



The Royal College of Pathologists

Pathology: the science behind the cure

RCPATH President's newsletter – September 2023



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President's Message

The future of health and care services – cross party panel discussion

As parliament returns following the summer recess, I was invited to a cross-party panel discussion on the future of health and care services hosted by the Academy of Medical Royal Colleges, House of Commons Library and the Parliamentary Office for Science and Technology.

The event was chaired by Dr Jeanette Dickson, Chair of the Academy. The speakers were Steve Brine MP (Chair of the Health and Social Care Select Committee), Dr Philippa Whitford MP (SNP), Margaret Greenwood MP (Labour) and Lord Richard Allan of Hallam (Liberal Democrats).

The event explored issues relating to the NHS and broader health and social care system, including current issues and future developments. Topics discussed were wide ranging and included funding, workforce retention and wellbeing, medical undergraduate training, patient involvement and safety and AI.

2023 RCPATH/IBMS Northern Symposium: Pathology and People – 18 October

There's still time to join me at the [2023 RCPATH/IBMS Northern Symposium: Pathology and People with the IBMS](#).

The event will bring together professionals from all backgrounds and specialties to discuss local issues, offer peer support and share learning. It's also a great

opportunity to meet, share experiences and network with local colleagues working in pathology services across the north of England.

Engaging stakeholders

- The College's international work on diagnostics has been held up as an example of good practice by the All-Party Parliamentary Group for Malaria and Neglected Tropical Diseases. As part of British Science Week 2023, [Malaria No More UK](#) and the [APPG for Malaria & Neglected Tropical Diseases](#) hosted the 'Race against resistance' roundtable to discuss resistance to drugs and insecticides. College Vice-President for Learning, Professor Angharad Davies, attended to give the College perspective. Angharad's evidence also featured in the [APPG report](#).
- I was pleased to be interviewed by [Sky News](#) on the reduction of NHS cancer targets by NHS England and implications for the pathology workforce.
- We were delighted to host a stand at Eisteddfod 2023 with IBMS North Wales regional branch. Thanks to members across Wales and the IBMS who helped with preparations. DNA bead bracelets, the Cymraeg Superlab comic and guess the Eppendorfs in a jar were all big hits with visitors.

The Pathology Portal

I am delighted to see the Pathology Portal grow to over 2,000 users. If you have not yet discovered it, the portal is a free to use online educational, learning and training resource with thousands of resources. Find out more at [The Pathology Portal](#).

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In this issue:

- PRESIDENT'S MESSAGES
- WORKING FOR MEMBERS
- GET INVOLVED AT THE COLLEGE
- NEW PUBLICATIONS
- REGIONAL NEWS
- COLLEGE CONFERENCES AND EVENTS
- NEWS FROM EXTERNAL ORGANISATIONS
- OTHER EVENTS OF INTEREST

A PDF version of this e-newsletter is available at
[RCPATH newsletters](#)

Working for members

Integrating in vitro point of care diagnostics: guidance for urgent community response and virtual ward services

NHS England has published [national guidance](#) to support those integrating in vitro diagnostic (IVD) point of care testing (PoCT) devices into urgent community response (UCR) and virtual wards.

Urgent community response and virtual ward services are being encouraged to consider using IVD PoCT, alongside other diagnostics, to reduce the need for someone to go to hospital.

Pathology laboratories are critical to ensuring that there is governance of the use of these tests, and this new guidance stresses their need to work with pathology laboratories when considering and using IVD PoCT.

The guidance supports the delivery of the joint [strategic guidance](#) on PoCT developed by the College, the Institute of Biomedical Science and the Association for Clinical Biochemistry and Laboratory Medicine.

Old LEPT ePortfolio items

Are you a College member who used the old LEPT system when you were training?

The old LEPT system will cease to exist on 15 December 2023 and the content will be irretrievably deleted. If your specialty is listed below and you used the old LEPT system to record items as part of your pathology training, then you can now download your whole ePortfolio to your own device for safekeeping:

- chemical pathology
- diagnostic neuropathology
- forensic histopathology
- histopathology
- medical microbiology
- oral maxillofacial pathology training
- paediatric and perinatal pathology
- medical virology.

Existing trainees who are continuing training using the new LEPT system do not need to download their training items from the old LEPT system. This is because their training items have migrated across to the new LEPT system, from which training items can be downloaded anytime.

For further information and to request access to the old LEPT system, please contact the LEPT team at leptdownload@rcpath.org

The Pathology Portal

The Pathology Portal has celebrated its first year and is now home to more than 4,400 resources and the userbase has grown to over 2,000 users. Resources include a variety of cases, videos, podcasts, quizzes for assessing learning, and other relevant educational materials. Development of the NHS Learning Hub has resulted in improved usability, particularly when navigating the variety of resources and folders, making it easier to access the content.

If you have not already joined, [visit the College website](#) for more information. You can also use the single sign on via the College website. Log in with your College account and select the 'Access the Pathology Portal' button on the [MyRCPath dropdown](#).

Dr Esther Youd demonstrated the portal at the College's new trainee welcome day on Friday 18 August, showing the benefit of the resources available to trainees in improving their knowledge and practice. The Pathology Portal is pleased to welcome Dr Theodore Estrin-Serlui, who will be supporting the development of autopsy content.

Please provide feedback on your experience with the Pathology Portal. If you have any questions, suggestions, or believe you have content suitable for the platform, please contact the team at pathologyportal@rcpath.org.

Diary Date – EU2023 – Educational Update 2023 meeting

This annual meeting will be held virtually on Friday 24 November 2023 at 10:00am to 12:00pm. This event will provide an educational update on training and assessment, examinations and the Pathology Portal. It is principally for trainers and assessors in chemical pathology, cellular pathology, medical microbiology and virology specialties. Trainers from the JRCPTB specialties are also welcome to attend.

CPD submission deadline

Your CPD submission deadline for 2022/2023 is 30 September 2023. Please submit your return [here](#).

If you have any queries, please contact the Member Engagement and Support Team on 020 7451 6720 or by email at: cpd@rcpath.org.

Get involved at the College

Apply to be a CESR Assessor

If you are interested in becoming involved with the College, becoming a Certificate of Eligibility for Specialist Registration (CESR) assessor is a good way to do so. The role of a CESR assessor is to determine whether or not each CESR applicant meets the standard for their specialty and either recommend applicants for entry to the Specialist Register or outline what more needs to be done to meet the standard. Training and ongoing support will be provided and CESR assessors can self-accredit for CPD points for each CESR evaluation they undertake.

A role description and further information are available on the [College website](#). If you would like to apply, please send an email outlining how you meet the person specification, along with an abbreviated CV, to training@rcpath.org.

International

A hybrid conference for International Pathology Day, Wednesday, 8 November

Together with [The British Society for Haematology](#) and [The Pathologist](#), we are pleased to be hosting a hybrid conference to mark IPD2023. This year's theme will explore the impact of climate change on disease and what can be done to tackle the challenges.

Key-note speaker Professor Virginia Murray, Head of Global Disaster Risk Reduction UK Health Security Agency, will open the conference in conversation with the College President. Experts in their field will also be presenting and participating in the conference's roundtable discussion on planetary health. We are also pleased to announce the return of the poster competition which is open to entries until Monday 23 October. Visit [our website](#) for more information and to secure your place.

We will be at Medlab Middle East 2024

The College is pleased to announce that the international team will be exhibiting at [Medlab Middle East](#) from Monday 5 to Thursday 8 February 2024. Speakers will also be representing the College across different lecture tracks. We look forward to meeting you there.

Regional News

[2023 RCPATH/IBMS Northern Symposium: Pathology and People \(4CPD credits\)](#)

The first [Northern Symposium: Pathology and People](#), jointly hosted by RCPATH and IBMS, will be held on **Wednesday 18 October 2023** at the Cloth Hall Court, Quebec St, Leeds LS1 2HA.

This is an exciting event that will bring together professionals from all backgrounds and specialties to share learning relevant across our fields. Focusing on our people, keynote speakers will be Debra Padgett, President of IBMS, Mike Osborn, President of RCPATH and James Dixon, Head of Sustainability at Newcastle Hospitals.

Provisional breakout session topics including wellbeing, leadership, innovation, sustainability, diversity and inclusion, training, quality and pathology networks.

There will also be poster presentations and opportunities to meet, chat and network with colleagues working in pathology services across the North of England.

Registration fee – discounted rate

We are pleased to offer a discounted rate of £59.50 for all attendees. Please see the link below to register and submit abstracts for presentation: [2023 RCPATH/IBMS Northern Symposium: Pathology and People](#)

New publications

Guidelines

[G102 Dataset for the histopathological reporting of carcinomas of the parathyroid](#)

[G159 Guidelines on autopsy practice: Autopsy in sickle cell disease and sickle trait](#)

Mapping our work

[Regional map September–November 2023](#)

College courses

[An update on DNA mismatch repair immunohistochemistry – FREE WEBINAR](#)

1pm Thursday 12 October 2023

CPD credits: 1

The use of DNA mismatch repair (MMR) immunohistochemistry (IHC) has expanded over recent years. It is now one of the recommended methods for Lynch syndrome screening in colorectal and endometrial carcinoma and has utility in the prediction of tumour response to checkpoint inhibitor therapy. This webinar will provide a basic refresher of the science behind DNA MMR proteins and the staining patterns most commonly encountered in DNA MMR IHC, including some common practical issues. This event will take place at 1pm and last approximately 1 hour.

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 - Virtual \(rcpath.org\)](#)

Wednesday 6 December 2023

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](#)

Wednesday 15 November

News from external organisations

[Northern Ireland Regional Strategic Pathology Workforce Review – Questionnaire](#)

The Health and Social Care in Northern Ireland (HSCNI) regional workforce review is being taken forward by the NI Pathology Network in line with departmental policy on *Transforming [HSC Pathology Services](#)* published by former Minister Robin Swann MLA in November 2021.

The aim is to deliver a regional report with recommendations & action/costing plan to the Department of Health on or before summer 2024.

All NI pathology staff are asked to complete this questionnaire between 1 September–30 September 2023. If you have any queries in relation to the questionnaire, please contact Ronan Strain, NI Pathology Network Manager Ronan.Strain@hscni.net.

The Federation of the Royal Colleges of Physicians – Become an exam question writer

The Federation of the Royal Colleges of Physicians are seeking Question Writers specialised in Molecular Medicine, Biochemistry, Genetics, Anatomy, Physiology, Immunology or Statistics to write Clinical Science questions for our MRCP(UK) Part 1 Written Examinations. This is a valuable opportunity to contribute to the assessment of medical knowledge and play a vital role in shaping the future generation of physicians. Upon the completion of a half day online training course, this would then involve participating in an annual 2-day Question Writing meeting at the University of Warwick in Coventry offering excellent networking opportunities, external CPD and paid expenses. Find further information (including eligibility and how to apply) [here](#).

Other external events of interest

[04–15 September 2023](#)

[Advanced Histopathology Course in the EoE](#)

[09–10 September 2023](#)

[4th ILROG Educational Conference: Radiotherapy in Modern Management of Haematological Malignancies](#)

[11–15 September 2023](#)

[Clinical Interpretation and Implementation of Microbiological Sequencing Techniques course](#)

[13 September 2023](#)

[IPC challenges and solutions webinar - Winter planning and influenza](#)

[14–15 September 2023](#)

[5th AML Academy: Management of Adult AML: Where are we in 2023](#)

[15 September 2023](#)

[Anaemia and the risk of bleeding: Insights from the WOMAN-2 trial](#)

[18–22 September 2023](#)

[Advanced Cytology Course in the East of England](#)

[19 September 2023](#)

[IPS 2023 London Joint Branch Conference: IPC League of Legends](#)

[19 September 2023](#)

[NHS England Histopathology Transformation and Recovery Launch Event – For more information, please contact: \[england.pathservices@nhs.net\]\(mailto:england.pathservices@nhs.net\)](#)

[20 September 2023](#)

[PathLAKE Plus AI Showcase](#)

[21 September 2023](#)

[4th Experts in Haematology Faculty Meeting](#)

[21 September 2023](#)

[BSAC OPAT Regional Workshop - Bristol](#)

[22 September 2023](#)

[UK CLL Forum Clinical Sciences Day](#)

[22 September 2023](#)

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

[25 September – 16 October 2023](#)

[Virtual Lymphoma Management 2023](#)

[25–26 September 2023](#)

[Antimicrobial stewardship from principle to practice \(TOT\)](#)

[26 September 2023](#)

[Evolving clinical practice in the neoadjuvant NSCLC pathway \(BMS Promotional Meeting | For GB Pathologists only\)](#)

[28 September 2023](#)

[South West BMT Training Day](#)

[28 September 2023](#)

[South West Haemostasis and Thrombosis Meeting](#)

[28–29 September 2023](#)

[RSTMH Annual Meeting 2023](#)

[02–03 October 2023](#)

[British Association of Urological Pathologists Advanced Bladder Pathology Course](#)

[03 October 2023](#)

[Media training for IPC specialists](#)

[04 October 2023](#)

[BSAC Into Clinical Practice: Meeting the Challenges of Gram-negative Infection Management](#)

[06 October 2023](#)

[Wessex & Gloucestershire Gastrointestinal Pathology Course](#)

06 October 2023
[3rd North BMT Training Day](#)

06 October 2023
[Bridging the clinical - research gap 2023](#)

06 October 2023
[ABP Sixth Annual Meeting](#)

12 October 2023
[Current Thinking in Haematological Malignancies "What's new for 2023"](#)

13 October 2023
[UK EBMT Nurses and AHP Group](#)

20–21 October 2023
[45th Annual Conference of The Association of Clinical Biochemists in Ireland](#)

01 November 2023
[BSBMTCT Education Day](#)

03 November 2023
[Birmingham Breast Pathology Update Course 2023](#)

08–09 November 2023
[Infection 360](#)

09 November 2023
[UK Myeloma Society Autumn Day](#)

10 November 2023
[ACB National Audit Day](#)

10 November 2023
[UK Lymphoma Trials Group](#)

14–17 November 2023
[Federation of Infection Societies Conference](#)

17 November 2023
[Myeloproliferative Neoplasms Advances Day 2023](#)

20–24 November 2023
[Clinical Interpretation and Implementation of Microbiological Sequencing Techniques](#)

[22 November 2023](#)
[28th London Lymphoma Forum](#)

23 November 2023
[Current Thinking in Haematological Malignancies "What's New for 2023"](#)

24 November 2023

[IPS IV Forum](#)

[28 November 2023](#)

[Immunomodulation Update Day](#)

[30 November–03 December 2023](#)

[34th Annual Congress of the International Academy of Pathology - Arab Division](#)

[04–06 December 2023](#)

[BSI-CIPN conference 2023](#)

[04–07 December 2023](#)

[British Society for Immunology Congress 2023](#)

[07–08 December 2023](#)

[10th Digital Pathology & AI Congress: Europe](#)

[24–25 January 2024](#)

[The British Association of Urological Pathologists Advanced Bladder Pathology Course](#)

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