



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



President's e-newsletter – November 2020

President's Messages of the Month

As I hand over the Presidency to the excellent Dr Osborn and his new team members at the Annual General Meeting, I want to thank all those who are demitting office, and who have worked so hard and achieved so very much over the past three years. More broadly, our Trustee Board has overseen College strategy, and major challenges in the past year with real dedication and commitment, and the College is stronger for it. Major governance recommendations will be considered at the AGM, aimed at strengthening the College, across all our specialty areas, for the future. Council members have delivered a huge wealth of knowledge and expertise to inform our work, and all those involved in transforming our examinations and standard setting have been really superb, especially with the rapid changes of late.

Our Committees remain the core of our specialty activities and have been responsive (and fabulous!), balancing essential work with rapid response international advice and guidance over the last 10 months. Our Medical Examiners programme has delivered, to national acclaim, professionals who will help make health systems safer.

Our workforce mission has continued throughout the pandemic, and the sustained full recruitment into specialty training posts is a really significant achievement for the future. It has been a privilege to serve our profession and to work with you all.

Thank you.

Council elections Vice-President and Council roles

I am delighted to warmly welcome and congratulate the recently elected Vice-President and College Council members. The nominations and elections process were carried out under the guidance of the Nominations Committee. The process enabled all

Fellows of the College to participate and it was encouraging to see a wide field of candidates from different specialties and professional backgrounds.

Art and Science of Practical Management: Core skills for leadership and management

I am thoroughly enjoying hosting my virtual training webinar series with the Chair of the Trainees' Advisory Committee, Dr Matthew Clarke. Drawing on real-life situations and cases, the series is for everyone – from trainees and students, to new and established consultants, clinical scientists, biomedical scientists and all staff who want to reflect on their skills and learn tips and tactics to deal with difficult situations.

There will be a chance to ask questions at each session, so do join us on Wednesday evenings from 7:00 to 7:30pm until 25 November. You can also watch the recordings of previous sessions on the College website.

Round up

- A recent report, *Estimating the cost of growing the NHS cancer workforce in England by 2029* by Cancer Research UK, indicates that a 45% staff increase is needed across seven cancer-related professions to meet Health Education England's (HEE) aim to provide world-class services for cancer patients by 2029. For the histopathology workforce, the report findings show that without targeted action and investment, the number of histopathologists is set to reduce from the existing shortfall by an additional 2% by 2029. Histopathology is the only profession of the seven examined by the authors where current trends suggest a decline in staff numbers. We were pleased to be closely involved in the production of this.
- The College is proud to be a founder member of the recently launched Inequalities in Health Alliance. Launched to press for urgent action to address health inequalities, the alliance is a new coalition of nearly 80 organisations, brought together by the Royal College of Physicians.
- I hope you have all had sight of the following letter, Supporting doctors throughout the second wave from the Chief Medical Officers from all four nations and the Chair of Academy of Medical Royal Colleges among others.
- I was absolutely delighted to see so many of our brilliant pathology people recognised in the Queen's Birthday Honours list. Virology, microbiology, paediatric pathology, medics, clinical scientists, and so many more. Congratulations to all those who were honoured.

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WORKING FOR MEMBERS

COLLEGE NEWS

Cellular pathology audit evaluators wanted

We are looking for cellular pathology audit evaluators to determine whether the audits submitted to our audit certification scheme fully meet our criteria and standards. For more information about the role, including details of how to apply, please go to [Get Involved at the College](#) or call 020 7451 6737.

Submit a case study and claim CPD credits

Would you like to share your knowledge and experiences with colleagues and earn CPD credits?

We are looking for case studies on experiences that have, or may have, impacted on patient safety. The case study should describe what went well or less well, and why.

We would also like to hear: how the situation was approached and resolved; what was learnt; and how this was shared. This constitutes high-quality learning and you can claim 1 CPD credit per case study you send us in your online CPD portfolio.

For an example of a published case study, please see [Interruptions](#). For more information, please email cpd@rcpath.org

Educational Update

Friday 4 December 2020, 10am–12pm

CPD credits: 2

This virtual event is principally for trainers, senior trainees and assessors in chemical pathology, cellular pathology, medical microbiology and virology specialties. Trainers from the JRCPTB specialties are also welcome to attend. The event will comprise a series of short talks on current and future developments affecting the College. Dr Mike Osborn, RCPATH President-elect, will be giving a talk, as will Professor Jonathan Van-Tam, England Deputy Chief Medical Officer.

GET INVOLVED IN YOUR COLLEGE

PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

National Pathology Week 2020 – tell us how it was for you!

We took National Pathology Week (NPW) online this year and welcomed diverse audiences to our virtual events between 2 and 8 November. As well as the College-led programme, there were many creative events organised by our members and supporters.

You can read about some of the highlights, including our Meet the Presidents launch event and our first ever RCPATH Book Club, [here](#).

If you attended or organised an event for National Pathology Week 2020, please fill in our very short [NPW 2020 survey](#). Thanks to everyone who got involved and see you next year for NPW, which will be held 1–7 November 2021.

NEW PUBLICATION

- [Tissue pathways for liver biopsies for the investigation of medical disease and focal lesions](#)

COLLEGE CONFERENCES AND SYMPOSIA

COVID-19 – College Conferences Update

All RCPATH scheduled conferences and events have been postponed until the end of October 2020 owing to COVID-19. We will continue to review the situation and its impact on our events, as there is the possibility that other postponements will be announced. However, we are looking at virtual meetings and video-based learning options. Details will be shared if there are changes to any events.

The Art and Science of Practical Management: Core skills for leadership and management – Virtual Training Series

Occurs every Wednesday from 7.00 to 7.30pm until 25 November 2020

President of the Royal College of Pathologists Professor Jo Martin will present a programme of case-based and reflective learning about the management of complex or difficult situations. Facilitated by the Chair of the Trainees' Advisory Committee Dr Matthew Clarke, this programme will look at the theory and practical aspects of leadership and management in a healthcare setting.

Register once for either all seminars or select which dates you are able to attend at the time of booking. For further details, please contact the Events team on meetings@rcpath.org.

Advances in transfusion medicine – Virtual learning

Thursday 26 November 2020

CPD credits: 5

There are exciting ongoing developments in transfusion medicine and science, with high-quality research supporting evidence-based practice. This one-day virtual meeting brings together experts from various clinical disciplines and leaders in transfusion science to provide an update on key developments. The meeting will be of interest to all those involved in transfusion medicine. For any queries, please contact meetings@rcpath.org.

Soft tissue tumours from infants to young adults: the age matters

Thursday 28 and Friday 29 January 2021

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. This event was originally scheduled for March 2020.

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 15 and Friday 16 April 2021

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 recommended to health professionals involved in prenatal/fetal medicine, perinatal and paediatric pathologists, neuropathologists, neuroradiologists, neurologists, gynaecologist-obstetricians, geneticists and neuroscientists.

Update on placenta: physiology and new concepts

Thursday 17 and Friday 18 June 2021

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

CPD credits: 9

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. Requests for placental examination have grown exponentially in recent years, but this has not been matched by 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.

The course is designed for paediatric/perinatal and general histopathology trainees at any stage of their training, as well as consultants. The course will also be of benefit to obstetricians, both consultants and in training.

Medical examiner training

The College is the lead medical royal college for medical examiners, providing the essential training that will equip you with the knowledge and skills you need for this important role. Any doctor wishing to work as a medical examiner will need to complete mandatory e-learning modules and attend a face-to-face training day. 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 that 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 training session – Virtual Training

Wednesday 10 March 2021

CPD credits: 6

If you have any questions about training or scheduled events, please contact the Events team at meetings@rcpath.org.

Medical examiner officer training

The College is also leading on the training of medical examiner officers (MEOs). The training days are open to anyone who has already been appointed to the role 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 an MEO, including a [model job description, on the College website](#).

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.

The 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 modules [can be accessed here](#). (Registration with e-Learning for Healthcare is required.)

Medical examiner officer training session – Virtual Training

Tuesday 2 February 2021

CPD credits: 5

Medical examiner officer training session – Virtual Training

Thursday 25 March 2021

CPD credits: 5

For further information, please contact the RCPATH Conference department at meetings@rcpath.org or on 020 7451 6700.

NEWS FROM OTHER ORGANISATIONS

AOMRC National SAS Doctor Conference, 30 November

Date 30 November, from 09.00am to 16.30pm

This collaborative virtual event will see professionals from a wide range of national bodies and specialties come together to provide updates on all recent national work and topics relevant to SAS Doctors. The event will also give examples of 'best practice' to motivate/maximise SAS career potential.

As well as topics of relevance and interest to all specialties, there will also be some specialty-specific CESR sessions available.

Donate your unused microscopes for malaria diagnosis in Africa

Microscopes for Malaria is organised by retired Professor of Immunology Dr Middleton, who arranges for good-quality, second-hand microscopes from UK universities and hospitals to be sent, for free, to Africa for the diagnosis of malaria.

So far, Dr Middleton has arranged for some to be sent to Ghana, Zambia and Kenya. Demand, however, outstrips supply, so if you or anyone you know has any unused microscopes, please contact Dr Middleton at jfsmidd@gmail.com

Spotting the Sick Child website relaunched

Spotting the Sick Child, developed by the Department for Health and Social Care and commissioned by Health Education England, features an interactive tool to improve healthcare professionals' skills in identifying children with serious illness. It also helps them to learn the basics of assessing children of all ages, using clinical footage and evidence-based materials.

Learners will receive a certificate once they complete the course and the resource can be used as a teaching material for others.

EXTERNAL EVENTS OF INTEREST

9–12 November 2020

Power of Process Champion – for more information, please contact <mailto:andre@joinpop.org>

10 November 2020

BDIAP Molecular Pathology Study Day

11 November 2020

UKMF Autumn Day

11 November 2020

22nd London Lymphoma Forum

12 November 2020

Webinar: Pneumonia – diagnosis, treatment and stewardship challenges

12 November 2020

UKFHD 50th Academic Meeting

16 November 2020

[Webinar: Doing better for UTI patients, diagnostic tests for urine infections, the impact of COVID-19 on rapid testing](#)

18 November 2020

[Webinar: COVID-19 and Antimicrobial Stewardship](#)

25 November 2020

COVID-19 and AMR: How to contain antimicrobial resistance during a pandemic (in collaboration with EBRD)

26 November 2020

The Oxford TB meeting

27 November 2020

UK Clinical Vaccine Network Conference 2020

27 November 2020

Current Thinking in Haematological Malignancies in 2020

30 November to 4 December 2020

Power of Process Master – for more information, please contact <mailto:andre@joinpop.org>

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

