



## **Newsletter from Dr Mike Osborn, President, The Royal College of Pathologists – July 2021**

### **President's Message of the Month**

#### **The College's Strategy – 2021–24**

We have launched our new three-year strategy, which has been developed with members and has patient care and safety at its core. It highlights the College's values, aims and our collective mission to shape the future of pathology.

Our strategy reflects that everything we do – everything that everyone does – will be affected and shaped by COVID. Our prime directive is to maintain the core functions of the college despite COVID. We will work to ensure COVID recovery includes positive recognition and sustained support for pathology services and training, especially across the NHS.

#### **Secretary of State for Health and Social Care**

I have written to the new Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, Sajid Javid, offering my congratulations on his recent appointment. I outlined the College's serious concerns over preparations to deal with the backlog of cancer care, and other serious illnesses, and the surge of demand for pathology services as a result of the pandemic. We need increased investment in pathology services, particularly in the recruitment and training of pathologists and scientists. I have also requested a meeting to discuss these areas in more detail and invited the Secretary of State to visit a pathology laboratory to see first-hand the amazing work of our members.

#### **College members recognised in Queen's Birthday Honours**

It was fantastic to see the vital work of our members recognised in the Queen's Birthday Honours List including those whose crucial work made a significant difference during the pandemic. I would like to offer my congratulations and to thank them for all their work during such a challenging and difficult time.

The following members were recognised:

- Commander of the Order of the British Empire – Dr Jonathan Paul Sheffield OBE. Lately Chief Executive Officer, Clinical Research Network, National Institute for Health Research. For services to medical research particularly during the COVID-19 response.

- Professor Marie Ann Scully. Consultant Haematologist, University College London Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust has been awarded an Order of the British Empire (OBE) for services to blood disorders.
- Professor Anthony Walter Rowbottom. Professor and Clinical Director for Pathology, Lancashire and South Cumbria Pathology Network, Lancashire Teaching Hospitals has been awarded an Order of the British Empire (OBE) for services to pathology during the COVID-19 pandemic.

### **New College Lay member**

The College's Lay network facilitates lay input into College activities and is an integral part of the College. The network advises College committees and Council on matters of concern to the public.

I am delighted to welcome Vince Voon to the College. I am looking forward to working with Vince to develop our activities to help us support our members to deliver excellent patient care.

### **Extending medical examiner scrutiny to non-acute settings**

As the lead medical royal college for MEs, we welcome the roll out of the ME system to cover deaths in non-acute and community settings.

It is another important step towards creating a world-leading system of death investigation and patient safety improvement, with every death in England and Wales that is not reported to a coroner being scrutinised by an independent medical examiner.

The College has trained over 1500 medical examiners and medical examiner officers, and expects to train many more over the coming months.

### **#Catch up with Cancer campaign**

Following the #CatchUpWithCancer roundtable discussion in May hosted by the All-Party Parliamentary Group for Radiotherapy, All-Party Parliamentary Group on Cancer and All-Party Parliamentary Group on Health, the recommendations and views were reflected in the Catch Up With Cancer – The Way Forward report asking for an urgent response to tackle the COVID induced cancer backlog.

I, along with 70 MPs, heads of medical colleges and leading oncologists, signed a letter that was sent to the Prime Minister urging him to accept the recommendations in the report. The letter was covered in the media.

### **On the agenda**

- We were pleased to see the report from the House of Commons Science and Technology Committee on regulations for direct-to-consumer genetic testing that followed a consultation we provided evidence for with the Royal College of Physicians. Many of the recommendations we made were noted in the report, such as genomic tests being approved for access via a registered health professional and support for NHS professionals encountering patients who have used genetic tests. Our evidence has also been published on the committee's website.
- I was delighted to present at the British Association of Gynecological Pathologists on *Pandemic tales*. My talk covered the core work of some

specialties during COVID-19, redeployment, lost training and working with Health Education England and the devolved nations.

- I also spoke at the [ACB's UKMedLab21 event](#) on Workforce Issues and Solutions for Cellular Pathology.
- Other members of the College have also had recent speaking engagements, Professor Darren Treanor, Chair of the Digital Pathology Committee, spoke at the Westminster Health Forum conference on the use of Artificial Intelligence in Healthcare and Professor Sarah Coupland, College Vice President for Communications, spoke at a Westminster Health Forum event on the Next Steps for the use of Genomics in Healthcare. These events are attended by a wide range of College stakeholders including clinical colleagues from other specialties, parliamentarians and policy makers and are a valuable opportunity to promote the College voice.
- We supported [Diabetes Awareness Week](#), highlighting the key role many of our members play in managing and monitoring diabetes, and in treating complications. Diabetes UK predict that 5.5 million people will have diabetes in the UK by 2030.

**Dr Mike Osborn, President, The Royal College of Pathologists**

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#### **WORKING FOR MEMBERS**

##### **College Diamond Jubilee – 2022**

The College will celebrate its Diamond Jubilee in 2022. Plans are underway for a year-long programme of activities to highlight the role of pathology and the College with events for members, their families, friends and colleagues, policymakers and the wider public. The College's 60th birthday is on 21 June 2022 and an Open Day will take place in London, to which we have invited HM The Queen, who is our patron, and which will include a live-streamed lecture by Professor Jonathan Van Tam. There will also be regional events and online activities so watch this space!

##### **Diamond Jubilee event – Calling all cyclists!**

As part of the celebrations next year, the College is planning to organise both a bespoke physical and virtual Land's End–John O'Groats (LEJOG) cycle ride! We need to know numbers for the physical ride in advance to get things sorted. If you are interested please contact Professor Sarah Coupland ASAP on [s.e.coupland@liverpool.ac.uk](mailto:s.e.coupland@liverpool.ac.uk).

### **Pathology Standards – Webinar Series on Guidance for Implementation**

The College has designed free, bite sized webinar series to help pathologists with the implementation of new and revised clinical guidelines. The webinars are presented by authors of datasets and tissue pathways.

Register for the next webinar – [Implementation guidance for carcinomas and mucinous neoplasms of the appendix – Friday 23 July 12.30pm](#)

### **RCPATH Foundation Fellowships**

The College will be making a number of Foundation Fellowships available again this year. The Foundation Fellowship scheme is open to Foundation doctors who secure a post rotating through any pathology specialty – this includes histopathology, haematology, medical microbiology and infectious diseases or any other specialty represented by the College. Foundation doctors undertaking longitudinal integrated foundation training (LIFT) in pathology are also eligible to apply.

The closing date is 31 August 2021 and more information can be found on the [College website](#). If your department has placements for Foundation doctors please do encourage them to apply.

### **GET INVOLVED AT THE COLLEGE**

We are keen to encourage and enable more people of all identities and from all backgrounds to become involved in the College.

### **Are you a UK consultant who is dual accredited in Medical Microbiology and Infectious Diseases?**

Most consultant job descriptions that the College's Workforce Department currently endorse, and posts that come to interview, are for joint Medical Microbiology (MM) and Infectious Diseases (ID).

The department is seeking to recruit new assessors who are dual accredited in both MM and ID.

The College attaches great importance to the duties of its assessors on interview panels (advisory appointment committees/AACs). College assessors act as our spokesperson regarding the adequacy of the candidates' suitability for the post.

They also play a vital role in helping us uphold the highest standards of pathological practice. The College assessor is often the only statutory external influence on an AAC.

More information on the role and an application form are available on the [College website](#). If you have questions, please contact Reshma Patel on 020 7451 6725, [reshma.patel@rcpath.org](mailto:reshma.patel@rcpath.org) or [workforce@rcpath.org](mailto:workforce@rcpath.org).

### **Histopathology Reporting Conjoint Board**

The College is seeking a Histopathology Fellow to sit on the Histopathology Reporting Conjoint Board; a joint committee of the Institute of Biomedical Science (IBMS) and the Royal College of Pathologists (RCPATH). The Board advances the practice of biomedical scientists in histopathology reporting and devises and implements training and assessment processes for biomedical scientists to undertake histopathology reporting. Further information about the role and information about how to apply is available on the

[College website](#). Applications must be submitted by Friday 23 July.

### **Committee vacancies**

There are opportunities for fellows of the College to get involved in College committees. The following roles are available in the following specialty areas:

- Chair of the Prenatal, Perinatal and Paediatric Pathology Specialty Advisory Committee
- Chair of the Dermatopathology Sub-committee
- Various roles on the Dermatopathology Sub-committee.

### **Why should I apply?**

The Royal College of Pathologists 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.

### **Who should apply?**

Make a difference and help to shape College activities and policy by building the profile of your specialty and pathology in general through our committees.

### **How to apply**

Visit the volunteering opportunities page on the [College website](#) and submit your application to [elections@rcpath.org](mailto:elections@rcpath.org) by Friday 16 July 2021.

### **Nominations open for Asst Registrar, Wales Regional Chair and NI Regional Chair**

The nomination phase for the election of three of the college's trustees opened on 1 June.

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

These roles offer the opportunity to contribute at a national level to the maintenance and development of pathology services and the quality of care that patients receive.

Information on the three roles can be found on the following links:

- [Assistant Registrar](#)
- [Northern Ireland Regional Council Chair](#)
- [Wales Regional Council Chair](#)

Nominations will be accepted up to midday on 6 September 2021.

### **Become a performance reviewer for invited reviews**

We are recruiting for reviewers to undertake RCPATH invited reviews. This is a fantastic opportunity for personal development by representing the College and helping colleagues and their departments, thereby making a significant contribution to improving patient safety. Visit the [Performance reviewers for invited reviews](#) page and submit your application to [professionalism@rcpath.org](mailto:professionalism@rcpath.org) by 31 July 2021.

## **REGIONAL SYMPOSIA**

**Scotland Symposium 2021 – Friday 8 October**

Please save the date for this event. Further information will follow in the following months.

### **Regional surgeries in England**

The College's Regional Representatives on the College Council are introducing new and innovative ways to hear from members and understand the views across the region that they represent.

A series of 'surgeries' will be held over the next few months, where all members in the region are 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. The surgeries have been 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 dates for surgeries are as follows:

- **South of England surgery:** 17 August, 10am–12pm – *led by Dr Negar Maghsoodi, English Regional Representative of College Council (South)*
- **North of England surgery:** 19 August, 12.30–2pm – *led by Dr Ali Robb, English Regional Representative to Council (North of England)*
- **Midland and East of England surgery:** date and time to be confirmed – *led by Dr Laszlo Igali, English Regional Representative to Council (Midlands and East of England)*

### **PROMOTING PATHOLOGY**

#### **Free online public engagement training**

Book your free place at our online public engagement training. The two sessions on 23 September and 7 October are an opportunity for our members to gain new skills and to get involved in National Pathology Week in November.

Delivered by trainers from the Science Museum Group, the sessions will cover key public engagement skills and each participant will develop their own virtual careers talk for secondary school students.

Signing up to this training will involve attending both sessions and agreeing to deliver a talk at one of a number of short careers events for schools in November. You will also need to prepare a 'first version' of your talk to share with the group between the first and second sessions. Dates and times: 23 September 14:00–16:00 and 7 October 14:30–16:00.

This free course is open to all RCPATH Fellows and trainees although places are limited to 15. To express an interest in this course please email the public engagement team.

#### **Video messages about COVID-19 vaccines**

The College public engagement team has worked with eight College members to develop a series of video messages to help dispel myths and misconceptions and address issues about COVID-19 vaccines.

As well as videos in English, volunteers also recorded video messages in one or more other languages including Arabic, Hindi, Tamil and Spanish. The videos will be disseminated to relevant communities to support efforts to increase vaccine uptake. Please share the [playlist link](#), or links to individual videos, with any contacts or communities you are in touch with who might benefit from watching these messages.

We would like to thank all of the RCPATH members who volunteered so much of their time to put these videos together.

### **Get creative with our Art of Pathology Competition**

We're inviting entrants of all ages from the UK and abroad to interpret this year's theme, *All Together Now*, using any artistic medium. The winner from each of the three age categories will receive £50 and have their artwork published online and in the *Bulletin*. Find out more and have a look at [last year's winning entries](#).

### **Help spread the word about our Science Communication Prize**

If you know any pathology trainees or undergraduates who has shown excellence in their science communication activities throughout the year, please encourage them to apply for this prize. The winner will receive £200 and be invited to receive the award at a College event. Find out more at [on the College website](#).

## **NEW PUBLICATION**

The National Medical Examiner Good Practice Series is a topical collection of focused summary documents, designed to be easily read and digested by busy front-line staff, with links to further reading, guidance and support. The third document in our series provides recommendations for [how medical examiners can support families and carers after the death of a person with a learning disability or an autistic person](#).

## **COLLEGE CONFERENCES AND EVENTS**

### **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.

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 session – Virtual Training**

**Wednesday 29 September 2021**

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**

**Friday 9 July 2021**

**CPD credits: 6**

#### **Medical examiner officer training session – Virtual Training**

**Friday 24 September 2021**

**CPD credits: 6**

**For further information, please contact the RCPATH Conference Department at [meetings@rcpath.org](mailto:meetings@rcpath.org) or on 020 7451 6700.**

### **NEWS FROM EXTERNAL ORGANISATIONS**

#### **NICE seeks your views**

The National Institute for Health and Care Excellence ([NICE](#)) is conducting an important research project to understand views and experiences of NICE, looking at how it operates, its work and resources, and its strategic ambitions. To take part, please complete [this short survey](#), which should take approximately 10 minutes, by 18:00 on 16 July.

#### **NHSX launch three new digital playbooks**

NHSX's three new digital playbooks are designed to help clinical teams reimagine and redesign how patients receive care and integrate digital solutions into a patient's treatment journey.

The new playbooks focus on mental health, gastroenterology and cancer and are a series of free-to-access webpages on the [NHSX website](#).

The suite of playbooks, which covers eight of the largest outpatient specialties by volume, forms part of NHS England and NHS Improvement's work to redesign outpatient pathways. They support the NHS's commitment to reduce face-to-face outpatient appointments by up to a third over the next five years and make digitally enabled primary and outpatient care mainstream across the NHS.

You can view the playbooks [here](#) and [get in touch](#) with your feedback. If there's a case study you would like to share, please email [dnhsx@nhsx.nhs.uk](mailto:dnhsx@nhsx.nhs.uk).

### **OTHER EVENTS OF INTEREST**

03 July–10 September 2021

[Blood cell morphology webinar series](#)

5 July 2021

[The British Society for Dermatopathology's 8th Annual Virtual Self-Assessment Course 2021](#)



7 July 2021

Webinar: Haemato-oncology Bacterial Infections

6–8 July 2021

Manchester Pathology 2021, 13th Joint Meeting of the BDIAP and The Pathological Society of Great Britain and Ireland

20 July 2021

Webinar: Diagnostic driven strategies for antimicrobial resistance in the UK

4–9 September 2021

Live On-line Diagnostic Dermatopathology course

4–9 September 2021; then 2 hours every Saturday 10am–12pm up to 30+ hours

– For more information, please email Dr Hend Mahfouz: [hendmahfouz21@gmail.com](mailto:hendmahfouz21@gmail.com)

13–14 September 2021

BAUP Advanced Prostate Pathology Course – For more information, please email: [events@baup.org.uk](mailto:events@baup.org.uk)

17–18 September 2021

2021 General Pathology Conference

20–24 September 2021

BAGP Long Course

27–28 September 2021

BAUP Advanced Bladder Pathology Course

13 November 2021–30 July 2022

30 Webinars in the EOE (Season2)

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

**RCPATH CPD-accredited online resources can be found [here](#).**



