



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



President's e-newsletter – September 2018

President's Messages of the Month

Meeting pathology demand - Histopathology Workforce Census

As you will be aware, we have been doing a lot of work highlighting workforce issues across all our disciplines. The first of the series of the College's [censuses has highlighted these serious staff shortages](#), with only 3% of UK histopathology departments reporting that they have enough staff to meet growing clinical demand.

We are proposing short and longer term solutions:

- more funded training places, and 'golden hellos' for specialist histopathology trainees in hard-to-recruit areas
- better IT for day-to-day work
- capital investment to implement digital pathology more widely, so staff can work more efficiently and flexibly
- development of advanced clinical practitioners to work alongside medically qualified histopathology colleagues.

We have sent the report to governments, Health Education England, NHS Providers, cancer charities and parliamentarians. We make the case for investment in a pathology workforce that can cope with increasing demand and provide high quality patient care. The report has been promoted on the [BBC](#) and [Radio 5 Live](#), highlighting implications for patients.

This report is the first in a series, with clinical biochemistry and haematology to follow soon..... Please make sure your departments contribute!

Roll-out of human papillomavirus (HPV) primary screening into the NHS Cervical Cancer Screening Programme – update

I'm pleased there is an update on progress and the current position of HPV primary screening procurement, following a meeting in August with key stakeholders. We continue to press to ensure that training, workforce and IT are properly considered and supported.

NHS England delivered a presentation and update on progress, recent key decisions and timescales for key milestones. The full statement including details on the procurement process, discussions at the meeting and agreed next steps is available on [the College website](#).

APPG on Blood Cancer meeting

I was delighted to join the All-Party Parliamentary Group on Blood Cancer at its meeting in Parliament on 4 September – during Blood Cancer Awareness month – on ensuring rapid and accurate diagnosis of blood cancer. Our Vice President Tim Littlewood, a haematologist, was also there.

My presentation focused on a particular patient's path to diagnosis and the breadth of expertise in the pathology workforce that supported this – a blood cancer patient would typically be supported by an estimated 88 years of training and expertise across the pathology specialties. I also highlighted workforce concerns and the need for greater investment in IT. We're looking forward to further collaboration with the APPG and with Blood Cancer Alliance societies.

Reflecting on practice

We heard in August of the appeal ruling in the Dr Bawa Garba case. The tragic death of a child, and the subsequent events, have led to a profession-wide consideration of how we assess and deal with human errors that harm people. [Read my full comment](#) on the case on the College website.

In the last few days the guidance for doctors and medical students on [reflective practice](#) has been published. We have contributed to this through the Academy of Medical Royal Colleges. I found this a very helpful document and so spent a happy evening adding it to the eCPD app so that you can use it for your portfolio.

A quick poll... the results

Last month I asked you if IT at work makes you more or less efficient.

- 52% of respondents said it makes them less efficient (112).
- 48% of respondents said it makes them more efficient (102).

We will find this useful in supporting our campaign for better IT in those areas needing investment - thank you.

Round-up

- I had an excellent meeting with Matt Hancock MP, Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, with the Academy of Medical Royal Colleges in August.

- Cancer Research UK invited me to take over its @CRUK_Policy twitter feed for a day and to take part in a Twitter Q&A session. It was a fantastic way to spread the word about the brilliant expertise supporting cancer prevention, diagnosis, treatment and monitoring.
- I have had four #labtours visits over the last month - to the Freeman Hospital and Royal Victoria Infirmary in Newcastle, St James Hospital in Dublin, and to the Hospital for Tropical Diseases in London...all of which are superb! Thank you to everyone involved for the lovely welcome and for sharing some amazing work, training and innovation with me. Stunning stuff, with selected highlights on Twitter.

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In this issue:

[PRESIDENT'S MESSAGES](#)
[COLLEGE NEWS](#)
[PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT](#)
[INTERNATIONAL NEWS](#)
[NEW CONSULTATIONS](#)
[COLLEGE CONFERENCES AND SYMPOSIA](#)
[NEWS FROM EXTERNAL ORGANISATIONS](#)
[OTHER EXTERNAL EVENTS OF INTEREST](#)

COLLEGE NEWS

New member of the Working Group on Cancer Services

The College's Working Group on Cancer Services is seeking to recruit a new cellular pathology member who has a broad knowledge base in cellular pathology reporting and is interested in clinical guideline development, information management and improving the standards of service delivery. For more information and details of how to apply, please visit [Get Involved at the College](#). Completed applications should be returned by **1 October 2018**.

Path to Success – Free event

Sat 10 November: 10.00–16.00

New Education Centre, RVI, Newcastle upon Tyne

Joint College event with Health Education England and the Association of Clinical Pathologists

Aimed at foundation and core medical training (CMT) doctors and medical students, this free one-day event is a must for anyone considering a career in haematology, microbiology/virology, histopathology, chemical pathology or immunology.

Featuring

- Pathology Battle – visit interactive laboratory simulation stations in haematology, microbiology/virology, histopathology, chemical pathology/metabolic medicine and immunology to solve clinical cases, and chat to our trainees and trainers in each specialty along the way.
- Key Note Talk – Dr Bridget Wilkins, Director of Clinical Effectiveness, RCPATH.
- Applications advice – sessions giving tips on applications and interviews for the pathology specialties from our trainees.
- Sessions on work–life balance and an expert panel from our specialties answering questions on applications and training.

Lunch and refreshments will be provided.

Free registration: <https://fast.ncl.ac.uk/training/book/1615/>

NEW PUBLICATIONS

One new dataset:

- Dataset for histopathological reporting of uterine sarcomas

Two new patient safety bulletins:

- Disaster Strikes
- Trouble with Transport

GUIDELINES FOR CONSULTATION

- [Dataset for histopathological reporting of primary cutaneous basal cell carcinoma](#)
- [Dataset for histopathological reporting of primary invasive cutaneous squamous cell carcinoma and regional lymph nodes](#)
- [Dataset for histopathological reporting of primary cutaneous malignant melanoma and regional lymph nodes](#)
- [Dataset for histopathological reporting of primary cutaneous Merkel cell carcinoma and regional lymph nodes](#)
- [Dataset for histopathological reporting of primary cutaneous adnexal carcinomas and regional lymph nodes](#)

PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

National Pathology Week 2018 - 5 to 11 November

This [National Pathology Week](#) we've created lots of quick and easy ways for College members to get involved. We will be adding new activity packs and other free materials to [our resource library](#) to help you plan your events and activities. We'll also be supplementing our [new careers pages](#) with resources that you can use to give inspiring careers talks at schools. If you'd like advice on organising an event or careers talk, please do [get in touch](#). Don't forget to [register public events](#) so we can send you free promotional materials. You can keep up to date with everything NPW by keeping an eye on the [NPW page](#), and by following #pathologyweek on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#) and Instagram.

Opportunity for trainees to get involved with an undergraduate careers event in Nottingham

We are looking for some enthusiastic haematology and microbiology trainees to get involved in a careers Q&A at our upcoming undergraduate symposium, [Careers and Ideas: Integrating Medicine and Scientific Research](#), which takes place [on 7 November](#) in Nottingham. We are looking for two haematology trainees and two microbiology trainees to prepare a five-minute presentation about your experience, training and career in general, with time given afterwards to answer questions from the medical and biomedical students who attend. There will also be the chance to continue speaking to students about life as a trainee in a more informal networking area. All travel and other expenses

would be covered by the College. If you would like to help out please contact [Rachel Berkoff](#).

[Take part in our Art and Essay Competitions](#)

Two of our most popular annual competitions are open for entries; our essay competition is open to undergraduates and our Art of Pathology competition is open to a range of age groups. Check our [competitions page](#) for more info on how to enter, prizes and closing dates.

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Pathology futures: The role of genomics in disease diagnosis, treatment and prevention

The role of genomics in the diagnosis and treatment of disease is growing at a phenomenal pace, allowing patient care to become more personalised. Where a disease has a genetic basis and molecular testing is performed, the role of the pathologist in guiding treatment through the course of a patient's therapy is crucial.

As part of the College's International Pathology Day (IPD) celebrations, the College has partnered with [The Pathologist](#) to host this one-day event. We will explore the important role and contribution of pathologists, scientists and laboratory medicine professionals in the treatment pathway and care of patients, and how the results from research undertaken in the laboratory are directly used to develop new ways to treat patients and combat disease. The day will be filled with talks, interactive exhibitions, workshop presentations and the College's popular IPD Roundtable.

[Book a place now](#).

Be a Global Health Challenger for the world! Register now for next year's Prudential RideLondon-Surrey 100

College fellow and Regional Council for Wales's member [Dr Jim Seale](#) completed this year's Prudential RideLondon challenge, which took place on Sunday 29 July 2018. Prudential RideLondon is the world's greatest festival of cycling, where a total of 26,720 riders completed the event.

You can support Dr Jim Seale to raise much-needed funds to support the implementation and evaluation of a human papillomavirus (HPV) screening pilot project in Zimbabwe by visiting his fundraising page: <https://mydonate.bt.com/fundraisers/jimseale1>

As a 'Golden Bond Charity' with the Prudential RideLondon-Surrey 100, the College has guaranteed places for the 2019 challenge. There are still places if you want to join. We will look after you every step of the way, offering advice, tips and – of course – the coveted College cycling vest.

Help make a difference and register now to take part. To secure your place, please email [Deborah Ko](#), our International Coordinator.

International Trainee Support Scheme

Become a mentor and get involved in developing an online programme for overseas trainees in histopathology and medical microbiology.

The International Trainee Support Scheme (ITSS) provides structured support, advice, mentoring and guidance to overseas doctors and scientists who are planning to sit the College's FRCPATH Part 1 and Part 2 examinations. The scheme has been now open for two years to overseas doctors from all countries intending to take the Histopathology Fellowship examinations and we will soon be recruiting a third intake for 2018–2019.

This year, the scheme will be also recruiting overseas trainees wishing to sit for the relevant examination in medical microbiology for its first intake for 2019–2020.

Mentoring is an essential component of the scheme and we would like to hear from any fellows or trainees (ST3–ST5) in histopathology and medical microbiology who would be interested in becoming a volunteer mentor and/or participate in developing online teaching programme and educational materials for the ITSS.

Scheme mentors will be matched with trainees to provide advice, guidance and support to them as they work to address any gaps or weaknesses in their knowledge, skills, understanding or behaviours in preparation for the examination.

If you are interested in becoming a mentor, please complete our [online form](#) in the first instance. If you would like any further information, please email [Zuzana Lescisinova](#), International Education Officer.

International Pathology Summer School (IPSS) 2018

In July, the College delivered its second Pathology Summer School outside of the UK. The College teamed up with the [Armed Forces College of Medicine \(AFCM\)](#) and the [Egyptian Committee for Pathology Training \(ECPT\)](#) to offer this opportunity to overseas undergraduate medical students.

The three-day summer school took place at the AFCM in Cairo and was attended by 80 medical undergraduates and cadets from Egypt, Jordan and Pakistan.

The summer school programme provided comprehensive introductions to the histopathology, haematology, forensic pathology, microbiology and chemical pathology specialties. The programme consisted of practical exercises, breakout activities, a pathology debate and quiz. The faculty comprised of pathologists from the UK, Egypt, Jordan and Sudan, supported by a team of mentors who supported the undergraduates with their working group challenge tasks. This year, eight student helpers were selected from the alumni who attend IPSS 2017 to support delivery of the programme.

Please visit our [Flickr page](#) to see photos from the summer school.

International Academy of Pathology Congress – Meet the President

Are you attending the [XXXII International Academy of Pathology Congress](#) in Amman-Jordan next month? Come and join us on Monday 15 October for a session with Professor Jo Martin, College President. Hear the latest College news and pose your questions directly to the President herself. If you're interested in joining us for this session, please email international@rcpath.org.

COLLEGE CONFERENCES AND SYMPOSIA

Disruptive Technology in Pathology

Wednesday 10 and Thursday 11 October 2018

To be held at the Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists, 27 Sussex Place, London NW1 4RG

CPD credits: 11

This is a joint event with the Association of Clinical Pathologists. Rapid advances in technology are impacting all areas of pathology. Over the next few years we can expect to see even more amazing innovation enter our world and our practice. This meeting highlights some of the most advanced recent developments and the ways in which these developments are about to change patient care. This is a special meeting bringing together pathologists, industry and world experts across a range of areas, to showcase innovations that are changing healthcare, and are changing the way we think about pathology practice.

Advances in Transfusion Medicine 2018

Thursday 22 and Friday 23 November 2018

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

CPD credits: 11

There are ongoing significant advances in transfusion medicine and science with high quality research supporting evidence-based practice. This two-day meeting brings together experts from various clinical disciplines together with leaders in transfusion science to provide a broad overview of current key developments. The meeting will be of wide interest to all those involved in transfusion medicine.

Demand Optimisation: Rational Testing Approaches in Pathology

Thursday 29 November 2018

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

Learn about current experience and strategic plans for demand optimisation in pathology – predominantly, but not exclusively, at interfaces between laboratories and primary care. Contribute to establishment of RCPATH/RCGP workstream priorities and working groups to deliver high quality guidance and other interventions for demand optimisation in pathology.

IAC Tutorials

Monday 3 to Wednesday 5 December 2018

To be held at the Royal College of Pathologists, 6 Alie Street, London, E1 8QT
CPD credits: 13 for all three days

The British Association for Cytopathology (BAC) and the Royal College of Pathologists (RCPath) are delighted to be hosting the IAC tutorial in London at the new RCPath premises. The tutorial covers a wide range of topics, providing up to date information by international experts in the field. The talks are followed by PowerPoint based slide seminars on the topics covered with plenty of opportunity to interact with the faculty during and after sessions.

Advanced Molecular Brain Tumour Classification with Epigenetic Profiling

Friday 3 May 2019

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

CPD credits: 7

This one-day workshop will provide a multifaceted view of epigenetic profiling in adult and paediatric brain tumour diagnostics. The workshop will convey the biological principles of epigenetics in health and disease with a focus on brain tumours and explain how methylation profiles of brain tumours are detected with current array technologies. The day will be supplemented with an interactive practical session where participants will have the opportunity to discuss the diagnostic approach of challenging adult and paediatric CNS tumour cases. These cases will be available for viewing in a digital format prior and during, the workshop for registered participants.

NEWS FROM EXTERNAL ORGANISATIONS

New PHSO clinical standard

The Parliamentary and Health Service Ombudsman (PHSO) has introduced a new clinical standard: the Ombudsman's Clinical Standard.

The new clinical standard gives greater clarity and predictability to how the appropriateness of care and treatment is considered. PHSO will ask clinicians and organisations they investigate what professional guidance or standards they based their practice on and if they departed from them and why. They will consider the explanations of those complained about and balance them against the relevant standards or guidance. This approach will offer an earlier and clearer opportunity to those who have had complaints made against them to explain how they reached decisions about care and treatment. It will also make PHSO's approach more transparent for people who use the Ombudsman service.

A copy of the clinical standard is available on the PHSO [website](#).

OTHER EVENTS OF INTEREST

See [external conferences](#)

- [HIS 2018](#) – 26-28 November 2018

- [Infection Prevention 2018](#) – 30 September- 2 October 2018
- [Challenge or Conform: Finding Consensus in an Evolving Specialty](#) – 27-28 September 2018
- [GI Pathology Update](#) – 10 December 2018
- [UK CLL Forum Clinical Sciences Day - Defining High Risk CLL - Beyond p53](#) – 28 September 2018
- [UK Myeloma Forum Autumn Day - Unusual Presentations of Gammopathies and Associated Conditions](#) – 8 November 2018
- [UK Biobanking Showcase 2018](#) – 27 November 2018
- [Molecular Diagnostics Training School](#) – 24-26 September 2018
- [Image Analysis Training School](#) – 27-28 September 2018
- [Transplants and T Cells: new solutions for old problems?](#) – 25 September 2018
- [2nd East Midlands Laboratory Diagnostic Mycology Course](#) – 19-20 September 2018
- [UK MDS Forum Education Day](#) – 5 November 2018
- [BSBMT Education Day](#) – 9 October 2018
- [Educational Workshops 2018: The Ongoing Challenges of MRSA](#) – 17-21 September 2018
- [BAGP Week Long Course](#) – 17-21 September 2018
- [BDIAP/BSG/UKLPG meeting on liver and lower GI pathology](#) – 22-24 November 2018
- [Federation of Infection Societies \(FIS\) 2018](#) – 13-15 November 2018
- [Current Perspectives in Haematological Malignancies](#) – 10 October 2018
- [Fungal Update 2019](#) – 15-16 March 2019
- [Current Perspectives in Haematological Malignancies](#) – 11 October 2018
- [8th Acute Leukaemia Day](#) – 21 September 2018
- [19th London Lymphoma Forum](#) – 7 November 2018
- [2019 Winter Meeting, Let's Speak about Precision Pathology!](#) – 22-23 January 2019
- [Women in academic medicine](#) – 12 October 2018

