



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



## President's e-newsletter – January 2019

### President's Messages of the Month

#### NHS Long Term Plan

The long awaited NHS [long-term plan](#) was launched earlier this month outlining the NHS strategy for the next ten years.

The Long Term Plan is ambitious and timely with some welcome elements in long-term care and mental health. The implementation of areas such as outpatient transformation will rely on the skills and expertise of all our pathology disciplines, from haematology to clinical biochemistry. All cancer and much chronic disease management, from initial diagnosis to guiding patients' treatment, is dependent on pathologists. While reducing costs is mentioned in the context of tests, the importance of the right test at the right time is absolutely key to effective better value healthcare.

Increasing early detection of cancers, when they are easier to treat, is also at the heart of the NHS Long Term Plan and we will be actively contributing to Professor Sir Mike Richards' major review of cancer screening programmes.

Pathology networks are already in place, and we have been advocating for better investment in digital support. The plan has a strong commitment to this and interoperability of our technology, that we are pleased to see.

The crucial part of the jigsaw will be the support, recruitment and retention of our staff, and improving their working lives. Without this there is a huge risk, and we will do all we can to continue to focus on our role, our skills and mitigating this risk.

## Medical Examiners

We are only a couple of months away from the roll-out of a system of medical examiners across England and Wales to provide much-needed support for bereaved families and to help improve patient safety. The College is the lead for medical examiners and continues to play a key role in influencing the government's work around their introduction. You can watch a webinar about their introduction with Medical Examiner and Chair of the Royal College of Pathologists Medical Examiners Committee, Dr Alan Fletcher on the [College website](#). As well as introducing a new membership package for medical examiners, the College will be rolling out training including face-to-face sessions, around the country.

## Round-up

- We were delighted to hear Jim Fitzpatrick Labour MP for Poplar and Limehouse open a debate on cancer workforce and early diagnosis in the House of Commons by quoting the College's [histopathology census](#).
- I attended the 5th digital pathology and AI congress with our digital lead, Dr Darren Treanor, in December. This is such an important area for the College, we fully support the adoption of technologies that have the potential to improve patient care and support pathologists and have also contributed to an Academy of Medical Royal Colleges AI position statement.
- We were very pleased to welcome our retired Fellows to the College for the annual College lunch and a tour of the new building. It was wonderful to see such a wealth of wisdom, experience and general joie de vivre!
- We supported the launch of [Bloodwise's](#) new report [Hear our Voice](#) in parliament. Workforce shortages and the impact this has on cancer diagnosis were highlighted. We're looking forward to continuing to work closely with Bloodwise this year.
- New free learning modules have been added to the 300 already available on the eCPD app (available on [Android](#) or from the [Apple Store](#)), including modules on the NHS plan, Human Tissue Authority, research methods, HLA B27 testing, and learning in a busy environment. Lots for everyone!

## Forward look to 2019

Another busy year ahead – workforce, patient safety and digital, IT and innovation will again take centre stage.

I look forward to working with and meeting many of you during 2019.

## Professor Jo Martin

**President, the Royal College of Pathologists**

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## **COLLEGE NEWS**

### **Percy Oliver Memorial Award**

This award is given to an individual who has made an outstanding contribution to the field of blood transfusion. This year the award will be given for transfusion medicine nursing.

Nominations and accompanying citations should be submitted to the [Transfusion Medicine Specialty Advisory Committee](#) for consideration by 26 May 2019 via Clare Young ([clare.young@rcpath.org](mailto:clare.young@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 travel and accommodation 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](#).  
Deadline - 5 pm on Friday 29 March 2019.

### **NUS Extra card has changed its name to TOTUM**

From now on trainees who would like a TOTUM card will need to email: [training@rcpath.org](mailto:training@rcpath.org) to receive a unique URL which will allow them to apply for a TOTUM card. Anyone who has already got an NUS card can keep it and continue using it. Further information can be found at [TOTUM Card](#)

### **Subsidy for the research publishing gateway increased to 100%**

The College's research publishing gateway provides an online research forum for those interested in the study of the pathology of human and animal diseases. It is an exciting opportunity for both experienced researchers and trainees to build an online community where ideas can circulate rapidly and be developed with other pathologists.

The gateway has been funded by the College as a pilot up until Autumn 2019 and the College's Gateway Advisory Group has recently increased the subsidy for applications to cover 100% of the article-processing charge for articles. For more information visit: [RCPATH F1000](#).

## GET INVOLVED AT THE COLLEGE

### **Trainees' Advisory Committee (TAC) roles**

Trainees - Take up an active role on the TAC! The committee covers all specialties and all College regions. Representatives on the TAC are responsible for raising issues on behalf of trainees in their specialty. The committee representatives are also active members of the [College's specialty committees](#); participating in discussions and informing the committee of the views of specialty trainees.

### **Why should I apply?**

Make a difference – work with other trainees in your specialty, network with your peers, get involved with the College's work and support your professional development.

### **What TAC roles are available?**

- Medical Virology Representative
- Veterinary Pathology (Microbiology) Representative

Deadline for applications: 5:00pm on Thursday 28 February 2019. Further details can be found here [TAC vacancies](#).

## **PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT**

### **[Public Engagement Grant scheme](#) now open – apply for up to £1000 for your events and activities**

If you have a great idea for a public engagement project but need a cash injection to get going, why not consider applying for one of our public engagement grants? Run annually, our [Public Engagement Innovation Grant Scheme](#) provides financial support for the delivery of pathology-related activities and events in the UK. Grants of up to £1,000 are available for individuals or organisations who wish to develop pathology related public engagement activities or events. The deadline for applications is not until June 2019 but it is never too early to get started on plans. [Get in touch](#) if you'd like to discuss your ideas. We also have some inspiring examples of activities you could run from [previous recipients](#).

### **[Science Communication Training for Members – 27 February,](#)**

#### **The Royal College of Pathologists, 6 Aline Street, London E1 8QT**

If you're interested in getting involved in science communication and/or public engagement this year, then sign up to our [science communication training course](#). Led by professional science communicators from the Science Museum, this one-day course develops skills in communicating your subject to different audiences; it also covers how to plan events and devise your own engagement activities. No need for any prior experience! Those who attend can then apply to attend the advanced version of the course, where you have the chance to deliver an activity at one of the Science Museum's 'Late' events. For further information, including how to apply, visit our [website](#).

## **NEW CONSULTATIONS**

- [Tissue pathways for endocrine pathology](#)
- [Guidelines on autopsy practice: Autopsy examination following bariatric surgery](#)

## NEW PUBLICATIONS

- [Guidelines on autopsy practice: Aviation-related fatalities](#)
- [Guidelines on autopsy practice: Autopsy for bodies recovered from water](#)
- [Guidelines on autopsy practice: Autopsy when drugs or poisoning may be involved](#)
- [Dataset for histopathological reporting of renal tumours in childhood](#)

## INTERNATIONAL NEWS

### **Looking for a Challenge in 2019? Be a Global Health Challenger for the world. Register now for next year's Prudential RideLondon-Surrey 100**

Prudential RideLondon is the world's greatest festival of cycling where more than 26,000 amateur cyclists take on a cycling challenge like no other through London and Surrey on a similar route to the London 2012 Olympic Road Cycling Races.

Next year's Prudential RideLondon-Surrey 100 Cycle Challenge, which will take place on Sunday 4 August 2019, will include ST1 Histopathology trainee Dr Natasha Cutmore and her partner Alexander Stephenson-Brown. To show your support, please visit their [fundraising page](#).

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 and tips and, of course, the coveted College cycling vest! Registration fee is only £50 with a minimum sponsorship pledge of £500.

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

## COLLEGE CONFERENCES AND SYMPOSIA

### **Challenges in the Clinical Biochemistry Laboratory and Beyond**

**Thursday 28 February 2019**

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

This meeting is aimed at those with an interest in Clinical Biochemistry. It aims to provide an update on a range of current analytical and clinical issues, and will challenge some conventional thinking. The topics covered will look at interpretation of results, and also factors that can cause spurious results to be produced. There will be an update on topical areas in paediatric endocrinology as well as a session challenging some common (mis)conceptions. The final session of the day will look at the impact of laboratory medicine on patient outcomes.

### **Investing in the Laboratory Workforce of the future**

**19th March 2019**

**To be held at The Royal College of Pathologists, 6 Alie Street, London E1 8QT  
CPD Credits: 6**

The conference will use mixed communication methods with short talks and interactive group work and time for reflection, networking and informal discussion. The outcome will include learning objectives for delegates and formulation of ideas to guide future College thinking and policy.

### **Annual liver course run by the UK Liver Pathology Group**

**4-5 April 2019**

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

**Registration has not yet opened, but if you would like to express your interest and be informed when booking opens, please email [meetings@rcpath.org](mailto:meetings@rcpath.org).**

This year our two annual courses will be linked to provide a two-day course of lectures and practical experience in liver pathology. Delegates have the option of attending either or both of the days.

**Day 1 – Liver biopsy in the assessment of medical liver disease.** This course, organised by Professor Stefan Hübscher, will be delivered for the ninth time on 4 April 2019. Presentations by hepatologists and histopathologists cover the investigation of medical liver diseases.

The course provides a practical diagnostic approach to reporting medical liver biopsies, focusing on the importance of clinico-pathological correlation in assessing common patterns of liver damage.

**Day 2 – Histopathology Workshop on Liver Pathology** - A practical slide based course which develops the experience of day one and also includes sessions on liver tumour pathology. This year the individual slide viewing will be using iPads. Delegates may bring their own, or pre-book a hired iPad for the day.

### **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 to registered participants for viewing in a digital format before and during the workshop.

## **NEWS FROM EXTERNAL ORGANISATIONS AND JOINT WORKING**

### **Academy of Medical Royal Colleges (AoMRC) - Support for doctors**

As part of work with the AoMRC, a new on-line resource has been developed which signposts the different organisations services and websites which can provide [support for doctors](#).

### **Webinars on the Suspicion of Sepsis (SOS) Insights Dashboard.**

The [Suspicion of Sepsis \(SOS\) Insights Dashboard tool](#) for the first time, enables organisations to see an overall picture of hospital admissions coded in the SOS category and to base improvement initiatives on reliable, stable and consistent data. The Dashboard provides intelligence as to whether interventions and

innovations in sepsis/infection care are improving outcomes for patients. It also helps to better plan and prepare local services potentially saving lives across the country.

A series of webinars are being held.

- Exploring the work of the Suspicion of Sepsis Dashboard - [Register and read more](#). How to Generate Powerful Insights from the SOS Dashboard to Address Local Issues - Tuesday 12 Feb 2019 11:00 -12:00.
- Looking ahead for the Suspicion of Sepsis Dashboard - [Register and read more](#). How to use the SOS Dashboard to drive sustainable quality improvement - Thursday 14 Mar 2019 11:00 – 12:00.

### **NHS England - Blood Culture Laboratory Survey**

This survey developed by the UK Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR) Diagnostic Collaborative (UK ADC), aims to gain a UK system wide understanding of current blood culture pathway laboratory practice in relation to quality and unwarranted variation. By gaining a system-wide understanding of current practice, the UK ADC and key system partners will be able to develop mechanisms to improve services and tackle the challenge of AMR. [See Blood Culture Laboratory Survey](#).

### **Funding available to improve analytical capability in health and care services**

[The Health Foundation has launched the third round of its Advancing Applied Analytics programme.](#)

£750,000 of funding is available to support up to 12 projects across the UK that can demonstrate how they will improve analytical capability in support of health and care services and provide lessons for the wider care system.

The deadline for applications is noon, Tuesday 26 February 2019.

### **BMA Foundation for Medical Research grants open for online applications**

The BMA Foundation for Medical Research awards research grants each year (totalling just over £800,000) to encourage and further medical research in a variety of areas. Applications are invited from doctors and research scientists and can be for either research in progress or prospective research.

All BMA Foundation grants are available now to apply for online on the BMA Foundation [website](#). Deadline is 1 March 2019.

### **OTHER EVENTS OF INTEREST**

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

- [Fungal Update 2019](#) – 15-16 March 2019
- [Embryo biopsy workshop](#) – 4-5 April 2019
- [Genomics and Clinical Virology](#) – 10-15 February 2019
- [The London Haematopathology Course: A Practical Integrated Approach to the Diagnosis of Haematological Malignancies](#) – 6-8 March 2019
- [BSAC Spring Conference 2019](#) – 21-22 March 2019
- [The 15th British Association of Urological Pathologists Advanced Prostate Pathology Course](#) – 29-30 April 2019
- [Diagnostic Histopathology of Breast Disease](#) – 8-12 April 2019
- [The Fourth International Symposium on Immunotherapy](#) – 24-25 May 2019
- [POST ISTH & ASH Headlines 2019](#) – 12 February 2019

- Medical Examiner Conference – 12 February 2019
- Frontiers in Laboratory Medicine (FiLM) 2019 – 29-30 January 2019
- Microbiology Society Annual Conference – 7-11 April 2019
- Focus 2019 – 2-3 May 2019
- UK CLL Forum Annual Scientific Day – 7 March 2019
- UKMF Scientific Workshop - Myeloma Patient Journey – 13 March 2019
- National Breast Pathology Update Course – 16-17 April 2019
- 8th Annual Oxford Bone Infection Conference – 21-22 March 2019





