



The Royal College of Pathologists

Pathology: the science behind the cure

RCPATH President's newsletter – November 2024



President's Message

NHS 10-year plan (England)

The consultation for the [10 year plan for the NHS](#) in England is currently underway, and the College, with input from officers, senior staff, and College committees have been formulating our submission which is due in at the start of December.

The three healthcare shifts advocated by government will likely form the basis of the eventual plan to be launched in the Spring of 2025. Clearly pathology will be vital for the shift to prevention, the shift to digital and the shift to community - all of which will need robust and well-resourced pathology services. We will be sharing our final response with you once it has been submitted.

College's Annual General Meeting

I was very pleased to chair my first College AGM as President and to welcome the following members who formally took up their roles at the AGM.

- Dr Shubha Allard, Co-opted Trustee
- Professor Marco Novelli, Co-opted Trustee
- Professor Peter Johnston takes up the post of Assistant Registrar, to be known as Vice President, according to the College By-laws.
- Dr Charu Chopra, Chair Scotland Regional Council

The [2023–2024 annual report](#) was also published and ratified. It showcases the work of the College and its members over the past year. Find out about how we

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are working with our members, volunteers and partners to develop a diverse and inclusive professional community, transform pathology and bring about better outcomes for more people across the world.

Parliamentary and stakeholder engagement

- We welcomed the increased funding for the NHS outlined in the first budget of the new government. However there needs to be stronger investment in diagnostics, especially in pathology. [Our response](#) highlighted that pathology is vital for diagnosis, treatment and prevention and needs sustained investment.
- The [Wales Coastal Walk](#), led and organised by Wales Regional Council Chair Dr Anu Gunavardhan, highlighted the work of pathologists in the prevention, diagnosis, treatment and monitoring of rare diseases. Cllr Gwenda Roberts, Mayor of Penarth, Jenny Rathbone MS, SWAN clinic, Ethnic Minority Women in Welsh Health Care and [Nerve Tumours UK](#) joined Welsh Council members on the walk.

International Pathology Day 2024

I was delighted to host International Pathology Day earlier this month. I was joined by over 100 delegates from around the world to hear about the global challenges of Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR). Dame Sally Davies, the UK's Special Envoy on Antimicrobial Resistance, was the special guest and gave some insightful views about her experiences and work. As well as Dame Sally, we were joined by experts from Canada, Hong Kong, Nigeria and the UK offering their insights on AMR; exploring challenges and opportunities and comparing and highlighting similar experiences.

We are also planning to develop an international position statement on AMR. If you would like to contribute to this, please contact Danny Scarsbrook, RCPATH Policy Officer danny.scarsbrook@rcpath.org

Dr Bernie Croal
President, The Royal College of Pathologists
X: [@RCPath](#)

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

Working for members

International Collaboration on Cancer Reporting Dataset Consultation

The ICCR invites you to review the draft of Kidney datasets (Renal Biopsy for Tumour and Renal Epithelial Neoplasms). Access the documents and consultation at [ICCR Datasets Under Consultation](#) and submit your comments by Monday 16 December 2024.

The Pathology Portal – EQA circulations

The Pathology Portal features over 5,800 resources across various specialties, including case studies, lectures, recap videos, podcasts, and quizzes. Designed to support the professional development of pathologists at all career stages, these resources have been accessed more than 215,000 times by over 4,500 users.

Over the past month we have seen an increase in the number of EQA circulations being hosted on the Pathology Portal, providing easy access to highly detailed whole slide images as well as post EQA reports, giving the opportunity for future use to those not involved in the 'live' circulation.

A number of people have contacted us to provide content and discuss potential educational contributions to the Portal in areas such as haematology, medical microbiology and virology.

The Pathology Portal team would like to remind users that a downloadable learning record is available from the Learning Hub, which can be used to support self-accreditation of CPD.

If you haven't yet explored the Pathology Portal, you can find more details on how to join by visiting the [College website](#). Share your feedback, questions, suggestions, or content by contacting us at pathologyportal@rcpath.org.

International

Webinar Recordings on Key Skills to Enhance an Academic Career

In October the International Team delivered a 2-part webinar series exploring Key Skills to Enhance an Academic Career. The first webinar was on 'Applying for bursaries and preparing presentations for international conferences' and the second webinar focused on 'Publishing papers for journals and applying for international grants'. Thank you to all the speakers who took part and to Professor Marta Cohen, RCPATH Vice President for Learning for creating the programme and moderating the webinars. If you would like to watch the recordings, they can be found on [our website here](#).

New publications

New consultations

- [Guidelines on autopsy practice: Aviation-related fatalities](#) (closes 25 November 2024)
- [Best practice recommendations: The retention and storage of pathological records and specimens](#) (closes 28 November 2024)

College Courses

[An update on feline soft tissue sarcomas; where are we now, and where do we go next?](#)

12.30pm, Tuesday 3 December 2024

CPD credits: 1 (self-credited)

The past, the present and hopefully the future of prognosticating feline soft tissue sarcomas; this webinar aims to give an overview of where we currently are regarding the histological grading of feline soft tissue sarcomas, with some insight into the origins via grading STS in humans and canine, and the development of the proposed grading system in cats. It will look at some of the challenges, including nomenclature, subtyping, the complication of feline injection site sarcomas, and the subjectivity of some aspects. It will also look at where we would like to go in the future....

This event will take place at 12:30pm and last approximately 1 hour.

[Autopsy webinar series - Resuscitation and pre-hospital care-related injuries](#)

1pm, Wednesday 11 December 2024

CPD credits: 1 (self-credited)

This webinar will focus on the findings related to resuscitation in pre-hospital settings. We will explore common iatrogenic injuries that can arise during resuscitation attempts. We will discuss the various medical devices and procedures used in the field, alongside the significance of post-mortem findings. This event will take place via zoom at 1:00pm and last approximately 1 hour.

[Autopsy webinar series – Fire related deaths](#)

1pm, Wednesday 15 January 2025

CPD credits: 1 (self-credited)

This event will take place via zoom at 1:00pm and last approximately 1 hour.

[The role of pathology in farm animal disease surveillance – webinar](#)

12.30pm, Wednesday 22 January 2025

CPD credits: 1 (self-credited)

This event will take place at 12:30pm and last approximately 1 hour.

[Cytology of the Respiratory System and Thorax - webinar](#)

1pm, Wednesday 5 February 2025

CPD credits: 1 (self-credited)

The talk will involve canine and feline case presentations of various pathologic processes of the respiratory system and thorax, with real-time viewing of digital slides via screen-sharing. Samples studied may include respiratory washes, thoracic effusions and FNAs of solid masses of the nasal passages, lungs and mediastinum. The talk is aimed at residents training in clinical pathology, medicine and oncology. Residents training in anatomic pathology and veterinary practitioners with an interest in cytology may also find it relevant.

This event will take place via zoom at 1:00pm and last approximately 1 hour.

[Autopsy webinar series – Pulmonary fibrosis](#)

1pm, Wednesday 12 February 2025

CPD credits: 1 (self-credited)

This event will take place via zoom at 1:00pm and last approximately 1 hour.

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](#)

Thursday, 16 January 2025

CPD credits: 6

[Medical Examiner training – Virtual](#)

Tuesday, 25 March 2025

CPD credits: 6

[Medical Examiner training – In-person](#)

Thursday, 5 June 2025

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 – Virtual](#)

Tuesday, 4 March 2025

CPD credits: 6

News from other organisations

Editor and deputy editor roles for Lab Tests Online UK

Two positions are now available to get involved in this key project.

[Lab Tests Online UK](#) is written by practising laboratory doctors and scientists to help patients and the public understand clinical laboratory tests that are used in diagnosis, monitoring and treatment of disease. Recent integration with the NHS app has seen our visitor numbers increase rapidly.

We're looking for an editor and deputy editor(s) to join the Lab Tests Online UK board and ensure that the website's content meets the needs of its audience. With support from the LabMed staff team and LTO volunteer reviewers, you'll be helping to oversee and refine content review processes, check edited content and seek patient feedback to keep content responsive and effective.

Editorial experience is desirable but not essential. We are looking for:

Members of LabMed, IBMS or RCPATH

HCPC registration and band 8c or above for biomedical scientists

Full FRCPath for clinical scientists and chemical pathologists

Closing date Friday 13 December

For more information or any queries about the roles please email @ sahana@labmed.org.uk

PGCert in Paediatric Infectious Diseases – University of Oxford

The Postgraduate Certificate (PGCert) in Paediatric Infectious Diseases is a part-time, online course directing students through the syllabus required in Europe for clinical training in the subspecialty. The course is appropriate for both those in the UK and Overseas. For more information visit the [University of Oxford website](#).

Other external events of interest

29 November 2024

[Vulvo-Vaginal Pathology Update Course](#)

04 December 2024

[Upcoming Challenges in Infection prevention & Control : Devices, Antimicrobials Resistance](#)

05 December 2024

[Healthcare Infection Society \(HIS\) Infection Prevention and Control \(IPC\) leaders' course - Investing in the future: quality improvement and education](#)

09-10 December 2024

[The British Society for Immunology Clinical Immunology Professional Network Conference 2024](#)

09-10 December 2024

[Wales External Quality Assessment Scheme \(Weqas\) Conference 2024](#)

11-12 December 2024

[11th Digital Pathology & AI Congress: Europe](#)

12 December 2024

[Nottingham & Singapore Breast Pathology Online Masterclass](#)

12 December 2024

[Johnson & Johnson Group for Research and Assessment of Psoriasis and Psoriatic Arthritis \(GRAPPA\) Webinars 2024](#)

Our full programme of CPD events can be found on the members' [website](#).

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