



The Royal College of Pathologists

Pathology: the science behind the cure

RCPATH President's newsletter – October 2024



President's Message

The 10 Year NHS Plan for England

The government has launched [Change NHS](#), a new online portal to allow organisations and the public to input their views to help shape the 10 year NHS plan for England, aiming for publication in March 2025.

This represents an important opportunity for the College, other pathology organisations and all of us as individuals to provide input. RCPATH will of course be submitting using ideas from officers, staff, directors and committees.

The input requested is themed around 5 questions, with the main ones focused on the *three shifts of healthcare* being championed by the government. For each shift, it is not difficult to see how pathology fits in:

Shift to Prevention – Pathology services are involved in most prevention strategies aimed at screening, diagnosis and early treatment. Risk prevention, cancer screening to name but a few.

Shift to Digital – It is so important that pathology test results are integrated into the new planned federated data platform - currently it is excluded. So this is a real opportunity to finally sort out the lack of interoperability and standardisation that is

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urgently needed and will allow integration into health records.

Shift to Community – re-focusing healthcare away from hospitals into GP practices, community diagnostic centres and patient homes will of course need more pathology capacity both to deal with the inevitable increased demand that this will create but also to expand testing within these locations.

RCPATH will of course be sharing our input into this plan with all members, as will our continued input into similar plans for the NHS across the three devolved nations.

[I would also encourage you to submit your views.](#)
This is our opportunity to use our collective voice to shape the next 10 years of pathology services in the NHS

Significant change for the NHS is on its way – we need to be sure that pathology is part of it and not forgotten – this is vital for pathology but also for healthcare.

The Autumn Budget and Spending Review

The first budget of the new government has just been delivered. While controversy exists around the decision to tax and borrow more, few of us would disagree that we need to invest hugely in healthcare at all levels. We will update as soon as we know the implications for pathology.

The Wales Regional Council and Symposium

I have recently spent a couple of days in Cardiff attending the [RCPATH Wales Regional Council](#) meeting and Symposium. It was great to listen to all the speakers covering a variety of topics including organisational change across Welsh pathology, clinical and analytical topics and some fantastic presentations from trainees. I also had an opportunity to meet many of the trainees in a closed Q&A session which covered many of the important issues facing training.

RCPATH Patient Safety and Quality Strategy 2024-2029

I am pleased to announce the launch of our new Patient Safety and Quality Strategy, which sets

out our approach to supporting safe, high-quality pathology services.

This strategy is designed to address the specific safety challenges in pathology and support a culture of ongoing improvements. It focuses on:

- Quality Improvement:
- Workforce Development:
- Digital Transformation:
- Regulatory Compliance:
- Collaboration:
- Communication.

The aim of the strategy is to provide you with the tools and support needed to maintain the highest standards of care. [You can read the full strategy here.](#)

Parliamentary engagement

Scottish Parliament

We submitted a response to an inquiry held by the, the Scottish Parliament's Health, Sport and Social Care committee which has produced [a report on remote and rural healthcare](#). They have quoted a part of our response:

'Some respondents to the Committee's call for views argued that additional investment would be required to enable greater use of digital infrastructure to be made in delivering services...the Royal College of Pathologists (RCPATH) made the case for: Developing digital pathology and facilitating cross board access to digital pathology slides/systems. This would allow faster and easier access to specialists for second opinions so could help improve equity of access to experts without compromising turnaround times.'

International Pathology Day 2024 – 6 November

I am looking forward to welcoming delegates at the College's International Pathology Day Event on 6 November. This year the focus is on the importance of global collaboration to tackle antimicrobial resistance. I will be delighted to be welcoming Dame Sally Davies, UK Special

Envoy for AMR and many other renowned international speakers. You can register to [join via this link](#).

RCPATH Member Survey 2024

We have launched our 2024 Member Survey 2024.

The aim of the survey is to collect your feedback about the College; the products and services we provide and your overall member experience.

This is your opportunity to have your voice heard and listened to.

The survey only takes 5-10 minutes to complete, You should have received your unique survey link via email from feedback@researchbydesign.co.uk

This survey will be instrumental in helping to ensure that we are delivering on the most important objectives for our members. This is your College, and we need your input to better serve you and the profession. Thank you in advance for your time and contribution.

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

Volunteers required: Help improve the College website

We're looking for volunteers to take part in 2 rounds of user testing, as part of a project to improve our website.

- Part 1: In late November 2024, complete a short survey about our current website and undertake a series of 5 tasks on a new proposed website structure.
- Part 2: In September/October 2025, complete a short survey about our updated website.

Each survey will take around 10 minutes and the tasks will take around 15–20 minutes. Volunteers will need to complete both parts.

If you would like to help us and improve the website, please contact Tamara Obeng Korang, our Senior Digital Officer (Tamara.Obeng-Korang@rcpath.org.)

[National Pathology Week – 4 to 10 November](#)

Get involved with [National Pathology Week 2024](#). Our theme this year is 'Pathology is Vital' and we're working in partnership with the Pathology Alliance to highlight the important contribution pathologists make to healthcare. If you're running an event for the public in your workplace or community (or online) register it [here](#) and we will add it to our [public events calendar](#). We have a limited number of promotional materials we can post out to event organisers – these can be ordered [here](#).

[Pathology Myths and Misconceptions event – 4 November](#)

To kick off [National Pathology Week 2024](#), we're bringing together representatives from a range of pathology specialties for a special webinar event. Chaired by Dr Suzy Lishman CBE, [Pathology Myths and Misconceptions](#) will reveal the truth behind common health myths and provide a unique opportunity to hear from pathologists and scientists working in a range of pathology specialties. The online event is running on 4 November from 18:00 to 20:00 GMT. It is free and open to all but might be of particular interest to foundation doctors, undergraduates, and secondary school students. Book your place [here](#).

['From Bench to Bedside' – Joint Roche/ RCPATH webinar - 8 November](#)

We're delighted to be working in partnership with Roche Diagnostics UK, one of our [Corporate Members](#), on an educational webinar during National Pathology Week. This free lunchtime event will explore how greater collaboration between industry and academia can help accelerate frontline use of new diagnostic technologies. This topic will be examined in the context of three different disease areas – AMR and sepsis, dementia and neurodegenerative

diseases, and heart disease. This webinar is free to attend and will run from 12:30 to 13:30 GMT. Book your place [here](#).

[Pathology Quiz for Undergraduates – online event on 13 November at 14:00 – 15:30 GMT](#)

Teams of up to six undergraduates studying medicine or biomedical science (or similar degrees) are invited to join in our [virtual pathology quiz](#). With a range of questions gathered from RCPATH members and experts in their field, the event gives you the chance to test your knowledge of disease prevention, diagnosis, and treatment. Please share the [event link](#) with undergraduates, whatever their stage of study - there'll be questions to suit all levels of background knowledge. [Book your free place](#).

[Cellular Pathology and Genomics: Partnering for Precision Medicine.' – in-person conference at RCPATH, London, on 25 November](#)

Led by the Genomics and Reproductive Science Specialty Advisory Committee, the 'Cellular Pathology and Genomics: Partnering for Precision Medicine' conference aims to promote closer working between cellular pathology, genomics, and industry in the delivery of patient centred care. Using case study examples of best practice and problems faced in the laboratory today, the main aim of the sessions is to increase awareness and access to testing with a particular focus on delivery of precision medicines. The event will take place in person at The Royal College of Pathologists in London (E1 8QT) on Monday 25 November from 9.30am to 5pm (with optional networking drinks from 5 to 6.30pm). [Find out more and book your place](#).

Please submit your 2023/2024 CPD return - 30 September deadline has now passed

We are delighted to remind you of the [CPD portfolio service](#) offered by the College. This service enables you to record and monitor your CPD activities, and also allows you to download an annual CPD statement - a valuable resource for your appraisals.

Important Aspects of the CPD Cycle

- CPD year: The College's CPD year runs from 1 April to 31 March of the following year.
- Recording activities: We encourage members to [record CPD activities](#) promptly as they undertake them.
- CPD returns: Please complete [your CPD return](#) for the 2023/2024 CPD year. The deadline of 30 September 2024 for CPD returns has now ended.

For any queries or assistance, please contact our member engagement and support team at cpd@rcpath.org

The Pathology Portal

The Pathology Portal offers an extensive collection of over 5,700 resources across various specialties, including case studies, lectures, recap videos, podcasts, and quizzes. Tailored to support the professional development of pathologists at all career stages, these resources have been accessed more than 200,000 times by over 4,200 users from diverse backgrounds.

Following the presentation of the Pathology Portal at the British Blood Transfusion Society annual conference, the Portal was awarded the Margaret Kenwright Award. Congratulations to all those involved in supporting the transfusion content work on the Portal.

The Pathology Portal team has also been working on reaching out to various other specialties to get involved in different opportunities including haematology, Medical Microbiology and Virology. If you are interested in, or have been, utilising the Portal in your teaching sessions, we would love to hear from you.

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

Educational Update 2024 meeting

This annual meeting will be held online on Friday 8 November 2024 at 9:45am to 12:00pm. This year's theme is focussed on reasonable adjustments for training and examinations. The keynote speaker is Professor Kim Piper, Professor of Oral and Maxillofacial Pathology at King's College London. There will also be an update on the [award-winning Pathology Portal](#).

This free meeting is relevant to all those involved in the delivery of pathology training – including trainers, assessors, and senior trainees preparing to become consultants.

The programme and how to book your free place is on the [College website](#).

Get involved in the College

- [Histological Dissection Conjoint Board member \(College representative\)](#) closing date: Friday 15 November. Apply for the chance to become a College representative on the Histological Dissection Conjoint Board of the Royal College of Pathologists and the Institute of Biomedical Scientists.
- [Cytology Reporting Conjoint Board member \(College representative\)](#) closing date: Friday 15 November. Apply for the chance to become a College representative on the Cytology Conjoint Board of the Royal College of Pathologists and the Institute of Biomedical Scientists

International

Join Professor Dame Sally Davies, UK Special Envoy for AMR, at this year's International Pathology Day – secure your place!

We are delighted to welcome Professor Dame Sally Davies, the UK's Special Envoy on Antimicrobial Resistance, as keynote speaker at our virtual conference for International Pathology Day themed 'The Rise of Global Antimicrobial Resistance'.

Additional speakers include Professor Walid Al-Wali, who will discuss the evolution of AMR and Dr Wael Elamin's presentation will focus on environmental work he is involved with in the United Arab Emirates (UAE). More speakers will be announced in the coming weeks.

Find out more at our [event page](#) for updates on speaker announcements, details about the poster competition, and access to free virtual IPD resources as they become available and register to attend at our [booking page](#).

Enter the Poster competition for International Pathology Day 2024 - Conquering Superbugs: Innovations in combating Antimicrobial Resistance

We invite you to showcase your lab work, whether individually or as a team, from around the world and highlight your innovative research across various pathology specialties. You can draw inspiration from this year's International Pathology Day (IPD) overarching theme 'The rise of global Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR)' or spotlight any pathology-related work you are especially proud of.

Posters can be submitted to international@rcpath.org until **midnight Wednesday 23 October (BST)**. All posters will be displayed digitally on the College website, and winners will be announced at the International Pathology Day conference on Wednesday 6 November.

Prizes

- **First prize:** £150 and publication of your poster in the College's Bulletin magazine
- **Second prize:** £50 and featuring of your poster in our post-event blog, celebrating International Pathology Day 2024
- **Third prize:** complimentary tickets to attend the virtual conference for International Pathology Day 2025. For more details please visit [our website](#).

College Courses

[Autopsy webinar series - Post Mortem CT](#)

1pm, Wednesday 20 November 2024

CPD credits: 1 (self-credited)

During this session we will discuss how the CTPM service in Leicester operates, the triaging of cases for CTPM (plain or angiography), the importance of our Consultant Radiologist colleagues in reporting the images and how this guides us with either providing a cause of death or by refining our subsequent investigations in determining the cause of death e.g. limited or targeted invasive post mortem examination +/- histology, microbiology/virology. This event will take place at 1:00pm and last approximately 1 hour.

[Advances in Transfusion Medicine 2024 – Joint RCPATH & SHOT Symposium](#)

Wednesday 20 November – Thursday 21 November 2024

We are now organising the next biennial Advances in Transfusion Symposium on behalf of the Royal College of Pathologists and the Serious Hazards of Transfusion (SHOT) UK Haemovigilance Scheme.

This will be a virtual meeting over 2 half days on Wednesday 20 November (9.30am to 1.15pm) and Thursday 21 November (9.30AM to 1.00PM).

Several expert speakers will update on exciting key developments in clinical transfusion practice and science. The meeting will be of interest to all those involved in transfusion medicine.

This event is being supported by the RCPATH Oliver Memorial Fund and SHOT. There is no cost for participation, but pre-registration is essential and separate registration is required for each day.

[Autopsy webinar series – The Human Tissue Authority](#)

27 November 2024

CPD credits: 1 (self-credited)

The Human Tissue Authority (HTA) regulates organisations that remove, store and use tissue for post-mortem examination, medical treatment, research, teaching and display in public. Making sure human tissue, cells and organs are handled with dignity, used with consent and stored safely, is at the heart of what we do.

This talk will explore the role of the HTA in regulating the Post Mortem sector within England, Wales and Northern Ireland. The discussion will cover a brief history, the Human Tissue Act 2004 legislation, the HTA's regulatory framework and the regulatory tools and activities we have developed in this diverse sector.

We regulate in an environment of ongoing change, technical advances and challenges. We will share how the HTA reflects on lessons learned to achieve our aim, of being an excellent, modern and accountable regulator dealing proportionately with the sector, whilst supporting licensed establishments to achieve the set standards.

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

[From snails to sperm whales: PMs across 10 orders of magnitude](#)

1pm, Thursday 28 November 2024

CPD credits: 1 (self-credited)

Dr Simon Spiro is the veterinary pathologist for the Zoological Society of London, where he is responsible for the diagnostic pathology of the society's 23,000 animals of 800 species. He is also the pathologist for the Cetacean Strandings Investigation Programme (CSIP) which investigates dead whales, dolphins, sharks, turtles, and seals in English and Welsh waters. In this talk he will cover the whats, wheres, hows and whys of wildlife pathology, covering everything from the practicalities of performing post mortem examinations on everything from tiny invertebrates up to massive whales, to the science and conservation work that results.

This talk will cover topics such as cholesterol mediated diseases in meerkats, bacterial diseases in bats and orthopaedic disease in whales, all told with the aid of pictures, video and digital microscopy.

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

[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 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.

[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

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

07 November 2024

[British Society of Blood and Marrow Transplantation and Cellular Therapy \(BSBMTCT\) Education Day](#)

08 November 2024

[UK Lymphoma Research Group](#)

08 November 2024

[From Bench to Bedside Roche Diagnostics and RCPATH joint educational webinar](#)

08 November 2024

[BSAC National Outpatient parenteral antimicrobial therapy \(OPAT\) Conference 2024](#)

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