



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

## RCPATH President's newsletter – June 2023



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### President's Message

#### [National Pathology Week 2023 19–25 June](#)

Next week we will be celebrating National Pathology Week.

From quizzes to lab tours and career talks, every year members across the UK host hundreds of events to celebrate the week.

This year's theme is *Pathologists and Patients* and we will also be celebrating 75 years of the NHS, highlighting the vital contribution pathologists and scientists make to healthcare.

We are encouraging you to mark NPW by emphasising the essential work you do for patients in preventing, diagnosing and treating disease. I am looking forward to seeing your amazing events.

#### **Eisteddfod**

College Vice President for Learning, Professor Angharad Davies delivered fantastic NHS 75 activities at the 2023 [Urdd National Eisteddfod](#) in Llanymddyfri.

#### **RCPATH Qualitative Survey 2023**

Last month, I encouraged you to tell us what is happening at work and the pressure points you are facing, so that we can help support you. Thank you to all of you who took the time to do this; we really appreciate it. We will share our findings with you as soon as possible and let you know what we're doing to address them.

### **Engagement with parliamentarians and stakeholders**

We were delighted to welcome Professor Peter Johnson, NHS England National Clinical Director for Cancer, to the [second meeting of the All-Party Parliamentary Group for Diagnostics](#), chaired by Maggie Throup MP. Attended by parliamentarians, charity and industry reps, the issues discussed included workforce capacity, tech and digital solutions and NHS leadership.

As joint secretariat for the APPG with the Royal College of Radiologists, we will be coordinating two roundtable meetings on 21 June and 5 July on Community Diagnostic Centres (CDCs).

The CDC programme roll out has been a significant development within the NHS and has implications for patient care across the country. We know early diagnosis and treatment leads to better outcomes for patients, which is why these centres are so vital. The APPG aims to convene key stakeholders and experts involved in the CDC programme to share successes and ideas for improvements.

### **Member engagement**

Thank you to all our members in Northern Ireland and, especially, Professor Gareth McKeeman, Chair of the Northern Ireland Regional Council, Professor Ian Young Chief Scientific Advisor, Northern Ireland and everyone at the Belfast Trust, for a warm welcome and great RCPATH Northern Ireland Regional Council Symposium.

### **[Three Vice-Presidents and RCPATH Scotland Regional Chair roles](#)**

Nominations for the election of the College Vice Presidents, Registrar and Scotland Regional Chair are now open.

All eligible Fellows have been sent information directly by [Civica](#), who is managing the process on behalf of the College.

The Vice Presidents, Registrar and Scotland Regional Chair are Trustees of the Royal College of Pathologists,

working closely with the Chair of the  
Trustee Board.

Trustees will use their skills and  
experience to make sure the College runs  
efficiently and delivers its strategic  
objectives. Please consider putting  
yourself forward for these vitally important  
roles.

**Celebrating our volunteers**

The first week of June marks Volunteers'  
Week, a national celebration of the  
contribution of volunteers.

Members of the College volunteer across  
a wide range of roles, from setting  
specialty exam questions to hosting  
events to inspire the next generation to  
consider a pathology career. I would like to  
thank you for your commitment. The  
College could not function without you.

**Professor Mike Osborn**  
**President, The Royal College of**  
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A PDF version of this e-newsletter is available at  
[RCPATH newsletters](#)

## Working for members

### **Infection sciences workforce report published**

The College collaborated with the British Infection Association (BIA) to seek information about the delivery of microbiology, virology and infectious diseases expertise across the NHS in 2021.

The College has [published](#) *The infection sciences workforce: challenges and solutions*. The data shows a pending workforce crisis. Despite the move to create infection services to allow for greater use of the diverse skills among infection specialists, the survey results indicate that there remains an inability to meet the ever-increasing demands on this specialist workforce.

To support the specialty, the College has made 5 recommendations. For further information, please contact [workforce@rcpath.org](mailto:workforce@rcpath.org)

### **The Pathology Portal**

There are now over 3,600 resources on the Pathology Portal, available to all pathologists, including cases, videos, podcasts, quizzes to assess learning and other relevant materials. With the user base of the Pathology Portal currently at 1,500 users and growing constantly – if you have not signed up yet, you can find out [more information here](#).

There is now superb haematology content available and the Pathology Portal has been actively working on your requests for content in several key areas. Specifically, good progress is being made in molecular pathology, immunology, oral pathology, and reproductive science. By focusing on these areas, the Pathology Portal aims to broaden its coverage and provide comprehensive resources for

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users seeking information in these specialised fields.

Several new editors have been welcomed to the team to support the next phase of Clinical Biochemistry content as well as Paediatric and Perinatal pathology. In addition, new microbiology and ophthalmic editors have been welcomed into the team, adding their expertise to the platform's growing team.

The Pathology Portal platform also continues to develop including updates to allow faster processing of whole slide images, allowing a range of high-quality slides, including z-stacked images to be viewed and studied.

Please continue to feedback and if you have any questions or feel you might have content that is suitable for the Pathology Portal, you can get in touch with the team at [pathologyportal@rcpath.org](mailto:pathologyportal@rcpath.org).

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

The ICCR drafts for paediatric datasets (hepatoblastoma, neuroblastoma, paediatric renal tumours, paediatric rhabdomyosarcoma) and thoracic dataset (tumours of the lung – small diagnostic and cytopathological specimens) are now available [for review](#). The documents will be available for comments until Friday 14 July 2023.

### **CPD submissions**

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](mailto:cpd@rcpath.org).

## **Public Engagement**

### **[National Pathology Week 2023: 19 – 25 June](#)**

There's still time to get involved in [National Pathology Week \(NPW\) 2023](#), which runs from 19 to 25 June. Our theme 'Pathologists and Patients' offers a fantastic opportunity to highlight the work of pathology teams in preventing, diagnosing and treating disease. There's still time to [register your NPW event or activity](#) (however small!) and to [order some of our free promotional materials and careers resources](#). Check out the [NPW page](#) for more information and for links to College-led events. If you don't have much time, please support NPW on social media using #PathologyWeek and #PathologistsAndPatients; you could also win a restaurant voucher for your team in our [NPW Twitter Photo Competition](#).

### **National Pathology Week Pathology Quizzes for Undergraduates**

We're running our popular 'Virtual Pathology Pub Quiz' events for undergraduates during [National Pathology Week 2023](#). Please share these event booking links with undergraduates studying relevant courses:

- [Virtual Pathology 'Pub Quiz' for Medical and Biomedical Undergraduates – 21 June](#)
- [Virtual Veterinary Pathology 'Pub Quiz for Veterinary Undergraduates – 23 June](#)

### **[Public Engagement Grant scheme – apply for funding by 1 July](#)**

Our [Public Engagement Innovation Grant Scheme](#) offers the chance to get up to £1,000 for your public events and activities. Apply using the form [on our website](#) **by 1 July**. Read about past recipients for inspiration [here](#).

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### **[Sign up as a Pathology Ambassador](#)**

We are excited to introduce the [Pathology Ambassadors scheme](#). The scheme offers an easy way to get involved in science and medicine-themed events and activities with young people in your area. Pathology Ambassadors is run in collaboration with [STEM Learning UK](#) and is part of their [STEM Ambassadors scheme](#). Find out more about Pathology Ambassadors on our [website](#) and feel free to [get in touch](#) if you have any questions.

### **[RCPATH Science Communication Essay Prize – closes 17 July 2023](#)**

This competition is kindly sponsored by Sonic Healthcare UK and open to pathology trainees, Foundation doctors and undergraduates who have shown excellence in their science communication activities throughout the year. Each winner in the trainee and undergraduate category (which includes UK undergraduates and Foundation doctors) will receive £500 and be invited to accept their prize at the College's New Fellow's Ceremony.

### **[Art of Pathology Competition – closes 31 August 2023](#)**

This competition is kindly sponsored by Sonic Healthcare UK and is open to UK and international entrants. There are three categories for entries: under 11s, 11–17 and adults (over 18). This year's theme is 'Pathologists and Patients'. Participants were invited to interpret this theme in their own unique and creative way, while exploring different aspects of pathology. Winners of each age category can win up to £1000!

### **[Listen to the latest Pathologists in Profile Podcast episodes](#)**

In our June episodes, we speak with Consultant Forensic Pathologist, Dr Matt Cieka. In part one, find out about Matt's life and career. Matt's work combines forensic home office autopsy work with coroner's post-mortems. In part two, Matt talks us through a case study and demonstrates how he determined the cause of death.

## **Get involved at the College**

### **Get Involved at the College – England regional representative vacancies**

The nomination phase for the election of the College Council members; England Regional Representative posts (North, South, Midlands and East England, London) is now open.

All eligible Fellows have been sent information directly by [Civica](#), who is managing the process on behalf of the College.

As a member of College Council, the elected Member will provide advice and input into debate on matters relating to the practice of pathology as a profession, including all the professional, clinical, education and research functions of the College. The contribution should include both professional knowledge related to topics under discussion but specifically should focus on representing members' views from the region and any specific regional interests.

There are 4 nationally elected posts and 4 English Regional Representative posts (North, South, Midlands and East England, London).

Information on the roles can be found [here](#). Nominations will be accepted up to midday on Friday 4 August 2023.

## **International**

### **Ghana online lecture series**

The first online video lectures in the second Ghana lecture series launched in May. Free to access, the lectures feature a broad range of educational content.

The launch features 14 new lectures, including the gastrointestinal system, principles of antibiotic chemotherapy and targeted therapy for non-Hodgkin lymphoma. The new content has been developed in collaboration with the Ghana College of Physicians and Surgeons, in conjunction with The Tropical Health Education Trust. Further material will be released through the summer, taking the total number of resources across series 1 and 2 to 49. Discover more about the project and share and [watch the videos](#).

### **International webinar**

On Friday 26 and Saturday 27 May 2023, the College delivered a webinar for the Sub-Saharan Africa International Pathology School (IPS). The College's IPS offers medical students the chance to discover more about pathology and its role in healthcare, learn about the diverse range of pathology specialties and develop a greater understanding about the knowledge and skills required to become a pathologist.

The speakers for this webinar were from countries across Sub-Saharan Africa including Ghana, Kenya, Nigeria, Sierra Leone, South Africa, Zimbabwe. During this IPS, we had attendees join from similar countries in the Sub-Saharan Africa region. The attendees had the opportunity to ask questions directly to pathologists at different stages of their careers, hear from current pathology trainees about the tasks they conduct and learn more about pathology training programmes that are delivered in the region.

We are currently making plans to deliver an IPS for the South East Asia region at the end of August.

If you would like to know more about the Sub-Saharan Africa International Pathology School please visit [this webpage](#).

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## **New publications**

### **Mapping our work June to August 2023**

A [regional map](#) of the College's activities from June to August 2023 has been launched, showcasing the live and virtual events planned for the summer.

### **Clinical guidelines**

[G057 Dataset for histopathological reporting of renal tumours in childhood](#).

## **College conferences and symposia**

### **[Cytopathology Study Day – Hybrid Event – Bookings now open](#)**

**6 July 2023**

**5 CPD credits**

The programme will consist of a series of slide seminars covering specimen types such as urine, serous fluids, and samples from various sites including head & neck, respiratory tract and pancreatico-biliary tract.

The format will be that of a short presentation (15 minutes) followed by an interactive slide seminar (45 minutes) using whole slide scans for the specimens and sites listed above. The meeting would be suitable for trainee and practising pathologists and BMS. The aims include discussion of a diagnostic approach to various cytology specimens, the use of international terminology systems and good report writing.

### **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 26 mandatory 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](#)**

**Thursday 21 September 2023**

**6 CPD credits**

### **[Medical Examiner Training - Virtual \(rcpath.org\)](#)**

**Wednesday 6 December 2023**

**6 CPD credits**

### **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](#)**

**Thursday 29 June 2023**

**6 CPD credits**

### **[Medical examiner officer training session – Virtual Training](#)**

**Friday 15 September**

**6 CPD credits**



[Medical examiner officer training session – Virtual Training](#)  
Wednesday 15 November  
6 CPD credits

## News from external organisations

### [National Institute for Health and Care Research \(NIHR\) develops new e-learning programme](#)

The NIHR has invested almost £1 million to create a new programme of e-learning content for health and care professionals with an interest in research.

The online modules are free to use. They are ideal for health professionals interested in a research career, even if they have little or no research experience so far.

For participants, the online approach will bring:

- free-to-use modules designed to fit their exact learning and training needs
- anytime online, tablet or mobile access. This means learning can fit around day-to-day workloads and other responsibilities
- open access, with no application or membership of a college needed
- no stipulated end date, so users can complete the modules at their own pace.

The modules will be launched in phases by each college over the next 12 months. They will be available through the [NIHR Learn](#) platform.

### [Lab Tests Online-UK Annual report 2022](#)

Lab Tests Online-UK is a free-to-access resource, developed by NHS laboratory professionals. It provides detailed descriptions of tests, conditions and illnesses, and news on the latest advances in laboratory medicine.

The website is non-commercial and free to access, with support provided by the Association of Clinical Biochemistry, the Institute of Biomedical Science and RCPATH.

## Other external events of interest

[20 June 2023](#)

[How do you build a safe hospital? IPC considerations for the built environment](#)

[20 June 2023](#)

[What's New in Haematological Malignancies](#)

[22 June 2023](#)

[IPS Scotland Branch Conference: Infection Control Matters](#)

[23 June 2023](#)

[The HMDS Annual Haematopathology Update Day](#)

23 June 2023

[BSAC OPAT Regional Workshop - Birmingham](#)

26–29 June

[How to design and deliver pathogen genomics training for health and research professionals](#)

26–30 June 2023

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

27–29 June 2023

[Liverpool Pathology 2023](#)

28–29 June 2023

[Haematology Highlights for the UK](#)

29 June 2023

[UK Clinical Vaccine Network Conference](#)

29 June 2023

[BSBMTCT Scientific Showcase: Advanced Cellular Therapy](#)

29–30 June 2023

[III Multidisciplinary Virtual Masterclass on Metastatic & Advanced Cancer](#)

30 June 2023

[North England Haemoglobinopathy Clinical Event](#)

01–02 July 2023

[CLL - All You Need To Know But Were Afraid To Ask - Day](#)

04 July 2023

[Annual SHOT Symposium 2023](#)

07 July 2023

[BSAC OPAT Regional Workshop - Belfast](#)

20 July 2023

[Nottingham Breast Pathology Masterclass - online](#)

25–27 August 2023

[The Diagnexia Histopathology Symposium 2023](#)

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](#)

02–03 October 2023

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

03 October 2023

[Media training for IPC specialists](#)

03 November 2023

[Birmingham Breast Pathology Update Course 2023](#)

20–24 November 2023

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

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