



President's e-newsletter – March 2019

President's Messages of the Month

RCPATH Excellence Awards

We know you do a fantastic job, and we want everyone to know this too. So to celebrate excellence in pathology practice, innovation, education and training, we are launching the RCPATH Excellence Awards. These complement our schemes for public engagement and research. We are therefore inviting you to nominate your teams or colleagues, of all professional backgrounds and disciplines, in the following categories: Patient safety, Innovation in pathology practice, Significant contribution to specialty, Contribution to education.

Entries will be considered by the RCPATH Nominations Committee. The winners of individual awards will be invited to the College annual dinner to receive their awards. Team awards will be presented 'on location' or at the dinner (Depending on team size!!!). More than one award may be given in each category!

Check the [website](#) for details, and do get nominating!

Work on workforce and some really excellent news!

Huge amounts of work going on workforce, but one of the most pleasing pieces of news is that, for the first time in a long while, the histopathology training scheme has had so many excellent candidates, that a second round of recruitment is not needed. Welcome indeed to all our new trainees!

We continue to press for investment in IT systems, digital training support and training support for advanced practitioners.

Meanwhile the chemical pathology workforce survey is out for analysis, and the haematology laboratory and transfusion surveys are out for completion (reminder and

further encouragement below - we can support your needs better if we have the data!).

Cancer screening review workshop

We were delighted to host a workshop for Professor Sir Mike Richards to inform his review of national cancer screening for NHS England. Held last month at the College's new building, the workshop brought together a wide range of experts from across cancer services.

The day started with Sir Mike setting out his strategic overview for cancer screening. Other presentations examined how cancer screening programmes for bowel, breast and cervical cancer could be better organised, developed and improved.

There were also excellent panel discussions about what has worked well and what could be improved. Attendees made many valuable suggestions about training and development, quality standards and assurance, digitisation, commissioning, public understanding, IT and data and workforce and culture.

I would like to thank everyone who attended and the excellent speakers. This will be an important and significant contribution to the review.

Primary HPV cervical screening tender process

Our work on cytology continues. We will continue to work with the IBMS and BAC to monitor the NHS England Primary HPV screening procurement process. I will continue to raise concerns that affect members and I will also let you know if we receive any further information from NHS England. Lessons learned from this process have already been relayed by us into the Cancer Screening Review.

Clinical Leadership Appointments Specialised Commissioning

Clinical Reference Groups (CRGs) are the key source of clinical leadership and advice for specialised services, which are directly funded and commissioned by NHS England and support people with a range of rare and complex conditions.

NHS England is recruiting clinical membership and chair positions across the range of Specialised Commissioning CRGs. The roles aim to give doctors, nurses, allied health professionals and other NHS staff with a clinical background, the opportunity to influence and shape the delivery of specialised services on a national scale.

There are a number of CRGs which are recruiting including:

- Blood & Bone Marrow Transplantation
- Genomics
- HIV
- Immunology and Allergy
- Infectious Diseases
- Specialised Blood Disorders

The posts that are open for applications are: CRG Chairs, CRG Members, Clinical Policy Leads and Clinical Policy Fellows.

The closing dates are 22 March for CRG chairs and 10 April for other roles.

For more information on the roles and how to apply please go to [Clinical Leadership Appointments Specialised Commissioning](#)

Medical examiners' training underway

The roll-out of a network of medical examiners across England and Wales begins on 1 April. Medical examiners will help ensure accurate death certification and that the correct cases are referred to the coroner. They will also provide much needed support for bereaved families and help improve patient safety.

As the lead medical Royal College for medical examiners, we recently hosted a successful pilot training day. Feedback from delegates has been used to develop and improve further face-to-face training sessions which are being rolled out across a number of locations. *See Medical examiners face-to-face training below for more details.*

Round-up

- We were pleased to see correspondence between NHS England and the Committee of Public Accounts on supporting primary care services and NHS England's contract with Capita. Many of the recommendations that are actively being addressed are areas we have been asking for such as an integrated approach and consultation with service users.
- I spoke with Sir David Behan, recently appointed Chair of Health Education England. Sir David will be working closely with Baroness Dido Harding, Chair of NHS Improvement, to develop a detailed workforce implementation plan. They are due to present initial recommendations to the Department of Health later this spring with a final workforce implementation plan to follow later this year. Sir David will be coming with me to visit a pathology department to get a real feel for at least some of what we do.
- Since opening our doors last year we have welcomed a variety of professional meetings, receptions and conferences to great accolade. Please do visit the Events @ No 6 website or contact the team sales@eventsatno6.com to learn more about catering offers and discounts available for members and medical associations across our meeting spaces.

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COLLEGE NEWS

UK Consultants in Haematology & Transfusion Medicine – please complete College’s Workforce Survey on Laboratory Haematology & Transfusion medicine

The College aims to collect a comprehensive picture of medical and scientific staff in the UK and obtain a realistic idea of the number of vacant posts. This will help us provide an accurate picture to influence government agencies on your behalf. You or your colleagues should have received this survey. We need one reply from each department, so please help the designated person who is completing it. If you are that person, please read the list of [questions](#) before starting. The [survey is available](#) until Friday 15 March. The information you provide us will be used as aggregated statistics in a report and all data will be anonymised.

For more information, please contact workforce@rcpath.org.

Explore the College’s website new document library

As part of efforts to make the College website more user-friendly, a new powerful search tool, a [new document library](#), has been launched. The library allows you to search for specific key words, then filter by specialty, document type and published date to find exactly what you’re looking for.

Demonstration of the Learning Environment for Pathology Trainees (LEPT) system

Deaneries and Local Education Training Boards (LETBs) are reminded that a demonstration of the LEPT system can be arranged. The LEPT system is an ePortfolio for histopathology and chemical pathology (metabolic medicine) trainees. It is a place to record workplace-based assessments, including multi-source feedback (MSF), and can be used to support the Annual Review of Competence Progression (ARCP) process. The ePortfolio also provides Educational Supervisor Structured Reports (ESSRs), which gives a snapshot of a year’s training that can inform the ARCP process. Trainees also have the opportunity to include and record critical reflection. For further information or to make arrangements for a demonstration, please contact assessment@rcpath.org.

RCPATH Workload and Job Planning Working Group – Update from Chair, Dr Gareth Lloyd Rowlands

The Working Group expects to publish the proposed 5th edition of the document *Staffing and workload for histopathology and cytopathology departments* on Friday 29 March, which will open a 3-4 month consultation period with all interested parties.

All evidence based feedback received will be used as the basis of final negotiations for the definitive active version of the document, which will be published before the end of the year.

Haematologist Audit Evaluators

We are looking for haematologists to evaluate audits submitted for certification. CPD points are available for each audit evaluated. For more information and how to apply go to [Audit Evaluators](#).

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).

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.

PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

Events and activities in support of Bowel Cancer Awareness Month

The College is supporting [Bowel Cancer Awareness Month](#) (BCAM) in April in by running hands-on activities about digestion and bowel cancer screening for adult audiences at the Royal College of Nursing's ['older people'-themed evening event](#) on 11 April and for 400+ school students at the annual [School Science Conference](#) on 24 April. You will be able to try out these activities in your own area as we will be launching them as a new activity resource pack on our [website](#) very soon. Also look out for a guest piece from consultant chemical scientist, Dr Ruth Ayling FRCPath, on the [Bowel Cancer UK blog](#) in April. Find out how you can get involved in the College's contributions to BCAM by emailing [Penny Fletcher](#)

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 bit of a cash 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 to deliver 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 June 2019 but it is never too early to get started. [Get in touch](#) if you'd like to discuss your ideas. We also have some inspiring examples of the kind of activities you could run from [previous recipients](#) and a [recent art workshop for Nottingham Hospital School](#) that was funded by the 2018 grant.

NEW CONSULTATIONS

- [Guidelines on autopsy practice: Autopsies after tissue and organ donation](#) – closes 14 March 2019

COLLEGE CONFERENCES AND SYMPOSIA

[Investing in the Laboratory Workforce of the future](#)

Tuesday 19 March 2019

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

CPD Credits: 6

Attracting, recruiting and retaining staff is one of the most pressing issues facing the NHS. The pathology workforce is no exception - [a recent College census](#) found that only 3% of histopathology departments across the UK have enough staff to meet demand. The College is also working to identify issues in other specialties.

Ensuring you have enough staff with the right skill mix is crucial to creating a safe and thriving working environment to deliver high quality patient care. This workshop will help you understand the steps to create working environments to retain a sustainable workforce.

Working with pathology colleagues from across the UK, the day will explore:

- Understanding the changing nature of the pathology workforce.
- What influences people to choose pathology as a career.
- Creating and sharing ideas to help find SMART local, regional and national solutions.
- Delivering safe patient care by securing the safety of staff.
- Current and future College guidance around workforce design and demand management.

CM-Path Biomarker Workshop: A Practical Guide to Pathology Research

Tuesday 2 April 2019

To be held at the Royal Society of Medicine, 1 Wimpole Street, London, W1G 0LZ

CPD credits: 5

The CM-Path biomarker workshop series aims at discussing the current and future challenges of innovative biomarker developments, and agreeing on the barriers for delivery of clinical diagnostics assays. The third workshop is organized by the CM-Path Discovery Workstream and focuses on advances in tissue based research and presents a practical guide to developing your research ideas.

We will cover:

- Latest advances in technology including FFPE based whole genome sequencing, multiplex tissue assays and single cell analysis
- Sources of research funding and opportunities for support and collaboration for pathology based research
- Practical guide for becoming involved with tissue based research including; ethical and legal considerations, developing a tissue archive to support research, supporting clinical trials and developing ideas for translational research.

[Liver Biopsy in the Assessment of Medical Liver Disease](#)

Thursday 4 and 5, April 2019

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

CPD Credits: 10

This year 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 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 April 4 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.

The histology for cases presented in the afternoon can be previewed via the on line digital slides. Most delegates have done this and found it useful.

Day 2 – Histopathology Workshop on Liver Pathology

This slide based practical workshop is designed to complement the annual course; *Liver biopsy in the assessment of medical liver disease*, but also works as a stand-alone course.

The course includes practical aspects of the interpretation of medical liver biopsies and will also cover a range of focal liver lesions. The slides are pre-scanned and participants are requested to look at the digital images on line prior to the meeting.

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.

Medical Examiners face-to-face training

Medical examiners will ensure accurate death certification across a local area, provide much-needed support for bereaved families and help improve patient safety. Medical examiners will be doctors registered with the GMC holding a current licence to practise. Any doctor wishing to work as a medical examiner will need to attend a face-to-face training day and complete mandatory e-learning modules.

The Royal College of Pathologists, the lead Medical Royal College for medical examiners, is providing the essential training which will equip you with the knowledge and skills you will need for this important role. The day will include short presentations, small group discussions of case scenarios and the opportunity to share experience. The training has been trialled with experienced medical examiners from pilot or early adopter sites.

A certificate will be awarded to provide evidence of completion of the face-to-face component of the Medical Examiner training. This training complements the e-learning which you must complete before attending the face-to-face training. The College is inviting new medical examiners to join the Royal College of Pathologists on successful on completion of their training. **Please note**, it is necessary to stay for the

entire day to receive a certificate of completion of this training. You must have completed all 26 core e-learning modules before attending the face-to-face training.

[Medical Examiner face-to-face training session](#)

Monday 18 March 2019

To be held at Peterborough City Hospital, Edith Cavell Campus, Bretton Gate, Bretton, Peterborough, Cambridgeshire, PE3 9GZ

CPD Credits: 6

[Medical Examiner face-to-face training session](#)

Thursday 11 April 2019

To be held at Life Sciences Hub Wales, The Chris McGuigan Hub 3 Assembly Square, Cardiff CF10 4PL

CPD Credits: 6

[Medical Examiner face-to-face training session](#)

Thursday 16 May 2019

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

CPD Credits: 6

[Medical Examiner face-to-face training session](#)

Thursday 20 June 2019

To be held at Well Met, Cloth Hall Court, Quebec Street, Leeds, West Yorkshire, LS1 2HA

CPD Credits: 6

NEWS FROM EXTERNAL ORGANISATIONS AND JOINT WORKING

National Institute for Health and Care Excellence ([NICE](#)) – Impact report on sexual health

NICE has published a [new impact report](#) on sexual health. This focuses on how NICE's evidence-based guidance contributes to improvements in sexual health.

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.

- 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.

OTHER EVENTS OF INTEREST

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

- [Embryo biopsy workshop](#) – 4-5 April 2019
- [Engineering Aspects of Infection Control](#) – 8-12 July 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
- Microbiology Society Annual Conference – 7-11 April 2019
- Focus 2019 – 2-3 May 2019
- National Breast Pathology Update Course – 16-17 April 2019
- Cardiac Markers 2019 – 5 April 2019
- Central Sterilising Club – 1-2 April 2019
- Rise of The Zombie Drugs – 2 April 2019
- Histopathology of the Bone Marrow – 9 September 2019
- BSBMT Scientific Day: Methods of T cell depletion – 1 May 2019
- Engineering Aspects of Infection Control – 9-13 September 2019
- Blood Sciences Workshop - Templates of Haematology – 25 April 2019
- BSAC Residential Workshops for EUCAST Susceptibility Testing 2019 – 16-18 April 2019
- UKFHD 48th Academic Meeting – 8 May 2019
- European Congress on Digital Pathology (ECDP) – 11-13 April 2019
- Spring meeting 2019 - Worries with the (hospital) water works – 14 May 2019
- DIPC development day - Outbreaks and the DIPC: managing the fallout – 20 June 2019
- Viruses, Vaccines and Eradication Conference 2019 – 6 June 2019
- RCPATH CPD accredited online resources can be found at the following [link](#)

