



## President's newsletter - January 2022



**Professor Mike Osborn**  
**President, The Royal**  
**College of Pathologists**  
 E: [michael.osborn@rcpath.org](mailto:michael.osborn@rcpath.org)

[rg](#)  
[@mike4path](#)

 [Facebook](#)

 [Twitter](#)

 [Website](#)

 [Instagram](#)

### President's message

#### **Diamond Jubilee – Celebrating 60 years of the College**

[January marks the start of the College's Diamond Jubilee year.](#) The College was founded on 21 June 1962 to develop and support the evolving specialties of pathology and we'll be celebrating our 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary with a programme of diverse events and activities.

On the day of our anniversary, 21 June, we will be hosting a whole day of celebrations at the College. This includes our 2022 Foundation Lecture, which will be given by College member Professor Sir Jonathan Van-Tam, who received his knighthood in the Queen's New Year Honours. There will also be pathology-related activities for local school students, and an exhibition of many of our specialties.

We are keen to include all our members in our celebratory year. From a walk along the Welsh coast, to lectures in Scotland and Northern Ireland, from the Melissa Bus in North East England to a Liverpool Philharmonic concert and a Lands End to John O' Groats bike ride, [we have a range of exciting events](#) that cover the whole country with something suitable for all members and your friends and family. There's also a vast array of online activities such as runs and walks held virtually, and of course the President's Online Pet Competition!

2022 promises to be a great celebratory year for

pathology and pathologists. More than that, it will be a great opportunity to highlight the importance of pathology in patient care and the excellent work that you, our members, undertake.

Thank you all for your continuing hard work for your patients and your ongoing support for the College. I look forward to seeing many of you at various Jubilee events this year, be that online or in person.

### **College members recognised in New Year's Honours**

[College members were among those named in the Queen's New Year Honours list.](#) College members were recognised for services to healthcare and scientific research, particularly during the COVID-19 pandemic. They represent excellence in the practise of pathology. I would like to congratulate them for their exemplary work for the benefit of patients, which is even more remarkable for having taken place during the COVID-19 pandemic.

The following College members were recognised:

- Professor Diana Anderson, Professor of Biomedical Sciences, University of Bradford, was awarded a Member of the Order of the British Empire (MBE) for services to genetic and reproductive toxicology.
- Professor Nicholas Robert Lemonie, National Medical Director, Clinical Research Network, National Institute for Health Research was awarded a Commander of the Order of the British Empire (CBE) for services to Clinical Research, particularly during COVID-19
- Dr Malur Sudhanva, Consultant Virologist, South London Specialist Virology Centre, King's College Hospital, NHS Foundation Trust was awarded an Order of the British Empire (OBE) for services to healthcare science, particularly during COVID-19
- Professor Sir Jonathan Nguyen Van-Tam, Deputy Chief Medical Officer was awarded Knight Commander of the Order of the Bath for services to public health
- Sir Paul Nurse was awarded the Companion of Honour (CH) for services to science and medicine in the UK and abroad
- Professor Sir Christopher Whitty, Chief Medical Officer for England was awarded Knight Commander of the Order of the Bath for services to public health.

**£140m NHSE pathology investment**

NHS England have confirmed that pathology services will receive £140m for digital pathology and Laboratory Information Management Systems (LIMS) this financial year. [The investment is part of the £248m funding from the Government](#) to deliver a modern digital infrastructure for diagnostic services that supports the free flow of clinical data and supports the clinical workforce to be more efficient, enabling them to provide faster diagnoses and reduce waiting lists. This is very welcome news. We have raised at every opportunity how vital it is to invest in pathology services to tackle the backlog of people waiting for crucial diagnostic tests.

**Medspire podcast**

I was very pleased to be asked to [record a podcast as part of Medspire's podcast series](#). I cover a range of themes, including how I started off in my career, my priorities as President, and tips and advice for medical students.

**Professor Tim Helliwell**

I would like to take this opportunity to wish former College Vice President Professor Tim Helliwell a very happy retirement. Tim has worked for the NHS at the Royal Liverpool University Hospital for over 40 years. Alongside his College role as Vice President for Learning, he was also involved in datasets, cancer registries and the College Working Group on Cancer Services.

**On the agenda****Parliamentary engagement**

- I had a fantastic meeting with my local MP Ellie Reeves. We discussed significant pathology issues directly impacting patient care, e.g. workforce and the impact of COVID-19, and hope to work together to increase access into medical and scientific careers. Ellie thanked the College and members for all of the incredible work that has taken place since the start of the pandemic.
- It was great to meet Dean Russell MP, a member of the Health & Social Care Committee who also Chairs the APPG for Digital Health, and to catch up with Steve Powis, National Medical Director of NHS England, at the Medical Technology Awareness Week reception at the Houses of

Parliament. I highlighted the importance of digital pathology and technical innovation in diagnostics and will continue to develop relationships with policy makers to promote this.

### Advocacy

- We responded to the All-Party Parliamentary Group (APPG) for Allergy and the National Allergy Strategy Group report – *Meeting the Challenges of the National Allergy Crisis*. We welcome the call for urgent improvement in UK allergy services and support workforce expansion but this should not come at the expense of clinical immunology and laboratory immunology services, which also require support and expansion. [Read our full response on the College website.](#)
- We are pleased to support the Faculty of Public Health's call to [pilot Overdose Prevention Centres](#). We can't continue to accept the UK's record number of drug-related deaths without implementing all available evidence-based interventions to save lives and protect health.
- During a [debate in the House of Lords](#), it was encouraging to see Lord Simon Stevens, former Chief Executive of NHS England, join calls to amend the new Health and Care Bill to improve workforce planning.
- Ahead of the report of the Uyghur Tribunal, we [joined the BMA and other organisations](#) in expressing grave concern over the situation in China and continuing abuse of the Uyghur population.

### Reaching our stakeholders

- Dr Jonathan Kell, Chair of the Wales Regional Council, spoke at an online conference on 12 January on [Priorities for healthcare in Wales: post-COVID service recovery, funding, modernisation, workforce, community pharmacy and forward planning.](#)

**Professor Michael Osborn**

**President, The Royal College of Pathologists**  
E: [michael.osborn@rcpath.org](mailto:michael.osborn@rcpath.org) @mike4path

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## Diamond Jubilee

### **Diamond Jubilee event – calling all cyclists and virtual warriors!**

As part of the celebrations this year, the College is organising both a bespoke physical Land's End to John O'Groats (LEJOG) cycle ride as well as three virtual cycling challenges!

The LEJOG cycle ride is being organised by 'Cycle Retreats' together with CRUK. The dates are September 13–24 September 2022. You can watch a video about the ride [here](#).

We need to know numbers for the LEJOG ride in advance. If you are interested, please contact Professor Sarah Coupland, ASAP on [s.e.coupland@liverpool.ac.uk](mailto:s.e.coupland@liverpool.ac.uk).

The 3 virtual challenges (a walk, run and cycle ride) are being organised from March 1st through to the end of May. Links to register will follow shortly! Stay tuned and

become involved!

### **[Listen to the latest episode of the Pathologists in Profile podcast](#)**

In our first Diamond Jubilee podcast episodes, host Natasha Cutmore speaks with Nigel Brown, Consultant Clinical Scientist in Analytical Toxicology and Deputy Examiner in Clinical Chemistry for the IBMS. Nigel leads a small regional toxicology service in the North East of England. Listen to the full episode [here](#).

## **Working for members**

### **Best practice recommendation: staffing and workload for histopathology and cytopathology departments – An update from Dr Gareth Lloyd Rowlands (Chair of the Working Group)**

Many of you will have been eagerly waiting the final version of this document to be published. The Working Group would like to apologise for the delay in getting this completed last year, however COVID-19 and other internal operational challenges made this impossible to achieve. I am delighted to say that we are almost ready for publication and anticipate a publication date within the next 2–3 months.

Given the initial consultation period was back in 2019, the Working Group feels that once published, it would be sensible to allow departments up to 12 months to get used to the principles and the new scoring schemes. During this period, we will be gathering feedback from the members about their experiences with the new workload points, in relation to their own workloads and job plans. Many thanks for your patience. If you have any queries, you can contact me at [Gareth.Rowlands3@wales.nhs.uk](mailto:Gareth.Rowlands3@wales.nhs.uk).

### **E-learning for UK consultant interviews: sitting on an Advisory Appointment Committee panel**

This 30-minute virtual course delivers an overview of an Advisory Appointment Committee's (AAC) procedures. It was developed to ensure royal college representatives can provide an effective and purposeful presence in the interview process.

This free course is aimed at UK interviewers who sit on AACs and will be of interest to all those involved in the recruitment process, including representatives from the recruiting body and the royal college representative.

Access the course to find out more about:

- interviewing good practice for royal college representatives
- equality and diversity legislation
- handling difficult scenarios
- interactive tools with practical tips and examples.

The course is worth 1 CPD point and a certificate of completion is provided.

Please contact [workforce@rcpath.org](mailto:workforce@rcpath.org) for more information and to enrol.

### **The UK Fatal Anaphylaxis Registry (UKFAR)**

UKFAR is held at Manchester University NHS Foundation Trust (MFT) and is supported by the British Society for Allergy and Clinical Immunology (BSACI) and patient support groups including Anaphylaxis Campaign and Allergy UK and the College's Immunology Specialty Advisory Committee and Death Investigations Committee. UKFAR has received a grant from the Food Standards Agency (FSA) to continue this important work. UKFAR analyses suspected cases of fatal anaphylaxis from any cause. The registry data informs trends and helps develop better understanding of the risks and causes of fatal anaphylaxis. This will ultimately provide knowledge to reduce the risk of future deaths from anaphylactic reactions.

UKFAR encourages the submission of suspected cases and can provide advice on the investigation of cases. Early involvement of UKFAR in the assessment of suspected fatal anaphylactic events is beneficial in the identification of contributing factors. Contact us on [mft.fatal.anaphylaxis@nhs.net](mailto:mft.fatal.anaphylaxis@nhs.net).

### **International Collaboration on Cancer Reporting (ICCR) datasets consultation**

The ICCR dataset draft on the [\*Invasive carcinoma of the breast in the setting of neoadjuvant therapy\*](#) is now available for comments until Friday 4 February 2022.

### **Service Spotlight: Patient Safety at the heart of the Oxford Haemophilia Service**

Our Service Spotlight blog series highlights pathology services that operate at an exceptional standard. For our [latest instalment](#), Dr Susie Shapiro, Consultant Haematologist at Oxford University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust and winner of our Achievements Awards in 2019, shares her experience with her multidisciplinary team and their achievements in working with communities and patient groups.

Other blogs in the series include:

- [Genomics at the Central & South NHS Genomic Laboratory Hub and West Midlands Regional Genetics Laboratory](#)
- [Digital Pathology at the IDEXX Laboratory in Wetherby](#)
- [Veterinary Pathology at the zoological society of London \(ZSL\)](#)
- [Nottingham University Hospitals microbiology laboratory service.](#)

### **Recordings for the Educational Update meeting held on 26 November 2021**

The annual Educational Update meeting was held remotely on Friday, 26 November 2021 with over 90 delegates in attendance. The keynote speaker was Professor Sheona MacLeod, Deputy Medical Director for Education Reform, HEE. The recorded presenters' talks are now available at [Educational Update - Virtual Meeting](#) on the [recordings tab](#).

## International

### **International Pathology Day 2021**

IPD 2021 focused on the implementation of digital pathology and artificial intelligence and how this will foster international collaboration. The event was again sponsored by Sonic Healthcare UK and launched in collaboration with our partner the British Society for Haematology. For the second successive year, we live streamed the event to a global audience, with more than 95 people joining the day. The programme included four talks, a range of lunchtime activities, including a poster competition and roundtable discussion. Read more about what happened via our blog – [celebrating international pathology day 2021](#)

## New publications

- [Dataset for histopathological reporting of uveal melanoma](#)
- [Dataset for the histopathological reporting of carcinomas of the oropharynx and nasopharynx](#)

### **Annual report**

The [2020–2021 annual report](#) is now available online. It is an opportunity to reflect on the achievements of the College and our members over the past year. This year has provided a great number of challenges, but we have continued to deliver on our commitments and fostered new ways of working.



In this annual report you can read more about our activities both in the UK and internationally, as well as our efforts to engage and influence both the public and key political stakeholders.

## Promoting pathology

### **Free public engagement training for members – May 2022**

Our free public engagement training for RCPATH members (of any grade) is led by a team of public engagement experts from the Science Museum Group. They offer the chance to develop new skills in communicating your work with diverse public audiences. There are two levels – standard and advanced. The next standard level training takes place on 12 May 2022 at the College in London – timings are approximately 9:30am to 5pm (advanced training has been postponed and new dates for this are tbc). There are limited places available for the standard training in May – further information including how to book is [on our website](#).

### **[Save the date for National Pathology Week 2022](#)**

NPW 2022 will take place June for the first time in its history (20–26 June) to coincide with the College's 60th Anniversary on 21 June. This year's theme is 'Pathology: past, present and future'. We've got lots of ideas and resources to help you with your events. If you would like to get involved, please contact the Public Engagement team at [publicengagement@rcpath.org](mailto:publicengagement@rcpath.org).

## College conferences and events

### **Joint Coroner and Medical Examiner Virtual Training**

#### **Selected dates available**

The relationship between Medical Examiners (ME) services and their local Coroners is vitally important, as highlighted at the ME training day. This event is an opportunity to consolidate understanding of topics including when to notify the Coroner and what constitutes an unnatural death, and will be attended by both MEs and Coroners.

One of the aims is to facilitate networking between local MEs and Coroners, and so each event is focused on a single coronial region. Please try to attend the event for your region where possible. However, we appreciate that this is not always possible and you can attend any of the events if you wish.

To book please select from the below dates/regions.

- [22 Feb 2022 – North East and Yorkshire, North West](#)
- [10 Mar 2022 – South West](#)
- [29 Mar 2022 – Wales](#)

The day will run from 9am to 3:45pm and has been developed along similar lines to the ME face-to-face training day, with a mixture of short talks and breakout groups with discussion of challenging scenarios. There will inevitably be some revision of basic concepts to ensure that both MEs and Coroners understand each other's roles, but we hope that the scenario discussions in particular will build on previous learning.

**This event is open to Medical Examiners and Coroners only.**

**Medical examiner training - new dates to be announced shortly**

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 officer training - new dates to be announced shortly**

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.)

## **Nottingham Breast Pathology Online Masterclass – Addressing Challenges in Diagnostic Breast Pathology – EXTERNAL EVENT**

**Wednesday 23 March 2022**

**CPD credits: 7**

The Nottingham Breast Pathology Online Masterclass aims to improve the provision of routine breast pathology. It leans towards the practical diagnostic histopathology of breast disease with a special emphasis on areas which pose diagnostic difficulties. With a faculty of leading experts, the masterclass is ideal for practising pathologists, pathology fellows and trainees. It takes place online, so you can learn from our experts from your own home or office.

**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**

#### **Join the National Cancer Institute Research Pathology Network**

By joining the NCRI Pathology Network you will be part of a central hub of cancer researchers that will have the opportunity to work with NCRI's Cellular Molecular Pathology Initiative (CMPath).

CMPath is a central part of NCRI activity, acting as a forum to bring the pathology community together and coordinating activities to develop new research. For more information [visit the NCRI website](#).

#### **BMA Foundation Grants**

BMA Foundation grants are available to apply online on the BMA Foundation [website](#). The application deadline is **4 March 2022**.

#### **BMA Wellbeing support services**

[BMA's Wellbeing support services](#) are available free to all doctors and medical students in the UK, regardless of BMA membership.

The services are free and confidential and include:

- **24/7 counselling** line including a structured course of up to six sessions of therapy available over the telephone, online, and now also face to face until the end of October. This is also open to their spouses, partners and dependents aged 16–24 in full-time education.

- confidential **peer support** provided by other doctors
- a UK wellbeing support **directory** detailing various support services by geographical availability visit **sources of support page**.

The BMA also provide a **Doctor support service**, an emotional support service specifically for any doctor undergoing a GMC investigation or facing licence withdrawal (regardless of BMA membership) – it's free, confidential and provided by fellow doctors.

### Other events of interest

23-28 January 2022

[Genomics and Clinical Microbiology](#)

26-27 January 2022

[Post ASH Significant Highlights](#)

28 January 2022

[Challenges in Intensive Care- Are we winning the battle against fungal infection in the ICU patient](#)

02-03 February 2022

[Antimicrobial Chemotherapy Conference 2022 \(ACC2022\)](#)

18 February 2022

[St Mark's GI Histopathology workshop](#)

07 March 2022

[BDIAP Molecular Pathology Study Day](#)

24-25 March 2022

[British Association for Ophthalmic Pathology \(BAOP\) 2022 Annual Meeting](#)

29 Apr 2022.

[Economic Evaluation](#)

**RCPATH CPD accredited online resources can be found at the following link.**