

WALES

Regional newsletter

Winter 2018

This issue...

This Winter issue of the Royal College of Pathologists Regional newsletter will be looking at what's been going on in your region, including news, events, funding opportunities as well as giving a summary of UK wide updates and College news.

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*Save the date -
6 June 2018:
"Symposium on
Pathology in
Wales"*



Want to Contribute?

We are looking for members to help us inform on what's going on in your area, if you have news to share, research or funding opportunities— anything you think other members would find interesting please contact:

Jessica.zago@rcpath.org

To find out more about the College's work in Wales: <https://www.rcpath.org/uk-regions/wales.html>

Meet the Wales Regional Council

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Wales Regional Council members with Prof Jo Martin, RCPATH President, and Dr Suzy Lishman, previous RCPATH President, at a WRC meeting last year. From left to right: Dr Jonathan Kell, Dr Anurag Joshi, Prof Jo Martin, Dr Jim Seale, Dr Suzy Lishman, Dr Adam Christian, Dr Angharad Davies, Dr David Cassidy, and at the front Dr Alison Finall, Dr Esther Youd and Dr Huyam Abdelsalam.

Chair: Dr Esther Youd	Clinical Director of Pathology/ Consultant Histopathologist, Royal Glamorgan Hospital
Dr Adam Dallmann	Histopathology trainee, University Hospital of Wales
Dr Adam Christian	Consultant Histopathologist, University Hospital of Wales
Dr Alison Finall	Consultant Histopathologist, Morriston Hospital
Dr Angharad Davies	Honorary Consultant Microbiologist, Public Health Wales
Dr Anurag Joshi	Consultant Histopathologist, University Hospital of Wales
Ms Avril Wayte	Consultant Clinical Scientist, Betsi Cadwaladr UHB
Dr Brendan Healy	Consultant in Microbiology and Infectious Diseases, Public Health Wales
Dr David Cassidy	Consultant Chemical Pathologist, Prince Charles Hospital
Mr Geoffrey Armstrong	Clinical Biochemist, Wrexham Maelor Hospital
Dr Grant Robinson	Consultant Haematologist, Nevill Hall Hospital
Ms Helen Archer	IBMS Representative
Dr Huyam Abdel Salam	Consultant Histopathologist, Glan Clwyd Hospital
Dr Ian Frayling	Consultant in Genetic Pathology, University Hospital of Wales
Dr James Seale	Consultant Haematologist, Betsi Cadwaladr UHB
Dr John Murphy	Consultant Histopathologist, West Wales General Hospital
Dr Jonathan Kell	Consultant Haematologist, University Hospital of Wales
Ms Kelly Ward	Deputy IBMS representative
Dr Matthew Pugh	Histopathology trainee, University Hospital Wales
Prof Meena Upadhyaya	Co-opted Member
Mrs Melanie Barker	NHS Wales Health Collaborative, Observer
Dr Sarah Winstanley	Histopathology trainee, University Hospital of Wales
Dr Tariq El-Shanawany	Consultant Clinical Immunologist, University Hospital of Wales

SAVE THE DATE - 6 June 2018

Symposium on Pathology in Wales

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The Wales Regional Council is currently organising this year's Symposium on Pathology in Wales, which will be taking place in Cardiff on Wednesday 6 June 2018 (save this date in your diaries).

This symposium will be aimed at RCPATH fellows, members, trainees, medical students and others interested in the range of pathology in Wales. Delegates will hear presentations about the forefront of pathology and share some of the great things going on in Wales. They will meet the President Prof Jo Martin and other honorary officers and find out what the College does in Wales. Below is a photo of some of last year's speakers:



PRUDENTIAL RIDE LONDON - SURREY 100 CYCLE CHALLENGE 2018

Dr Jim Seale, member of the RCPATH Wales Regional Council, will be taking part in this year's cycle challenge. On undertaking the challenge, Dr Seale added:

"I am a Haematologist in Bangor where I've worked for 20 years. The practice here is very wide ranging due to the geography: we are 5 hours away from Cardiff and 2 hours from Liverpool. On the RCPATH Regional Council for Wales and the Board of Trustees of the British Society for Haematology I speak on behalf of those who maintain pathology services in smaller institutions. We allow patients a reasonable chance to access care without the need for referral to hospitals where the journey would often prove impossible. I'm taking part in the challenge to raise the profile of the RCPATH. The public need to know how much input our services provide before they benefit from the ever expanding output of the pharmaceutical industry which they hear so much about, I'm a keen cyclist. It is seriously hilly round here but I'm not as fit as I used to be."

Wales joins the 100,000 Genomes Project

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[Wales has joined the 100,000 Genomes Project, the Welsh Government announced.](#) The project, now a UK-wide initiative, seeks to transform patient care, encourage genomic discovery and drive a thriving genomics sector.

In an agreement between Cardiff and Vale University Health Board (CVUHB), Cardiff University and Genomics England (the company leading the Project across the UK), 420 whole genome sequences (WGS) have been commissioned for patients with rare diseases and their families, in Wales.

The 100,000 Genomes Project aims to sequence 100,000 genomes from 70,000 people with rare diseases and their families, as well as those

with cancer. To date, almost 50,000 whole genomes have been sequenced, with the ultimate 100,000 WGS milestone due to be reached by the end of 2018.

Welsh rare disease patients and their families, who choose to participate in the 100,000 Genomes Project, may be provided with a diagnosis and spared years of uncertainty and distress (often known as the diagnostic odyssey). With more precise and rapid diagnosis, there is also the potential to reduce pressure on Welsh health and social care budgets.

The announcement brings together the Welsh Government, AWMGS, CVUHB, Cardiff University, the Wales Gene Park, the Medical Research Council (MRC) and Genomics England to establish the first Genomic Medicine Centre (GMC) in Wales. This joins 13 other NHS GMCs in England, the Northern Ireland GMC and the Scottish Genomes Project. The Wales GMC, based at the University Hospital of Wales site in Cardiff, has been supported by the Welsh Government and the MRC, which contributed £2.4 million and £1 million in funding respectively.

Participation in the 100,000 Genomes Project supports the Welsh Government's 'Genomics for Precision Medicine Strategy', which sets ambitious goals for genomic medicine, including the development of:

- internationally recognised medical and public health genetics services;
- internationally recognised research in genomics and excellent platforms for precision medicine;
- new strategic partnerships in genomics and precision medicine; and
- the NHS and research workforce to underpin the delivery of genomic medicine.

INHIBITING THE GROWTH OF PANCREATIC CANCER

[A respiratory virus has been used to successfully inhibit the growth of pancreatic cancer.](#) according to an early study by researchers at Cardiff University and Barts Cancer Institute (BCI) of Queen Mary University of London (QMUL).

The research, published in the journal Molecular Cancer Therapeutics, took advantage of a unique feature of pancreatic cancer cells – the presence of a specific molecule called alpha v beta 6 ($\alpha v \beta 6$), which is found on the surface of many pancreatic cancer cells but, crucially, not on normal cells.

LAUNCH OF 100,000 GENOMES PROJECT IN WALES

[The Wales Genomic Medicine Centre \(GMC\) is delighted to announce that the 100,000 Genomes Project was launched in Wales on 25th January 2018.](#) The aim of this ambitious project is to integrate genomic testing into the NHS. By participating in this project, eligible Welsh patients with undiagnosed rare genetic diseases will have the opportunity to access Whole Genome Sequencing for the first time in Wales. This will be done through the All Wales Medical Genetics Service.

TISSUE BLOCK ARCHIVING AND STORAGE IN CARDIFF

[Tissue Block Archiving And Storage: Security And Traceability In Wales.](#) The University Hospital of Wales, like other hospitals around the UK, experienced tissue block storage logistical problems and has now turned to a cost-effective system that offers assurance of quality and security.

IMPROVED METHOD OF ENGINEERING T- CELLS TO ATTACK CANCER

[Researchers at Cardiff University have found a way to boost the cancer-destroying ability of the immune system's T-cells,](#) offering new hope in the fight against a wide range of cancers.

Using CRISPR genome editing, the team took the genetic engineering of killer T-cells one step further by removing their non-cancer specific receptors and replacing them with ones that would recognise specific cancer cells and destroy them.

NEW FAMILY OF LIPIDS PLAYS KEY ROLE IN CLOT FORMATION

[Researchers at Cardiff University have discovered a new family of lipids \(fats\) that plays a key role in controlling clot formation.](#) The new discovery could lead to novel ways of reducing the risk of excess clotting, called thrombosis, potentially preventing deaths from many killer diseases such as heart attacks, strokes and deep vein thrombosis. The new lipids, formed by white cells and platelets in the blood, form a surface on cells helping a clot to develop more effectively.

After discovering the lipids and making them in the lab, the researchers carried out several tests with them, including adding them to plasma to see if they could change clotting activity, and observing how they affected bleeding in mice. They found that mice that do not make these lipids bleed much more and are also protected against thrombosis. They also found that administering the lipids locally reduced bleeding.

The researchers will continue this work with an end goal of discovering how to target the new lipids to develop new therapies.

College News and Activities

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Research Publishing Gateway

[New research publishing gateway for members](#)

The College has launched a new research publishing gateway which provides an online research forum for those interested in the study of the pathology of human and animal diseases.

The gateway is hosted by F1000Research which also supports similar platforms for several organisations including the Wellcome Trust and the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. The College gateway will give members the opportunity to rapidly publish original research, case reports and validation studies of laboratory methods and antibodies. Subject to satisfactory peer review by experts, articles will be approved for inclusion on Pubmed and other bibliographic databases. Members can also submit posters, slides, and documents including clinical audits. For further information please visit [Research Publishing Gateway](#).

Funding for events: Public Engagement Innovation Grant Scheme

The [Public Engagement Innovation Grant Scheme](#) is now open. Grants of up to £1,000 are available for individuals or organisations who wish to develop pathology-related public engagement activities or events. The scheme offers a fantastic opportunity to plan something for [National Pathology Week](#) in November. For more information, please see our [website](#). If you have any questions, or would like some advice on your application, please do get in touch on publicengagement@rcpath.org.

Apply for free Science Communication Training - 14th June

We're running one of our very popular [science communication training](#) courses in London this June and members can attend for free. The course is run by a professional science communicator from the Science Museum and covers how to plan events and develop activities, how to identify your audience, and how to cater for different learning styles. For more information on how to apply for your free place, visit our [website](#) or email publicengagement@rcpath.org. Note that free places are given to those who sign an agreement to run an activity or event within a year of attending the course. There is also an option to pay £150 instead.

NHS 70th Anniversary: opportunities to get involved

RCPATH members in Wales are invited to participate in the [70th Anniversary of the NHS](#). The anniversary itself is on 5th July, although events will be going on throughout the year, offering a great opportunity to raise the profile of pathology, and its role in the development and ongoing evolution of the NHS. The College will be launching new event and activity resources for members, to support them to run their own NHS70 events around the UK. In addition we will be launching new careers resources and supporting members to give careers talks in schools in their area. Please do get in touch on publicengagement@rcpath.org if you would like to get involved.

Events in Wales and nearby regions

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Microbiology Society Annual Conference 2018 (10-13 April 2018)

[The Microbiology Society Annual Conference 2018](#) will take place over four days between Tuesday 10 April and Friday 13 April and will be held at the International Conference Centre (ICC), Birmingham, UK.

The event will allow attendees to benefit from hearing cutting edge research in microbiology, and early career researchers will be able to present their work in offered oral or poster sessions, with plentiful opportunity to network.

All Wales Lymphoma Panel Course (16-17 April 2018)

[This course](#) aims to provide a comprehensive update on lymphoproliferative pathology for specialist Haematopathologists, General Histopathologists with an interest in Haematopathology and Senior Cellular Pathology Trainees. Event to be held at St David's Hotel, Cardiff.

Central Sterilising Club - Annual Scientific Meeting 2018 (16-17 April 2018)

[This event](#) will cover topics such as:

- Endoscope decontamination and staff training
- Storage and transportation requirements
- Washing optimization
- Medical Device Equipment processing
- Tracking and traceability systems – instruments and devices to patients
- Case study: A multidisciplinary approach to managing decontamination in a large teaching hospital

Event to be held at the Marriott Hotel, Cardiff.

Diagnostic challenges in Gynaecological Pathology (20 April 2018)

[This course](#) is aimed at consultant pathologists with an interest in gynaecological pathology. It aims to provide an experiential approach to common diagnostic dilemmas encountered in day-to-day reporting of gynaecological specimens. Early booking is advised as spaces are limited.

Held in the lecture Theatre, Education Centre, Birmingham Women's Hospital, Mindelsohn Way, Edgbaston, B15 2TG

The Pathology of EBV Infection (22 May 2018)

[This event](#) is part of the Manchester Medical Society Section of Pathology. It will be held on 22 May 2018. The morning session will be for trainee histopathologists/haematologists ONLY. This session will cover the role of EBC in haematological malignancy/morphology session (exam oriented). There will be no charges for the morning session.

There is a registration fee to attend the afternoon meeting. For further information on venue, registration and agenda please access the [Manchester Medical Society webpage](#).

Practical and Clinical Microbiology of Anaerobes (14-15 June 2018)

Is it time to refresh your knowledge on the culturing, identification and clinical importance of anaerobes? Are your staff wanting to learn from experts about the latest technologies and techniques?

A [2 day residential course](#) delivered by the UK Anaerobe Reference Unit, Public Health Wales, Cardiff.



External Funding Opportunities

We host a comprehensive list of funding opportunities for members on the College website [here](#)

July

5th

WELLCOME TRUST, [Seed Awards in Science](#)

17th

WELLCOME TRUST, [Intermediate Fellowships in Public Health and Tropical Medicine](#)

WELLCOME TRUST, [Training Fellowships in Public Health and Tropical Medicine](#)

31st

BRITISH SOCIETY FOR HAEMATOLOGY, [BSH Travel Scholarships](#)

September

1st

PATHOLOGICAL SOCIETY, [Open Scheme](#)

PATHOLOGICAL SOCIETY, [Public Engagement Scheme](#)

5th

MEDICAL RESEARCH COUNCIL, [Molecular and Cellular Medicine Board, New Investigator Research Grant](#)

MEDICAL RESEARCH COUNCIL, [Molecular and Cellular Medicine Board—Research Boards](#)

6th

MEDICAL RESEARCH COUNCIL, [Clinical Research Training Fellowship](#)

MEDICAL RESEARCH COUNCIL, [Clinician Scientist Fellowship](#)

19th

MEDICAL RESEARCH COUNCIL, [Infections and Immunity Board - New Investigator Research Grant](#)

MEDICAL RESEARCH COUNCIL, [Infections and Immunity Board - Research Boards](#)

20th

MEDICAL RESEARCH COUNCIL, [Career Development Awards](#)

MEDICAL RESEARCH COUNCIL, [Senior Non-Clinical Fellowship](#)

28th

ASSOCIATION OF CLINICAL PATHOLOGISTS, [ACP Student Research Fund](#)

30th

BRITISH SOCIETY FOR COLPOSCOPY AND CERVICAL PATHOLOGY, [The Jordan/Singer BS CCP Research Prize](#)

LABORATORY ANIMALS LIMITED, [Science and welfare bursaries](#)

MICROBIOLOGY SOCIETY, [Early Career Microbiologists' Forum event fund](#)

RCPATH Innovation Grant Scheme

The Public Engagement Innovation Grant Scheme was introduced to give financial support for the delivery of a range of pathology-related events throughout 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. **Deadline: 4th June 2018**