



The Royal College of Pathologists

Pathology: the science behind the cure

RCPATH President's newsletter – August 2023



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President's Message

Your College needs you!

This November, a number of chairs of College committees will be demitting after coming to the end of their 3-year term. I would like to take this opportunity to thank them for the tremendous work they have done for pathology and the College.

We are now recruiting to fill these roles and I strongly encourage you to apply.

As a committee chair, you will be instrumental in shaping the College's advocacy work with parliamentarians, policy makers and stakeholders on issues for your specialty and the wider profession.

You will provide professional leadership for your specialty, helping to maintain standards and promote excellence in the teaching and practice of pathology.

The closing date is 22 September. [The full list of vacancies can be found on our website.](#)

2023 RCPATH/IBMS Northern Symposium: Pathology and People

During my engagement tour I met members from across the UK and heard how many of you would like to see the College more widely involved in regional activities.

I am very pleased to announce we are jointly hosting the [2023 RCPATH/IBMS Northern Symposium: Pathology and People with the IBMS.](#)

The event will be held on 18 October in Leeds and will bring together professionals from all backgrounds and specialties to discuss local issues, offer peer support and share learning.

I hope you will be able to join us for an exciting opportunity to meet, share experiences and network with local colleagues working in pathology services across the North of England.

Engaging parliamentarians.

- I was pleased to be able to join parliamentarians at the [APPG on Bowel Cancer](#) meeting where College member, Dr Sally Benton, highlighted the importance of pathology in early diagnosis of bowel cancer. Discussion focused on the cancer workforce and the [NHS Long Term Workforce Plan](#). We will be working closely with the APPG to help improve early diagnosis and outcomes for bowel cancer patients.

I will also be meeting Ben Lake MP, the APPG Chair to discuss these points.

- We arranged a fact-finding visit for Peter Gibson MP to his local [County Durham and Darlington NHS Foundation Trust](#) to find out more about the fantastic work of College members in the area.
- I spent an informative and enjoyable afternoon in the pathology lab with local MP, Matt Warman on a visit to [Pilgrim Hospital](#) in Boston. This was really useful in learning more about the challenges of delivering first-rate services in a rural area. Matt Warman has been a strong supporter of the role diagnostics play in improving patient outcomes.

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

Working for members

College International work held up as example of good practice by UK Parliamentary group
Antimicrobial resistance (AMR) is one of the most pressing global health threats. An estimated 1.2 million people died in 2019 from antibiotic resistance bacterial infections by 2050.

Earlier this year, [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 and College Vice-President for Learning, Professor Angharad Davies, attended to give the College perspective.

In the report by the APPG, the College's Lab Skills Africa project and educational work on AMR with the National Postgraduate Medical College of Nigeria, was highlighted as an example of good practice. You can read more [here](#).

Launch of the Trainees' Research Medal Awards 2023

The College Research Committee is pleased to announce the launch of the Trainees' Research Medal Awards for 2023. The Trainees' Research Medals are awarded annually for outstanding research work undertaken by pathologists or scientists in training. Full details of the submission process, eligibility criteria and application form are available on the [website](#).

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 and 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 grown significantly over the past month, now offering a vast collection of over 4,000 resources which have been launched more than 50,000 times. These resources include a variety of cases, videos, podcasts, quizzes for assessing learning and other relevant educational materials. If you have not already joined, [visit the College website](#) for more information.

The Pathology Portal has recently incorporated content from the Keep Antimicrobials Working project. This sharing of resources has resulted in the addition of interactive e-learning courses, videos and PowerPoints, which will support education in this specialty. The Portal has also expanded its collection of EQA material, now hosting slides from the Dermatopathology EQA.

The Pathology Portal is also delighted to welcome Mick Brockwell as a microbiology content editor. Additionally, Dr Srinivas Annavarapu joins as a contributor of paediatric pathology content and Dr Jo-An Roulson will be adding content on urology.

If you have any questions, suggestions, or think you may have content suitable for the platform, please contact 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.

RCPATH/Specialist Society Medical Elective small grant scheme – Closing date 31 August

Applications for this year's RCPATH/Specialist Society Medical Elective small grant scheme are now open!

The RCPATH/Specialist Society Medical Elective small grant is a new scheme launched to mark the College's Diamond Jubilee in 2022.

The scheme is joint funded by RCPATH and partner societies from different disciplines. It offers small grants of up to £1,000 to help support undergraduate medical and veterinary students who wish to undertake electives in pathology disciplines.

Electives may be clinical or research-based and may be undertaken in any part of the world. A minimum of £500 must be used for student travel and subsistence with the remaining amount being spent flexibly for project-related costs such as consumables, or for student costs, as appropriate for the project.

The closing date is Thursday 31 August 2023. Successful candidates will be informed in September/October 2023. More information can be found on the [College website](#).

Do you work in a small or specialist laboratory service?

The College is seeking contact with members who may be looking for, or who might be willing to offer, peer to peer support to colleagues working in similar fields. This might include those new to leadership roles in these services or those experienced in such roles. It might include those encountering new challenges in those roles or those who have experience of change. We hope to bring members with these unique experiences together to offer confidential peer to peer support and advice. Please contact richard.smith@rcpath.org if you would like to be involved.

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

Committee Chair roles – Applications now open

Make a difference and help shape College activities and policies by building the profile of your speciality through our committees.

The College is seeking to recruit Chairs for the following committees:

- Cellular Pathology SAC
- Clinical Biochemistry SAC
- Forensic Pathology SAC
- Transfusion Medicine SAC
- Veterinary Pathology SAC
- Immunology SAC
- Research Committee
- Cytopathology Sub-Committee
- Healthcare Science Committee
- Medical Examiners Committee
- Pathology Informatics Committee
- Joint Committee on Immunology and Allergy
- Intercollegiate Committee on Haematology

Why should I apply?

The College is committed to setting and maintaining professional standards and promoting excellence in the teaching and practice of pathology for the benefit of patients. Those holding office in the College contribute to this important work by providing professional leadership and contributing at a national level to the maintenance and development of pathology services and the quality of patient care.

How to apply

Visit the [Get involved at the College page](#) on the College website and submit a nomination by 5.00pm on **22 September 2023**.

Death Investigation Committee – apply for a member role

The Death Investigation Committee (DIC) is looking to recruit new members: 10 autopsy active pathologists, 1 forensic pathologist and 2 trainees – 1 histopathology trainee and 1 forensic pathology trainee.

The role will provide expertise and support for the committee and the College particularly wants to ensure the DIC is representative of all 4 UK nations. Visit the [College website](#) for more information and how to apply.

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

Please save the date and join us and our event sponsors, [The British Society for Haematology \(BSH\)](#) and [The Pathologist](#), in person at the College or virtually to celebrate IBD. The theme will look at the impact of climate change on disease and what can be done to tackle the challenges brought about by this and harness any opportunities.

Key-note speaker 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 welcomed as they deliver talks and participate in the conference's roundtable discussion on planetary health. We are also pleased to announce the return of the poster competition. Registration for the event will open soon.

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](#)

Regional Surgeries (England)

A series of 'surgeries' will be held over the next month. All members across 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 about your work, areas of concern and other issues you wish to raise. The surgeries 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 virtual surgeries are also an opportunity for you to meet 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), 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), English Regional Representative to Council (Midlands and East of England)
- **London surgery:** date to be confirmed – led by Dr Rachael Liebmann (rachael.liebmann@rcpath.org), English Regional Representative to Council (London)
- **North of England surgery:** Friday 1st September 2023 at 12.30-2pm – led by Dr Ali Robb (ali.robbs@rcpath.org), English Regional Representative to Council (North of England)

New publications

[The role of biomedical scientists within the provision of a diagnostic cytopathology service](#)

The College recently published a document cobadged with the British Association for Cytopathology and Institute of Biomedical Science on the role of biomedical scientists in diagnostic cytopathology services.

Guidelines in consultation

The following College guidelines are currently in consultation. [We welcome your feedback on our Documents in Development page.](#)

- [Guidelines on autopsy practice: Sudden unexpected deaths in infancy and childhood](#) (extended to 21 August).
- [Dataset for the histopathological reporting of carcinomas of the parathyroid](#) (deadline 16 August).
- [Dataset for histopathological reporting of vulval carcinomas](#) (deadline 22 August).
- [Guidelines on veterinary necropsy practice: Post-mortem examination of animals having received chemotherapeutic or radioactive agents](#) (deadline 28 August).

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

CPD credits: 6

Other external events of interest

25–27 August 2023

[The Diagnexia Histopathology Symposium 2023](#)

[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](#)

[14–15 September 2023](#)
[5th AML Academy: Management of Adult AML: Where are we in 2023](#)

[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](#)

[20 September 2023](#)
[Immunomodulation Update Day](#)

[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](#)

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

[25 September – 16 October 2023](#)
[Virtual Lymphoma Management 2023](#)

[28 September 2023](#)
[South West BMT Training Day](#)

[28 September 2023](#)
[South West Haemostasis and Thrombosis Meeting](#)

[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](#)

03 November 2023

[Birmingham Breast Pathology Update Course 2023](#)

08–09 November 2023

[Infection 360](#)

09 November 2023

[UK Myeloma Society Autumn Day](#)

17 November 2023

[Myeloproliferative Neoplasms Advances Day 2023](#)

20–24 November 2023

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

23 November 2023

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

24 November 2023

[IPS IV Forum](#)

04–07 December 2023

[British Society for Immunology Congress 2023](#)

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