



Veterinary Pathology Specialty Advisory Committee newsletter

Summer 2024

It has been an extremely productive 18 months for the Veterinary Pathology Specialty Advisory Committee (SAC). We are delighted to announce that we have a new Chair – Dr Pamela Kelly, who was successfully appointed in February 2024. Dr Kelly extends her heartfelt thanks to our previous Chair, Professor Roberto La Ragione, for his exceptional leadership over the last seven years and his expert contributions that have significantly advanced the College. We are fortunate that Professor La Ragione will continue to serve as the Veterinary Microbiology Advisor, allowing us to benefit from his invaluable expertise and guidance.

We would also like to welcome our new Veterinary (Clinical) Pathology Trainee, Dr Jasmine Chan, and our new CPD, Clinical Lead for Academic Activities Advisor, Dr Gail Leeming. We would like to thank our Veterinary (Anatomic) Pathology Trainee, Dr Marvin Firth, and our Livestock Pathology & Disease Surveillance Advisor, Dr Fiona Howie, for all their hard work and valuable contributions as they demit from the Committee.

Introduction from the new Chair of the Veterinary Pathology SAC

I am honoured to introduce myself as the new Chair of the Veterinary Pathology SAC at the Royal College of Pathologists. I am committed to advancing the field of veterinary pathology within our College, ensuring it receives the recognition and prominence it deserves.





I am dedicated to promoting One Health and demonstrating the vital contributions veterinary pathologists bring to the College. Our expertise is critical in interdisciplinary collaboration and public health. I will continue to highlight this. As a veterinary educator, I aim to promote an environment of continuous learning and professional growth. I am dedicated to enhancing training and education for all our members and trainees, and I am here to facilitate open discussions, answer queries and ensure transparency.

I am looking forward to working together with you, and advocating for and promoting veterinary

pathology within the College as I endeavour to continue to enhance the College's impact and encourage a more inclusive environment that values and supports veterinary pathology.

Dr Pamela Kelly, Chair of the Veterinary Pathology SAC



Professor Roberto La Ragione FRCPath, former Chair of the Veterinary Pathology SAC and current Veterinary Microbiology Advisor

It has been an honour and pleasure to be the Chair of the Veterinary Pathology SAC for the past seven years. During my time as the Chair, I have been privileged to work with many hugely talented and committed committee colleagues and the wider veterinary pathology community,

who have worked tirelessly to raise the profile of veterinary pathology. Going forward, I will continue in my roles on the RCPATH Research and Digital Pathology committees.

Furthermore, in my new role as the Veterinary Microbiology Advisor, I very much look



forward to continuing to contribute to the Veterinary Pathology SAC. I wish Dr Kelly every success in her new Veterinary Pathology SAC Chair role.

Guidelines and best practice recommendations

[G192 Guidelines on veterinary necropsy practice – *Post-mortem* examination of animals having received chemotherapeutic or radioactive agents.](#)

[G184-BPR-Storage-retention-animal-tissues-records.pdf \(rcpath.org\) \(Currently under review\).](#)

[G185 Draft BPR for veterinary surgeons seeking pathology expertise.](#)

Veterinary pathology Bulletin articles

Pathology for conservation at the Zoological Society of London – A focus on the *Partula* snail

In this [article](#), Dr Simon Spiro shares the plight of the endangered *Partula* snail and the tireless dedication of the ZSL and partner institutions in saving them from extinction, resulting in the successful reintroduction of 15,000 snails to their native habitats in Polynesia.



Veterinary pathology webinars

From snails to sperm whales: PMs across 10 orders of magnitude

Dr Simon Spiro and Professor Roberto La Ragione are hosting a free 1-hour webinar on 28 November 2024 at 1pm. The webinar is worth 1 CPD point and will delve into the fascinating whats, wheres, hows and whys of this field, from *post-mortem* examinations on tiny invertebrates to massive whales. Learn about cholesterol-mediated diseases in meerkats, bacterial diseases in bats and orthopaedic disease in whales, with stunning visuals and digital microscopy. The link to sign up to this unique talk is [here](#).





Professor Roberto La Ragione speaking on antimicrobial resistance at the Westminster Health Forum

Professor Roberto La Ragione delivered a presentation at the Westminster Health Forum on the progress and latest developments in tackling antimicrobial resistance. The audio was recorded on 24 January 2024 and can be listened to [here](#).

Pathology Portal

The Royal College of Pathologists and Health Education England (HEE) have developed and continue to enhance an innovative adaptive learning platform to support trainees and practicing pathologists in digital learning — the Pathology Portal. Using technology to enhance learning, with interactive features, the platform aims to incorporate the ability to host a range of learning materials, including virtual microscopy whole slide imaging (WSI), over the internet to enable pathology tissue samples to be annotated and viewed as part of learning sets. The learning materials are mapped to the relevant curricula of the Royal College of Pathologists and hosted and maintained within the system.

This platform has been designed to support not only digital morphological learning, but also to support clinical and macroscopic learning across all our disciplines, including veterinary pathology, for which a category has been created on the platform. Disciplines to go live so far include cytology, histopathology, neuropathology and autopsy pathology.

A link to the project and information on how to get access can be found here: www.rcpath.org/profession/pathology-portal.html.

Online trainee registration system

UK trainees in veterinary anatomic, veterinary clinical pathology and veterinary microbiology are encouraged to register as an RCPATH trainee. The annual registration fee is £52 and trainees wishing to register should complete the registration form that can be found here: www.rcpath.org/trainees/training/register-as-a-veterinary-pathology-trainee.html.



What are the benefits of registering as an RCPATH trainee?

The benefits of registration with the Royal College of Pathologists will include:

- full access to the relevant [curriculum](#).
- information about the College's [Trainees' Advisory Committee](#) – the committee that represents trainees in the College.
- access to MyRCPATH, including access to the members' handbook, draft consultations, Council and other College committee minutes and previous issues of the Bulletin. The members' handbook includes details of individual members but, as a registered trainee, your details will not be listed in the members' handbook.
- access to the quarterly [Bulletin](#) and all College mailings (including the monthly President's e-newsletter) for the duration of training.
- notification of [College scientific meetings](#) at reduced rates.
- [discounts on pathology titles](#) (behind member login).
- as a registered trainee of the RCPATH, you are able to buy a [TOTUM PRO card](#), which offers discounts across a range of over 200 retailers.
- access to a range of CPD events.

Any queries concerning the registration process should be directed to Adobea Akuffo, Training Coordinator, via training@rcpath.org.

RCPATH Veterinary Pathology School for trainees/residents

To help residents make the most of their training opportunities and to build the RCPATH veterinary pathology community, the RCPATH Veterinary Pathology SAC is planning a 1-day Veterinary Pathology School in autumn 2025. The main aim of the day will be to provide general revision updates on a number of important topic areas covered in the respective curriculums, in addition to providing guidance on the RCPATH exam structure and how best to prepare for the Part 1 and Part 2 examinations. The programme will consist of a series of short lectures delivered by experts, covering anatomic, clinical and microbiology topic areas.

The RCPATH Veterinary Pathology School is aimed at veterinary pathology (anatomic and clinical) and microbiology trainees/residents at any stage of their training. Therefore, the



emphasis of the programme is on the FRCPath programme, but those studying for ACVP, ECVCP, ECVM and ECVP exams may also find the programme of interest.

Exams update: autumn 2024



This autumn, we have slightly below average numbers of registered examination candidates in veterinary pathology.

There are currently (provisionally), two Part 1 candidates and no candidates sitting the Part 2 examination. The registered Part 1

candidates are in avian and large domestic animal (pig), respectively. The examination format for Part 1 will be similar to that introduced in the last two years, with no choice of questions offered.

For further details regarding veterinary pathology examinations, please contact exams@rcpath.org.

Veterinary pathology quiz

Last year, as part of National Pathology Week, the College ran a virtual veterinary pathology pub quiz for veterinary undergraduate students. Hosts Professor Roberto La Ragione and Dr Sandra Dawson represented the three main areas in veterinary pathology and provided a range of thought-provoking and entertaining questions. The winning team received a £100 voucher.

My Green Lab

The Veterinary Microbiology and Parasitology Diagnostic Laboratories at University College Dublin (UCD) are leading the way in laboratory sustainability across the university. Spearheaded by Chief Technical Officer, Dr Mary Sekiya, the UCD veterinary laboratory team achieved the prestigious My Green Lab Gold Certification in 2023. This certification, recognised by the United Nations Race to Zero campaign, marks a significant stride towards a zero-carbon future and positions UCD at the forefront of global laboratory sustainability best practices.



What makes UCD's achievement particularly commendable is the significant impact brought about by seemingly small changes. The laboratory's commitment to social and environmental responsibility is evident in initiatives, such as community engagement and advocating for reuse and recycling facilities, including introducing separated waste bins alongside adopting for bin-less office spaces. These modest yet crucial adjustments have collectively contributed to a more sustainable and eco-friendly work environment.

The UCD veterinary laboratory has also embraced energy conservation measures, emphasising the importance of turning off equipment when not in use and optimising temperature settings. Simple practices, such as keeping sash windows on hoods down and adjusting the ultra-low -80°C freezers to -70°C , may seem minor, but they play a pivotal role in reducing energy consumption and minimising the laboratories carbon footprint.

Furthermore, the laboratory team actively participates in the sustainable research initiative within the UCD College of Health and Agricultural Sciences. Supported by the Vice President of Sustainability, Professor Tasman Crowe, this initiative has launched a cross-school polystyrene and nitrile glove recycling programme. Plans are also underway for a plastic workshop during Green Week in March to further raise awareness and inspire action.

By adopting mindful practices and fostering a culture of environmental responsibility, even the smallest steps can lead to significant positive change. To learn more about the My Green Lab initiative, visit: www.mygreenlab.org/.

Veterinary Pathology SAC member vacancies

We have a number of vacancies on the Veterinary Pathology SAC. If you are interested in any of the following roles, please follow this [link](#) to apply.

Current roles

- Livestock Pathology & Disease Surveillance Advisor.
- Veterinary Clinical Pathology Specialty Advisor.
- Veterinary (Anatomic) Pathology Trainee.
- Veterinary (Microbiology) Pathology Trainee.



Feedback or suggestions

If you have any feedback on this newsletter, or suggestions for items or College activities you wish to learn more about, please contact Louise Mair, Governance and Committee Services Officer, at louise.mair@aat.org.uk. Please title your email 'Vet Path News'.

