



The Royal College of Pathologists

Pathology: the science behind the cure

## RCPATH President's newsletter – October 2023



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### President's Message

#### Events in Gaza, Israel and the Middle East

We are deeply distressed and saddened by the continuing conflict in Israel and Gaza and the tragic loss of life on both sides.

Our thoughts are with our friends and colleagues and all those from across the region whose lives have been shattered.

I know many of you will want to support aid and humanitarian efforts. The following organisations are currently working in the region.

- [Médecins Sans Frontières](#)
- [Unicef](#)

#### Party conferences

##### Party conferences

It has been interesting to hear the health announcements from the UK political parties during the recent party conference season.

Pledges include a guarantee in law from the Liberal Democrats that patients referred for cancer treatment will be seen in two months, and the new £30m fund from the Conservatives to speed up adoption of new tech in the NHS and an increase in medical school places.

Labour has promised NHS reform, an expansion of the workforce, more tech and an emphasis on AI.

We will review the announcements in light of preparations of the College manifesto, which we will publish before the 2024 general election.

### **IBMS Congress 2023**

I was very pleased to have the opportunity to address the [Institute of Biomedical Science Congress](#) on The Future of Laboratory Services. President-Elect Bernie Croal also spoke on Consumer Driven Testing – Help or Hindrance?

It was great to meet colleagues to discuss how we can all work together to improve pathology provision for the benefit of patients.

### **Pathology summer school 2023**

I was delighted to welcome 65 medical undergraduates to our annual Pathology Summer School in August.

Held over 2 days, the summer school gives students a unique opportunity to discover what pathology has to offer as a career through interactive breakout sessions and lectures showcasing the breadth and diversity of pathology specialties.

The feedback from the students was extremely positive and highlights the importance of engaging them about pathology early in their medical education. You can read more [here](#).

### **Engaging stakeholders**

- I was pleased to attend a meeting in Houses of Parliament with Ben Lake MP who is Chair of the [APPG on Bowel Cancer](#). We had a very useful discussion on pathology and healthcare in Wales, the devolved nations and the UK as a whole. We're looking forward to working together to improve pathology services and patient care in Wales and the UK.
- Dr Bernie Croal, attended a House of Commons reception organised by [BIVDA](#) where he met Maggie Throup MP who is Chair of our [APPG for Diagnostics](#). Our aim is to work more closely with the diagnostics industry to

better promote the importance of pathology.

- Dr Srinivas Annavarapu, Chair of the SAC on Prenatal, Perinatal and Paediatric Pathology, attended a roundtable on Sudden Unexplained Death in Childhood, organised by the Department for Health and Social Care. It was an excellent forum to raise the need to increase recruitment of perinatal pathologists and we will continue to follow up on this.

### **The Pathology Portal**

I am very pleased to let you know that the Portal has made the shortlist for the [Healthcare Honours 2023](#) in the *Outstanding Innovation* category. Winners will be announced by the [British Journal of Healthcare Management](#) on Thursday 23 November.

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

## Working for members

### **Joint statement with the Institute of Biomedical Science (IBMS) on developing the role of scientists in histopathology reporting**

Biomedical scientist reporting of abnormal cervical cytology screening cases has been accepted practice for 20 years.

This has been followed by the biomedical scientist reporting of selected ophthalmic pathology samples and malignant non-gynaecological cytology. A more recent development is the extension of training to include the histopathological reporting of cases from pre-determined body systems (gynaecological and gastrointestinal tracts and skin). Since the introduction of the joint RCPATH and IBMS histopathology reporting qualification in 2016, 16 biomedical scientists have successfully completed its rigorous training course and 72 more are in various stages of training and are expected to qualify over the next 4 years. The College published an updated joint statement with the [IBMS](#) to reflect these developments, which you can view [here](#).

### **CPD web-refresh and your 2022/2023 CPD return**

We've been reorganising the CPD webpages on the member's website. Please do take a look [here](#)! If you have any suggestions for how we might improve these further, please get in touch at [mycollege@rcpath.org](mailto:mycollege@rcpath.org).

The College offers a Continuing Professional Development (CPD) portfolio service where you can record and 'return' your CPD activities and track your overall participation. We encourage members to record their CPD activities as they undertake them and to complete their CPD returns by 30 September each year.

Although the recommended deadline has passed for 2022/2023, you can still make a submission. Please visit [www.rcpath.org](http://www.rcpath.org) and click on 'Log in to MyRCPATH' at the top of the screen. Once you have logged in, select 'Access the CPD portfolio' on the right of your screen to review your records.

If you have any questions regarding submitting your CPD return, please contact the Member Engagement and Support team on 020 7451 6720 or drop us an email at [cpd@rcpath.org](mailto:cpd@rcpath.org).

### **Launch of the technical EQA Governance framework (Workstreams 1 and 2)**

We are excited to announce the successful completion of EQA Workstreams 1 and 2, advancing governance around technical external quality assurance (EQA) and its performance. Workstream 1 established a robust governance and assurance framework, ensuring transparency and accountability in EQA processes, while Workstream 2 has implemented a consistent and effective approach to

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identifying and addressing poor performance, elevating EQA standards. For more info and access to documents, visit our [news page](#).

### **Educational Update 2023 meeting**

This annual meeting will be held remotely on Friday 24 November 2023 at 10:00am to 12:00pm. This year's theme is on the 2023 Workforce Plan. The keynote speaker will be Dr Bernie Croal, President-Elect. His talk will include how the workforce plan may relate to training, education and pathology services in the future.

The meeting will also provide an educational update' n training and assessment and examinations. There will be an update on the Pathology Portal as it celebrates its first year.

This meeting is relevant to all those involved in the delivery of pathology training – including trainers, assessors and senior trainees preparing to become consultants. The programme and how to book your free place on the [College website](#).

### **The Pathology Portal**

The Pathology Portal has grown to over 4,500 resources, accessed over 75,000 times. The resources include a variety of cases, videos, podcasts, quizzes for assessing learning and other relevant educational materials, and cater to the professional development needs of pathologists worldwide, with a userbase of over 2,000 users.

This month has seen usage spike as trainees prepare for exams and it is wonderful to hear that the Pathology Portal is beneficial in their preparations. If you have not already joined, visit the [College website](#).

The College hosted a Pathology Portal Appreciation event in September to celebrate the contributors who have been instrumental in creating content and developing the platform. The event provided an opportunity to reflect and celebrate the progress and successes that have been made.

The team has also been busy contacting new contributors through the editorial network, to discuss content which can be shared with the portal across a range of specialties including clinical biochemistry, more EQA content and areas such as management and leadership.

We appreciate your continued support and encourage you to 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 [pathologyportal@rcpath.org](mailto:pathologyportal@rcpath.org).

### **Download your ePortfolio training items from the old LEPT system**

College members who used the old LEPT system during their training are invited to download all their training items to their own device. This must be done by 15 December 2023.

Following the above date, the old LEPT system will cease to exist and all content will be irretrievably deleted.

If you would like to request access to the old LEPT system to download your ePortfolio, please contact the LEPT team at [leptdownload@rcpath.org](mailto:leptdownload@rcpath.org).

Those members who used the old LEPT system as part of their training will belong to one of the below following specialties.

- chemical pathology
  - diagnostic neuropathology
  - forensic histopathology
  - histopathology
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- 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 are in the process of being migrated across to the new LEPT system, from which they can be downloaded anytime.

### **Percy Oliver Memorial Award 2023 winner**

The College is delighted to announce that the winner of the Percy Oliver Memorial Award 2023 (Transfusion Medicine Nursing Category) is Joanne Tossell for her outstanding contribution to blood transfusion medicine.

The standard of applications was extremely high this year, and after much deliberation the panel awarded the prize to Joanne who will be presented with her award at the [BBTS Conference](#) held in October 2023. Please [visit the website](#) to find out more.

### **[Winners of the 2023 Science Communication Prize announced.](#)**

Congratulations to this year's winners of the [RCPATH Science Communication Prize](#): Dr Zoe Rivers, who was awarded the prize in the trainee category, and Dr Charlotte Woodward, who was awarded in the undergraduate and Foundation doctor category. The RCPATH Science Communication Prize is kindly sponsored by [Sonic Healthcare UK](#) and is open to trainees, Foundation doctors and undergraduates. Read the news post [here](#).

## **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](mailto:training@rcpath.org).

## **International**

### **Join in activities for International Pathology Day**

#### **A hybrid conference at the College on Wednesday, 8 November**

Join us and our sponsors [The British Society for Haematology](#) and [The Pathologist](#) for a hybrid conference to mark International Pathology Day. The theme of the conference is 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. Additionally, experts in their field will be

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welcomed as they deliver talks and participate in the conference's signature roundtable discussion on planetary health. Book your place to attend from [our event page](#). #IPD2023

### **The poster competition**

The poster competition for International Pathology Day, themed 'Pathology in a Changing Climate' remains open to entries until Monday 23 October. Showcase your lab work either individually or in a team whether you're based in the UK or overseas. Highlight research ideas across pathology specialties; your inspiration might come from this year's IPD event theme or the pathology-related work you are particularly proud of and want to spotlight. Visit [our website](#) for to find out more and to access branded poster templates for IPD.

### **The virtual undergraduate quiz for International Pathology Day 2023**

Following the huge success of the first virtual undergraduate quiz for IPD last year we are excited to announce that it will be back on Wednesday 15 November, from 14.00 to 15.30 (GMT). Teams of up to six international undergraduates studying medicine or biomedical science (or similar degrees such as veterinary sciences) are invited to join in this fun free virtual quiz. register from [our website site](#).

### **We will be at Medlab Middle East 2024, Dubai**

As a supporting body of Medlab Middle East, we are excited to announce that from Monday 5 to Thursday 8 February 2024, President-Elect Dr Bernie Croal will attend the congress. He will deliver a keynote talk on appropriate utilisation of laboratory testing – strategies to ensure lab testing is focused and safe.

College Fellows Dr Karin Denton and Professor Walid Al-Wali will also represent the College as speakers on the histopathology and microbiology tracks. You will also be able to visit us at the exhibition stand being hosted by the International Team. Find out more about the conference from the official [Medlab Middle East](#) website.

### **International team webinars**

The International team recently delivered a webinar aimed at UK Trusts outlining the different routes to GMC registration and the sponsorship schemes the College delivers to help International Medical Graduates come to the UK to receive training. If you would like to learn more about this, please [click here to watch the webinar](#).

## **Regional News**

### **Regional Surgeries (England)**

A series of 'surgeries' will be held over the next month, where all members in the region are warmly invited to meet with their Regional Representative via a Microsoft Teams virtual session. This will be an open time for Regional Representatives to meet with you and hear of your work, areas of concern and points of interest that you wish to raise. These are planned to be held in the time before College Council meets in order to present the region's interests and concerns to this body. These surgeries are hopefully also an opportunity for you to meet via Teams with colleagues across your region.

The next round of regional surgeries will be held on the following dates:

- **South of England surgery:** date to be confirmed – led by Dr Negar Maghsoodi ([negar.maghsoodi@rcpath.org](mailto:negar.maghsoodi@rcpath.org)), English Regional Representative to Council (South)
  - **Midlands and East of England surgery:** date to be confirmed – led by Dr Laszlo Igali ([laszlo.igali@rcpath.org](mailto:laszlo.igali@rcpath.org)), English Regional Representative to Council (Midlands and East of England)
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- **London surgery:** date to be confirmed – led by Dr Rachael Liebmann ([rachael.liebmann@rcpath.org](mailto:rachael.liebmann@rcpath.org)), English Regional Representative to Council (London)
  - **North of England surgery:** Monday 23 October 2023 from 12.30 to 2pm – led by Dr Ali Robb ([ali.robb@rcpath.org](mailto:ali.robb@rcpath.org)), English Regional Representative to Council (North of England)
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## New publications

### Guidelines

- [G077 Tissue pathways for oral and head and neck pathology](#)
- [G110 Dataset for the histopathological reporting of carcinomas of the oral cavity](#)

## College courses

### 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

### **Other external events of interest**

20–21 October 2023

[45th Annual Conference of The Association of Clinical Biochemists in Ireland](#)

25–28 October 2023

[The 18th Annual Sickle Cell & Thalassaemia Conference](#)

26 October 2023

[Understanding network meta-analysis](#)

01 November 2023

[BSBMTCT Education Day](#)

03 November 2023

[Birmingham Breast Pathology Update Course 2023](#)

03 November 2023

[Scottish National Blood Transfusion Committee Annual Educational Meeting](#)

08–09 November 2023

[Infection 360](#)

09 November 2023

[UK Myeloma Society Autumn Day](#)

09 November 2023

[BSAC National OPAT Conference 2023](#)

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](#)

29 November 2023  
[SOH International Pathology Day 2023 event](#)

30 November – 01 December 2023  
[BSAC Winter Conference: Infection 2023](#)

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](#)

25–27 January 2024  
[11th Advances Against Aspergillosis & Mucormycosis Conference](#)

15–16 March 2024  
[Fungal Update: Mycology 2024](#)

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

