pay for the project.

Please submit any remaining COVID-19 Post-Mortem cases you may have to the portal. For more information [please visit the College website.](#)

Manchester Medical Society Section of Pathology's meeting

I was delighted to be invited to speak at the society's meeting which focussed on what's happening in pathology across the greater Manchester area.

I met many pathologists and trainees from wide range of specialties. I was able to highlight the role of college in lobbying for adequate and appropriate workforce and other relevant issues to support pathology services nationally. I also had many useful discussions with many attending saying how they did not appreciate how much behind the scenes work the college did to support pathology and our members.

Overall, it was great meeting and I really enjoyed having the opportunity to meet members from the fantastic Manchester region.

Dame Carrie MacEwen

I would like to offer my congratulations to Dame Carrie MacEwen who has been [appointed Chair of the GMC](#) by the Privy Council.

I have worked with Dame Carrie in her previous roles as Chair of the Academy of Medical Royal Colleges and President of the Royal College of Ophthalmologists. I am sure she will bring her considerable experience and expertise to her new role and I look forward to working with her.

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A PDF version of this e-newsletter is available at
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Diamond Jubilee – Celebrating 60 years of the College

[2022 is the College's Diamond Jubilee year.](#) The College was founded on 21 June 1962 to develop and support the evolving specialties of pathology.

[Enter our Art of Pathology Competition to win up to £1,000!](#)

The Art of Pathology Competition is kindly sponsored by [Sonic Healthcare UK](#) and open to adults and children from the UK and abroad until Monday 30 May. £1,000 will be awarded to the winners of the over 18 and 11–17 categories. For the under 11s category, the winner will receive £500 and another £500 will be awarded to their school. Find out more about this year's theme, 'Pathology: past, present and future' and the full terms and conditions on our [competition webpage](#).

[Encourage undergraduates and Foundation doctors to enter our essay competitions](#)

Both of our annual essay competitions are now open to UK undergraduates and Foundation doctors. To celebrate the College's 60th anniversary, both essay questions are centred around the impact of pathology over the last 60 years. Undergraduates have until 25 April to submit their essay, while Foundation doctors have until 23 May. Download and share the e-flyers with those in your network from our [essay competitions page](#).

[Listen to our latest Pathologists in Profile podcast episodes](#)

Our April podcast episodes features veterinary pathologist, Reverend Dr Jenny McKay. Originally from Northern Ireland, Jenny is the European Head of Anatomic Pathology, IDEXX, a global veterinary healthcare company. Find out why Jenny chose a career in

veterinary pathology, how digital pathology has changed the way she works and how she came to also be an ordained priest at our [podcast webpage](#).

[Living Autopsy Tour](#)

The Living Autopsy tour continues across the UK presented by past President Dr Suzy Lishman CBE. Check out our calendar [here](#) and spread the word for your [local area](#).

Devolved nations regional council Diamond Jubilee events

[Diamond Jubilee celebrations – Join in the College’s Wales Coastal Path Walk](#)

Saturday 2 July 2022

To mark the College’s Diamond Jubilee, the Wales Regional Council is organising a walk of the Wales Coastal Path.

A [spreadsheet is available on the College’s website](#) with information on the different sections of the walk, dividing the path into some manageable chunks.

Those taking part in the challenge are encouraged to select one (or two adjacent sections!) as a contribution – either your favourite stretches or one near your home or workplace. The aim is also to attract Assembly Members and even local MPs to join and walk parts of the coast. The plan is to walk toward the Senedd and meet with some AMs there as the walkers converge at the end of the walks (coming from Penarth and Chepstow–Cardiff directions). For more information, please email Dr Jonathan Kell at jonathan.kell@rcpath.org.

Barry Island via Penarth Pier to the Senedd

The Wales Regional Chair, Dr Jonathan Kell will be walking from Barry Island to the Senedd. The Minister for Health and Social Services Eluned Morgan and other Senedd members will be invited to join the walk to the Senedd at Penarth Pier. You may wish to join us at this section. If you are interested in taking part, please contact Dr Jonathan Kell at jonathan.kell@rcpath.org.

Working for members

Visiting the Royal College of Physicians Medicinal Garden

The Royal College of Physicians' garden contains [over 1,100 plants](#), all with links to medicine. The plants come from diverse cultures and different countries, with living examples of the history of medicine from the era of the pyramids of Egypt to today’s life-saving prescription drugs. The garden has been beautifully designed and is a wonderfully calm space opposite Regent’s Park in the centre of London.

We are delighted to have arranged specific dates for RCPATH members to attend garden tours during the College’s Diamond Jubilee in 2022 as follows:

- Wed 29 June (2.00 to 3.30PM)
- Tuesday 26 July AM (11.00 AM to 12.30PM)
- Wed 24 Aug PM (2.00 to 3.30PM).

There is no charge but spaces are limited – please contact publicengagement@rcpath.org if you are interested in joining these tours by 13.06.22 (family of College members are also welcome to join if spaces available).

The Bulletin

The [April 2022 issue of the Bulletin](#) is now available. This issue celebrates the history and achievements of some of our pathology specialties, with articles on forensic pathology, immunology, medical microbiology and medical virology, paediatric and perinatal pathology, and veterinary pathology. It also features an in-depth training section, with profiles from trainees across a range of specialties, as well as articles on the RCPATH Foundation Fellowship scheme, medical student placements, leadership in pathology and the results of our recent trainee survey to assess the impact of the pandemic on pathology training.

Clinical guidelines

[Guidelines on autopsy practice: Sudden death with likely cardiac pathology](#)

National Medical Examiner Good Practice Series

The National Medical Examiner Good Practice Series is a topical collection of focused summary documents, designed to be easily read and digested by busy front-line staff, with links to further reading, guidance and support. The fifth and sixth documents in our series have recently been published: [medical examiners and post-mortem examinations](#) and [medical examiners and child deaths](#).

Pathology Standards – Webinar Series on Guidance for Implementation

Register for our next new free bite sized webinar on Implementation guidance for carcinoma of nasopharynx and oropharynx – [Thursday 19 May 1.00–1.45pm. 1CPD credits.](#)

Deadline for CPD returns extended to 30 September 2022

The College recognises and appreciates the tremendous effort made by our members during the global pandemic. To alleviate the pressure of submitting within the normal deadline, we have extended the 2021/2022 CPD deadline to 30 September 2022.

If you need more time to submit or have any queries please contact the CPD Department: cpd@rcpath.org.

Service Spotlight: innovation at Cambridge University Hospital

Our Service Spotlight blog series highlights pathology services that operate at an exceptional standard. For our [latest instalment](#), Dr Maria O'Donovan, Consultant Histopathologist at Cambridge University Hospital NHS Trust (CUH) and winner of the RCPATH Achievements awards 2021 for innovation in pathology practice, tells us more about the development of the Cytosponge™ and the work with her team.

Other blogs in the series include:

- [Patient Care at the heart of the Liverpool Rohal Dahl Haemostasis and Thrombosis Centre](#)
- [Patient Safety at the heart of the Oxford Anticoagulation Service](#)
- [Genomics at the Central & South NHS Genomic Laboratory Hub and West Midlands Regional Genetics Laboratory](#)
- [Digital Pathology at the IDEXX Laboratory in Wetherby](#)

Percy Oliver Memorial Award

This award is given to an individual who has made an outstanding contribution to the field of blood transfusion. The category for this year's award is *Lay category*.

Nominations and accompanying citations should be submitted to the Transfusion Medicine Specialty Advisory Committee for consideration by 5pm Friday 27 May 2022 via Alison Morgan (alison.morgan@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.

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 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](#). The deadline for spring applications is 5pm on Friday 27 May 2022.

Get involved at the College

Chair Vacancy – Neuropathology Specialty Advisory Committee

Why should I apply?

The Royal College of Pathologists 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.

What does the role entail?

The Specialty Advisory Committee (SAC) on Neuropathology exists to advise Council on matters concerning neuropathology practice in the UK. Further details about the role can be found in the role description.

How to apply

Visit the volunteering opportunities page on the College website at: [Chair, Neuropathology Specialty Advisory Committee \(rcpath.org\)](#) and submit your application to Shelaine.Kissoon@rcpath.org by Thursday, 26 May 2022.

RCPATH Invited Performance Reviews - Call for reviewers.

Invited Performance Reviews are an important part of the College's role to maintain standards in the practice of pathology. In particular:

- evaluating a service or an individual's practice, where concerns have been raised
- discovering whether problems do exist and, if so, in which areas
- supporting healthcare organisations in implementing standards.

We are seeking to recruit new reviewers from a wider range of RCPATH members to add to our existing panel. We would like to encourage and enable more people of all identities and from all backgrounds to become involved in the College. The role of reviewer requires an understanding of how high-quality pathology and laboratory medicine services underpin patient safety. To find out more and apply please email: professionalism@rcpath.org

Regional news

REGIONAL SYMPOSIA

[Northern Ireland Symposium 2022](#)

Thursday 26 May 2022, 9.30am–1pm

This symposium is aimed at RCPATH fellows, members, trainees and others interested in the range of pathology specialties in Northern Ireland. Delegates will hear presentations about upcoming themes in the field of pathology and share some of the great developments happening in Northern Ireland. They will hear from the President, Professor Mike Osborn, and find out what the College does in Northern Ireland. Trainees will have the opportunity to meet with the President and discuss any relevant matters. Please note that this event will be held online via Zoom on Thursday 26 May 2022, 9.30am–1pm.

Wales Symposium 2022

Thursday 30 June 2022, 1.30pm–5pm

Please save the date for this event. Further information will follow shortly.

RCPATH Scotland 60th Anniversary Symposium: What has Pathology ever done for us?

November 2022 – date to be confirmed. Further information to follow.

Promoting pathology

[Public Engagement Innovation Grant Scheme](#)

The grant is to support for delivery of a range of pathology-related public engagement events throughout the UK. Grants of up to £1,000 are available for individuals or organisations to help with the events. The applications will close on 1 June 2022. For further information please check [Grant Scheme webpage](#) or contact publicengagement@rcpath.org.

College conferences and events

[Solving the Enigma of the Liver Biopsy – Virtual Event](#)

Friday 6 May 2021

This course should provide updates and advancements on areas of liver pathology which can sometimes be found more challenging, focusing predominantly on medical liver, but also briefly touching on neoplastic pathology with regards to the diagnosis of hepatocellular lesions. The invited speakers are all experts within their field. At the end of each session there will be an opportunity for delegates to ask questions.

[Bitesize Liver Pathology webinar series](#)

Monday 30 May – Monday 4th July

CPD Credits: 6 (for all sessions)

We are excited to announce the return of our bitesize liver pathology sessions for a second year. These will take place on Monday afternoons from 4.30–5.30pm, via zoom. This years' topics have been selected to cover different areas of the field of liver pathology and are based on delegate feedback from last year.

These one-hour webinars are mainly aimed at senior registrars but may also be of interest to SAS doctors and consultants who report liver biopsies occasionally as part of their everyday work. The aim is to provide attendees with the opportunity to view example digital slides before each session, followed by case-based discussions by an expert in the field. There will also be the opportunity for speakers to provide hints and tips to aid in diagnosis and interpretation, and for delegates to ask questions.

[Medical Examiner Annual Conference – Virtual Event](#)

Wednesday 18 May 2022

CPD Credits: 6

The second annual Medical Examiners Conference will take place on Zoom on Wednesday May 18 2022. This meeting will be of interest to anyone involved in the care of the bereaved. The final programme is still to be confirmed but will be available soon. The day will run from 9.15am (registration for a prompt 9.30am start) to 5pm at the latest.

In addition to updates on national policy and implementation, local and regional medical examiners will share their experience of challenges such as out of hours cover and community roll out. There will also be a panel discussion of some challenging scenarios and plenty of opportunity to ask questions throughout the day.

Confirmed speakers include:

- Dr Alan Fletcher, National Medical Examiner, who will launch his 2021 Annual Report at the conference
- His Honour Judge Thomas Teague QC, Chief Coroner
- William Vineall, Director of NHS Quality, Safety and Investigations at the Department of Health and Social Care
- Dr Aidan Fowler, National Director of Patient Safety in England at NHSI and a Deputy Chief Medical Officer at the Department of Health and Social Care
- Dr Esther Youd, Autopsy Pathologist, University of Glasgow
- Tracy Frisby, Registration Service Manager, NE Lincs Council.

RCPATH/BDIAP Foundation and Undergraduate Taster Event 2022

June 2022 – Free to register your interest

The joint RCPATH/BDIAP Foundation Taster Event 2022, is an exciting opportunity for you to explore pathology and see what the career has to offer! This virtual programme will be delivered with a mixture of specialty-specific sound bite videos from a variety of consultants and trainees (sent to attendees a few days before the meeting), followed by a live virtual session, which will take place in the evening and last approximately 1.5 hours. It is free to register.

Attendees will have the opportunity to explore:

- what pathology actually is and why it is important
- what the training involves
- the variety of opportunities that are available for trainees to pursue e.g. teaching, molecular and digital pathology
- advice about the application process and how to be successful at the interview
- how to pursue academic and research opportunities in pathology.

Contact us at meetings@rcpath.org to be advised when further detail is available.

Not in the Textbooks Study Day – Virtual Event

Friday 8 July 2022 – SAVE THE DATE

This study is aimed at trainees in all pathology disciplines and scientists, at all stages of training who want to gain more insight into important issues that they are likely to face in the future, that are not easily learnt, and that are not necessarily covered by the curriculum. A day to learn about topics which are routinely 'not in the textbooks.' Contact us at meetings@rcpath.org to be advised when further detail is available.

[Undergraduate Pathology Summer School 2022 – August](#)

This annual event held every August is open to UK 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 to talk to current trainees and established consultants about their careers. This year, the Summer School is back taking place in person after three years.

The next summer school is scheduled for 11 and 12 August 2022; places will be offered based on a formal application process. Students will have opportunities to interact with trainees and consultants in various pathology specialities as well as take part in numerous interactive activities. Plus enjoying informal networking at the BBQ on the Thursday night.

The Summer School is hosted by the Royal College of Pathologists and sponsored by the College, the British Division of the International Academy of Pathology, the Pathological Society, British Society for Haematology, Association of Clinical Pathologists, the British Infection Association and the British Neuropathological Society. [Registration is now open](#). Applications will close on Friday 29 April 2022.

Medical examiner training

The College is the [lead medical royal college for medical examiners](#) and provides training for any doctor wishing to work as a medical examiner. Participants will need to complete mandatory 26 e-learning modules and attend an entire face-to-face

training day to receive a certificate of completion. The day includes short presentations, small group discussions of case scenarios and the opportunity to share experience. Medical Examiner Training is open only to medically qualified individuals who work in England and Wales.

New medical examiners who successfully complete the training and the e-learning modules will be invited to join the College as members.

Medical examiner training session – IN PERSON

Tuesday 7 June 2022

CPD credits: 6

Medical examiner training session – Virtual Zoom Training

Wednesday 31 August 2022

CPD credits: 6

Medical examiner training session – IN PERSON

Thursday 27 October 2022

CPD credits: 6

Medical examiner training session – Virtual Zoom Training

Wednesday 7 December 2022

CPD credits: 6

Medical examiner officer training

The College also leads on the training of [medical examiner officers](#) (MEOs).

MEOs work closely with medical examiners and undertake tasks such as coordinating the completion of death certificates and referrals to the coroner, and speaking to clinicians and bereaved families.

MEOs may come from a wide range of backgrounds. For example, nurses, healthcare scientists or bereavement officers although this list is not exhaustive. More information, including a [model job description](#), is on the [College website](#).

The face-to-face training day is the second part of MEO training. Everyone attending the course must have completed the 26 mandatory core e-learning modules before the date of the course to get the most out of the training day. The e-learning modules [can be accessed here](#). (Registration with e-Learning for Healthcare is required.)

Medical examiner officer training session – Virtual Training

Friday 23 September 2022

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

New National Cancer Data from National Disease Registration Service available for pathologists to use

The Get Data Out programme from the National Disease Registration Service released new data on Thursday 28 April.

This includes new detailed statistics on Routes to Diagnosis and survival for cancer patients diagnosed between 2013 and 2018, for all 14 of current GDO cancer sites, plus a new GDO cancer site 'Skin tumours'.

2013–2019 incidence data will also be released for the new GDO cancer site 'Skin tumours'. Data available [here](#).

Please address any queries regarding the Skin tumours Get Data Out release to Dr Paul Craig, Chair of the RCPATH Dermatopathology Subcommittee at paul.craig2@nhs.net, and queries about other cancer sites to Charlotte Eversfield, Senior Cancer Intelligence Analyst, NHS Digital at charlotte.eversfield@nhs.net.

NPIC Survey: Pathology Research Interests & Unmet Needs

The National Pathology Imaging Co-operative (NPIC) is a collaboration between the NHS, academia and industry, to deploy digital pathology across the NHS and support the development of innovative Artificial Intelligence (AI) solutions to improve diagnoses.

The NPIC team have developed a short survey to understand pathology research interests and unmet needs: [NPIC Survey: Pathology Research Interests & Unmet Needs \(surveymonkey.co.uk\)](https://surveymonkey.co.uk). Closing date 30 June.

If you have any questions or comments contact the NPIC Research Inbox: leedsth-tr.npicresearch@nhs.net.

Other external events of interest

16–17 May 2022

[King's College Hospital CAR-T Cell Preceptorship Course](#)

18 May 2022

[UKFHD 53rd Academic Meeting](#)

19 May 2022

[7th Rare Blood Day](#)

19 May 2022

[40th anniversary celebration](#)

20 May 2022

[Spring meeting – A breath of fresh air: future-proofing healthcare ventilation](#)

24 May 2022

[Transforming Digital Pathology & AI: The Path Forward](#)

25 May 2022
[25th London Lymphoma Forum](#)

08 June 2022
[London GI pathology update 2022 webinar 1](#)

09 June 2022
[DIPC development day - Taking surveillance forwards: making the most of your data](#)

09–10 June 2022
[BAGP 18th Annual Meeting](#)

15 June 2022
[London GI pathology update 2022 webinar 2](#)

17 June 2022
[Nottingham Breast Pathology Masterclass – Live](#)

22 June 2022
[London GI pathology update 2022 webinar 3](#)

23 June 2022
[Don't panic! 2022](#)

24 June 2022
[The HMDS Annual Haematopathology Update Day](#)

27–28 June 2022
[Back to Basics Course: the blood count and smear](#)

29 June 2022
[BSBMTCT Scientific Showcase: Advanced Cellular Therapy](#)

05 September 2022
[Histopathology of the Bone Marrow](#)

27–28 September 2022
[Infection 360](#)

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