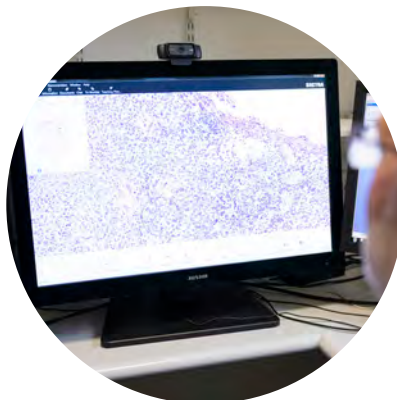




The Royal College of Pathologists

Pathology: the science behind the cure



Annual report

2025–2026



Section 1
Introduction

Our year in review

Pathology underpins almost every part of modern healthcare, from diagnosis and treatment decisions to screening and disease prevention. Over the past year, we have worked to strengthen the profession at every level: amplifying the voice of pathology, and building a more resilient, better-supported workforce, ready for the future.

Message from the President, Dr Bernie Croal

“ I would finally like to sign off with a huge thank you to everyone that has worked with me over the last 3 years. It has been a privilege to fulfil this role and I wish you all the best for the future.



As a new president, you bring with you a vision for how the College, pathology services and patient care can be improved. Typically, some of them work, some of them don't and some of them remain on the starting block, but any success is made possible by the dedication and expertise of College staff, honorary officers and the wider array of volunteers from our membership.

Despite challenges over the last 3 years, we can be very proud of what has been achieved. The development of a new workforce strategy, aligned with a new census

process and the production of a series of census and specialty-specific spotlight reports, has been pivotal in establishing us as a leader in this area. Similarly, our growing partnerships with industry partners have created valuable opportunities to improve dialogue and strengthen the voice of pathology, while improving educational programmes and facilitating meaningful discussion with policymakers and parliamentarians.

We have taken steps to prepare pathology for the opportunities and challenges of an evolving

digital landscape. The restructuring of pan-organisation committees around informatics, digital and AI, with oversight from the newly established Digital Strategy Board, will provide a strong coordinated voice to help direct and inform important developments in this area.

Stronger links with the devolved nations through annual visits, symposia and meetings with government representatives have further enhanced the work of our devolved regional councils, as has the annual Celtic Nations Summit, which provides a forum for collaboration and solution building. The Pathology Alliance has become a more active network for knowledge exchange, education and advocacy for pathology. Our Trainees' Advisory Committee is now in a much stronger position, while the addition of a New

Consultants Committee provides an important platform for early career professionals to contribute to College priorities and strategic decision-making.

While challenges lie ahead – workforce shortages, the financial stability of the College and the development of new ways of assessing competency in exams, training programs and portfolio pathways – I am confident that the College is well placed for the future. The new suite of officers, directors, volunteers and staff will step up and meet those challenges – the College is in good hands.

I would finally like to sign off with a huge thank you to everyone that has worked with me over the last 3 years. It has been a privilege to fulfil this role and I wish you all the best for the future.



Message from the Registrar, Professor Sarah Coupland

“ As Registrar ... I am very grateful for the opportunity to reflect on a year marked by both significant challenge and meaningful progress.



As Registrar and President-Elect of the Royal College of Pathologists (RCPATH), I am very grateful for the opportunity to reflect on a year marked by both significant challenge and meaningful progress.

As I prepare to take office in November 2026, I do so with a clear sense of purpose: to focus on addressing the significant workload and resource pressures facing our members worldwide while also responding to the advances transforming pathology.

Our 2026 Celtic Nations Summit on 3 February was a pivotal moment for collaborative discussion, bringing together representatives from Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales. While healthcare policy remains devolved, our discussions highlighted shared and increasing pressures affecting pathology services. Most notably, an escalating workforce crisis in fragile specialties like paediatric and perinatal pathology, and neuropathology.

The summit reinforced the importance of working collaboratively to influence policy and ensure that future transformation strategies invest in people, digital infrastructure and service capability rather than narrowly focusing on consolidation and cost reduction.

Quality and patient safety remain central to our mission. Our Patient Safety Strategy, supported by the Patient Safety Steering Group, provides leadership, oversight and coordination to promote continuous improvement and safer patient care across pathology services. We are actively engaging with the United Kingdom Accreditation Service (UKAS) to reform accreditation models, ensuring they become more clinically focused and better aligned with the diverse needs of different pathology specialties and subspecialties.

At the same time, we are developing a more sustainable approach to external quality assessment (EQA) governance, ensuring robust standards underpin patient safety.

Innovation is transforming pathology, and this year provided many opportunities to contribute to discussions on how emerging technologies can be adopted safely and effectively.

Through presentations at the RCPATH international webinar on artificial intelligence and digital pathology, Roche Diagnostics educational seminars and the National Pathology Imaging Co-operative (NPIC) Summit, I explored how these tools can be adopted responsibly and equitably across health systems of varying resource levels. I have also reflected on the practical steps needed to translate AI innovation into everyday

diagnostic benefit and discussed how they are helping to improve patient outcomes.

Through our Industry Leaders' Forum and Rapid Genomic Testing Forum, I championed greater interoperability between digital systems to optimise molecular testing. This would ensure cancer patients receive the right tests at the right time. Greater links between digital pathology systems and electronic patient records would enable multidimensional, multidisciplinary team working.

The strength of our profession was evident at this year's RCPATH Achievement Awards. Reviewing the nominations was a genuine privilege. They showcased the outstanding contributions of trainees, trainers and teams and were a reminder of the depth of talent and dedication across our profession, from those pioneering new technologies to those quietly sustaining excellent services day to day.

As I prepare to build on the strong foundations established by Dr Bernie Croal, I look at both the significant challenges and opportunities. By delivering our Workforce Strategy, supporting the next generation of pathologists and implementation of new technologies, and reforming our ways of working, we can strengthen the resilience and long-term sustainability of pathology services to deliver the highest standards of patient care.



Message from the Chair of Trustee Board, Vince Voon

“ This past year has been about turning strategy into action ... achieving measurable outcomes and demonstrating the value the College brings to members, patients and the wider healthcare system.



Building strong foundations for the future: from momentum to lasting impact

This past year has been about turning strategy into action.

The College exists not simply to serve its members, but to lead the profession, influence the future of pathology and improve patient care. This conviction has underpinned every decision taken by the Trustee Board and remains central to our strategic direction.

Our 5-year strategy was built around the simple but challenging question: What would happen if the College did not exist? The answer reaffirmed our purpose: to lead and advocate for pathology, set the highest professional standards, deliver outstanding education and training, and foster a strong, inclusive community for our members.

The strategy was designed to ensure that the College remains relevant, influential and equipped to

meet the evolving challenges facing pathology. Our focus is now firmly on delivery — achieving measurable outcomes and demonstrating the value the College brings to members, patients and the wider healthcare system.

We are pursuing these ambitions against an increasingly challenging backdrop. Workforce shortages remain a defining issue for pathology, placing sustained pressure on workloads, training, turnaround times and, ultimately, patient care. At the same time, growing demand for diagnostic services is widening the gap between capacity and need, reinforcing the importance of a strong and sustainable pathology workforce.

The essential role of pathology in healthcare

Pathology is far more than a supporting service. It underpins almost every aspect of modern healthcare, from diagnosis and treatment decisions to screening

programmes and disease prevention. When pathology services come under pressure, the effects are felt across the entire healthcare system. When they are properly supported, they enable better outcomes for patients and more effective care across the NHS.

Given these challenges, the College has an important responsibility to lead. Throughout the year, we have continued to strengthen our position as both a professional leader and an advocate for pathology. We have engaged with policymakers, contributed to national discussions on workforce and diagnostics, set professional standards, and supported members through the delivery of high-quality education, guidance and practical resources.

The profession itself is evolving rapidly. Digital pathology and artificial intelligence are no longer future aspirations; they are becoming increasingly integral to modern diagnostics. They offer significant opportunities to improve quality, productivity and patient

care, but their successful adoption depends on robust and consistent standards, investment and implementation. The College will continue to provide the leadership and expertise needed to help members navigate these advances with confidence.

Strengthening the College for the future

We are equally committed to strengthening the College itself. Continued investment in our digital systems, member services and organisational resilience ensures we remain agile, sustainable and well placed to deliver our strategic ambitions.

Looking ahead, the Trustee Board will remain focused on a number of key priorities, including strengthening workforce sustainability, supporting the safe adoption of digital and AI technologies, amplifying our advocacy for the profession and deepening engagement with our members.

Thank you to our members, volunteers and staff

Above all, the College's greatest strength remains its people. Our members, volunteers, trustees and staff are the reason the College continues to thrive. Thank you for your commitment, your expertise and your generosity. I encourage more members to become involved in the life of the College as, together, we continue to shape the future of pathology.

This is my third and final Chair's message. It has been a privilege to serve as a trustee of the College for over 5 years, including 2.5 years as Chair. As I prepare to step down in April 2027, I do so with immense pride in what we have achieved together and with great confidence in the College's future.

Reflecting on my time, what I will remember most are the people. I have been fortunate to work alongside clinicians, scientists, trustees and staff whose expertise, commitment and generosity have made the College stronger. While the challenges facing pathology have been considerable, so too has the determination of this community to meet and address them with professionalism, integrity and a shared sense of purpose.

My sincere thanks go to my fellow trustees, the Senior Management Team, every member of staff, and our members and volunteers. Thank you for your trust, support and your unwavering commitment to the profession. It has been an honour to serve as your Chair.

As my term as Chair comes to an end, my hope is that the College will continue to be ambitious in its vision and confident in its voice. Pathology is not simply a service that supports healthcare; it is fundamental to it. The stronger our profession, the better the care we can provide for every patient, now and in the future.



A background image of a microscope with a teal overlay. Concentric circles are centered on the right side of the image, with small teal dots at their intersections. The text is contained within the innermost circle.

Section 2

Our achievements

Shaping the future.
Responding to change.
Building resilience.

Shaping the future

We bring together member insight and evidence to advocate with authority. We use our influence to drive national decision-making that reflects the realities of delivering diagnostic services, and that recognises and funds pathology as essential infrastructure for everyone’s health.

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Amplifying the voice of pathology

We played an active role in shaping national policy, making sure debate and reform is informed by practising pathologists. We responded to consultations and calls for evidence, drawing on input from our committees, working groups and members.

- We provided evidence for the [10-Year Workforce Plan](#), the [draft service specification](#) for the NHS Genomic Medicine Service, [NHS Productivity Commission](#) and Scotland’s [Future Medical Workforce Project](#).
- The College’s Northern Ireland Regional Council (NIRC) shaped discussions on the Pathology Blueprint Programme, directly engaging with the Department of Health and Blueprint team.
- Following our [response to the regulation of AI in healthcare call for evidence](#), the College was invited to a clinical engagement session with the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) to help inform the work of the National Commission.
- We campaigned for investment in pathology services, digital technology and workforce expansion in [our response to a call for evidence](#) ahead

of the publication of the National Cancer Plan and our lobbying contributed to the government’s decision to increase specialty medical training places in histopathology.

- Working closely with College fellow, Professor Dan Berney, we [campaigned for a nuanced approach to improving prostate cancer outcomes](#), outlining the need to focus screening efforts on high-risk groups while improving biopsy strategies and prognostic models. We were pleased to see the Department for Health and Social Care has announced funding to expand prostate cancer research and treatment, which includes extending the TRANSFORM screening trial to all eligible Black men, and the introduction of England’s first targeted prostate cancer screening programme.

Consultations

•••••

36

NICE consultation responses

13

external consultations



Spotlight

Pathology’s essential role in the future of healthcare

Our Pathology Solutions event at the House of Commons, hosted by Dr Simon Opher MP, Chair of the All-Party Parliamentary Health Group, showcased the central role of pathology in delivering the 10-Year Health Plan, giving MPs and delegates from charities, think tanks and industry first-hand insight into how pathology services underpin the future of the health system.

Our corporate members — including Roche Diagnostics, Illumina, Diagnexia and Novo Nordisk — played a pivotal role in the event, engaging directly with policymakers and showcasing advanced interactive exhibits. By demonstrating cutting-edge advancements in genomics, artificial intelligence and digital cancer pathways, the event reinforced the value of collaboration with industry in delivering faster, more accurate patient care across the health service.



Reducing inequality gaps

Every patient, regardless of where they live or who they are, should have access to high-quality pathology services – essential for timely diagnosis and confident treatment. Yet our members' experience reveals differences in local capacity, workforce availability, digital pathology maturity and service configuration are causing significant access inequalities.

- Our response to the [Men's Health Strategy for England](#) highlighted ethnicity-related differences in prostate cancer mortality and morbidity. We also highlighted the effect of deprivation on life expectancy, and the [greater impact this has on men](#).
- Our [2026 Celtic Nations Summit](#) brought together representatives from Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales, and College staff, to address shared and unique challenges across the nations. Discussions highlighted the need for flexible, locally tailored models of service delivery.
- Our 2026 election manifestos for [Scotland](#) and [Wales](#) – shared with election candidates, and newly elected Members of the Scottish Parliament, Members of the Senedd and appointed Ministers – highlighted the effect of workforce shortages, particularly in rural and remote areas. We called for targeted recruitment incentives to tackle higher pathology vacancy rates and recruitment and retention challenges in Scotland and Wales, and greater support for regionally integrated services to deliver more equitable patient outcomes.

Internationally, we co-badge the [sub-Saharan Pathology Resident Teaching Programme](#) led by College fellow, Professor Richard Byers. Over 3 years, this online programme has expanded from Zambia and Kenya to across sub-Saharan Africa and, more recently, across South America and South-East Asia. Accessible, high-frequency, interactive, case-based sessions are tailored to regional challenges and recorded for access via the Pathology Portal or YouTube.

“Weekly haematopathology teaching has strengthened diagnostic skills among registrars and consultants in Zambia, enabling new pathologists to manage cases such as bone marrow biopsies with confidence. This has improved patient care, reduced costs and eliminated the need for patients to travel long distances.”

— Dr Edgar Shilika



Responding to change

Investment in digital diagnostics must go hand-in-hand with investment in the workforce. Advances in AI and digital pathology continue to present opportunities to transform diagnostic practice. But it is skilled professionals who develop, deploy, integrate and assure these tools – technology alone cannot deliver safe, equitable outcomes.

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Shaping an augmented healthcare landscape

This year, we worked with colleagues and partners to highlight the continuing critical role of pathologists. Safeguards and professional validation must be in place alongside the potential of digital pathology, informatics and AI.

- With College members specialising in digital pathology, we submitted [written evidence](#) to the House of Lords Science & Technology Committee's consultation on 'Innovation in the NHS: personalised medicine and AI'. We called for stronger NHS data and digital infrastructure to support reliable implementation and maintain patient confidence. College President Dr Bernie Croal was then invited to give [oral evidence](#) on our behalf, alongside the President of the Royal College of Radiologists, Dr Stephen Harden.
- We established the Digital Strategy Board and are working in partnership with the British Society for Haematology (BSH) and LabMed UK, alongside representatives from the College's Pathology Informatics Committee and Digital Pathology Sub-Committee.
- College fellows showed leadership in digital pathology at the [AXREM Digital Pathology Manifesto launch](#) at the

Houses of Parliament, highlighting the development of key online resources like the Pathology Portal, and the College's role in supporting implementation through standards, guidelines and education.

- Our [April 2026 Bulletin issue](#) explored how digital innovation and AI are reshaping the clinical landscape and pathology services, showing the need for robust regulatory frameworks and integration into daily workflows.



Delivering change through collaboration

It takes a community to drive change. Convening expertise and supporting the next generation of consultants are key priorities for the College and all our communities and committees together help shape professional standards, influence national policy, support the workforce, drive innovation and improve patient care.

- Our online communities are strengthening collaboration across medical examiner and pathology practice and our ME/MEO Hub – now with nearly 500 members – enables peer support and builds collective expertise.
- We have now launched the Haematopathology Hub and Infection Community, strengthening collaboration across specialties, with a New Consultants Hub in development.

We continue to strengthen pathology through partnership. Our corporate engagement strategy builds links between the College and industry, government and other key stakeholders. Our work this year has reinforced our role as a trusted, convening partner for advancing pathology together.

- Our [Industry Leaders' Forum](#) brought together diagnostics and pharmaceutical industries, government, trade associations and our membership to exchange insight and foster shared solutions to shared challenges.
- Our hybrid event – [RCPath Forum: Rapid genomic testing for cancer patients](#) – brought together more than 250 delegates to engage in constructive discussion and debate.

Events

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44

educational events delivered

6,439

attendees at our events



- Through our long-standing partnership with corporate member Roche Diagnostics, we delivered a high-impact global webinar series, attracting 240–450 attendees per session. The programme reinforced the pivotal role of pathology and in-vitro diagnostics in delivering the 3 shifts of the NHS 10-Year Health Plan.
- We co-developed the [Making every test count: Delivering the NHS 10-Year Health Plan through faster, fairer access to in-vitro diagnostics](#) white paper, translating insights into practical recommendations and calls for action for policymakers and system leaders. This was widely disseminated to parliamentarians, NHS bodies, regulators and sector partners.
- [RCPath Consulting](#) draws on the expertise of our members to provide tailored, expert support to NHS trusts facing specific service challenges, matching specialist knowledge to local needs. This approach extends the impact of our members' expertise and ensures trusts benefit from practical, evidence-based advice grounded in real-world pathology practice.



Breakout sessions and presentations from the Industry Leaders' Forum, which brought together diagnostics and pharmaceutical industries, government, trade associations and our membership.

Spotlight

Our committees – the heart of the College

Our 37 committees bring together hundreds of expert volunteers from across pathology and laboratory medicine. Committee Chairs also represent the College externally, providing expert advice to government, partner organisations and the media. We are grateful to every committee member and Chair – they've undertaken a huge body of work this year and the examples below represent only a proportion of the work undertaken.

- The [New Consultants Committee](#) is working with College teams to establish the College's online New Consultants Hub, ensuring early career consultants are better represented and have peer support, networking opportunities, practical resources and events to support career progression – including our annual New Consultants Day.
- The [Cellular Pathology Specialty Advisory Committee \(SAC\)](#) progressed national staffing guidance, supported workforce planning, modernised specialist examinations and advanced new reporting qualifications. The committee also developed our full response to the National Cancer Plan.
- The [Forensic Pathology SAC](#) highlighted the risks associated with declining autopsy capacity and workforce shortages, helping to inform national discussions on training, service sustainability and patient safety, while also progressing new professional guidance.
- The [Medical Examiners Committee](#) continued to support the national medical examiner system through education, conferences – such as the Medical Examiner Annual Conference – and the development of good practice. This work has helped improve the quality and consistency of death certification while ensuring the voices of bereaved families are heard throughout the process.
- The [Pathology Informatics Committee](#) is developing national guidance on the presentation of laboratory results to patients, helping to make diagnostic information and communication clearer and more accessible.
- The [Dermatopathology Sub-Committee](#) supported innovation in cancer diagnostics through its work on national genomic testing, updated cancer datasets and the safe adoption of artificial intelligence within dermatopathology services.
- The [Genomics and Reproductive Science SAC](#) played an important role in preparing the profession for the continued expansion of genomic medicine. Its work included supporting the review of Higher Specialist Scientist Training, progressing national standards for genomic variant interpretation and helping to shape the future genomics workforce.
- The [Histocompatibility and Immunogenetics SAC](#) championed professional development by working with partner organisations to highlight gaps in continuing professional development funding for clinical scientists, strengthening the case for greater investment in this specialist workforce.
- The [Joint Medical Microbiology and Medical Virology SAC](#) influenced workforce and antimicrobial resistance policy and strengthened education and patient safety resources.

Building resilience

Patient safety depends on the pathology workforce. We are determined that our members' evidence and insight on workforce pressures, sustainability and patients' needs is heard and factored into national decision-making. We committed to rooting our effective workforce advocacy in strong evidence and real-world experiences, reflecting the diverse needs of the global pathology community.

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This year, we strengthened our workforce intelligence gathering.

- Our expanded, refreshed 2026 Census delivered the most comprehensive dataset the College has held to date. Response rates were strong and up on last year's 31%. Analysis of this data will not just inform our policy and activities, but will continue to strengthen the College's ability to advocate with authority on members' behalf.
- We developed a series of [Workforce Census Spotlights](#) exploring key themes including working patterns, retirement intentions, wellbeing and the experiences of pathologists in training. The first of these became [The Pathologist's](#) most-read article of 2025.
- We published two specialty workforce reports covering [immunology](#) and [paediatric and perinatal pathology](#). Led by the Workforce team and developed in close partnership with Specialty Advisory Committees (SACs), clinical leads and colleagues from across the College, the reports also draw in 2025 Workforce Census data, direct-to-service surveys and Freedom of Information requests. There were also perspectives from external partners

including charities. The reports illustrate the impact of high vacancy rates, fragile services, impending retirements and insufficient training capacity – and set out practical solutions to increase workforce capacity and improve service resilience. Our immunology report was acknowledged in the UK National Allergy Strategy in April 2026.

- Our [International Pathology Day \(IPD\) 2025](#) theme was the global pathology workforce. The day opened with perspectives from Jim Campbell, Director of the Health Workforce Department at the World Health Organization. Members, partners and pathology organisations from across the globe shared experiences, evidence and examples of good-practice solutions. This highlighted that, while workforce challenges vary between countries and healthcare systems, many pressures are shared – including workforce shortages, growing demand, increasing service complexity, retention concerns and

the need to develop the next generation of pathologists.

- Supporting the next generation of pathologists through their career entry and progression is a key part of the College's work to maintain and our [Pathology Summer School](#) attracts more doctors into pathology to boost the workforce, introducing medical students to the specialty early in their careers. Our 2025 event welcomed 66 medical students from across the UK and offered lectures, workshops, case-based learning and networking opportunities. Feedback was highly positive, with many participants reporting increased interest in pursuing it as a career.



Training & career development

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289

job descriptions reviewed and approved

372

multi-source feedback assessments (MSF) created

184

advisory appointments committees (AACs) attended

24

reports on academic progress (RAP) created

102

Certificate of Completion of Training (CCT) recommendations to the GMC

755

educational supervisors structured reports (ESSRs) created

54

Portfolio Pathway applications received from January to June 2026

820

specialty annual review of competence progression (ARCP) outcome forms created

14,559

workplace-based assessments created

33

Medical Training Initiative applications completed

Spotlight

Strengthening the workforce and supporting bereaved families

We have consistently highlighted the urgent need for sustainable workforce development to safeguard patient safety, and we know that delays to post-mortem examinations can cause significant distress for families.

We were encouraged to see our paediatric and perinatal pathology workforce report recognised at parliamentary and policy levels, and broad media coverage, including in [The Guardian](#), [The Daily Mail](#), The Sunday Times and [The Telegraph](#).

Dr Clair Evans, Chair of the Paediatric and Perinatal Pathology Specialty Advisory Committee (SAC), discussed the challenges facing the specialty on BBC Radio 4's [Woman's Hour](#). This reach has raised awareness of our members' experiences and the consequences of workforce shortages for bereaved families.

We complemented this work with revisions to our [perinatal post-mortem and placental](#)

[examination guidelines](#), providing evidence-based approaches to managing workforce shortages while maintaining high standards of care.

In November 2025, we used our workforce evidence to engage directly with parliamentarians on areas most affected by shortages in paediatric post-mortem services. College President Dr Bernie Croal and Dr Clair Evans met Sarah Hall MP – who raised issues in parliament regarding the shortage of specialists available to undertake post-mortem examinations – to discuss concerns about access to paediatric pathology services, the distress post-mortem delays can cause for families and to provide a case for action.

We are working with NHS England on the development of a formalised clinical network, to manage workloads in regions where the service has collapsed or is at risk, and recruitment incentives to address the shortages.

Modernising member support

This year, we redesigned our services in line with member needs, introducing new initiatives and enhancing existing benefits to make them simpler, faster and more accessible, while creating more opportunities for members to engage with and shape our work.

Our expanding programme of online events reached a wider UK and international audience. A digital approach with short, specialty-focused webinars has helped members stay connected to relevant professional developments wherever they are. Webinars recordings are made available where appropriate through the College website and Pathology Portal, creating a growing on-demand library of educational resources. We remain committed to expanding the webinar programme in partnership with pathology specialties, enhancing the membership experience.

[Feedback from a recent LEPT satisfaction survey](#) highlighted strengths, and opportunities to modernise support for members throughout training and further improve the user experience.

This feedback is informing the current curriculum review, including workplace-based assessments and the LEPT system, which offered drop-in sessions. We have established a Curriculum Review Working Group to review the cellular pathology curriculum and its Capabilities in Practice (CiPs). There are dedicated subgroups to develop proposals in four priority areas to be presented to the Cellular Pathology College Specialty Training Committee (CSTC) later this year.

For medical microbiology and virology, work on the revised curricula is progressing as planned, with submission to the GMC scheduled to support implementation from August 2027.

Despite a challenging year, the Examinations team have continued to develop the examinations in a number of areas. A range of changes to specialty examinations have been submitted to the GMC for approval and others are under review pending submission. Following the FRCPATH Part 1 examinations incident in autumn 2025, Part 1 examinations are reverting to online delivery in test centres hosted by the British Council, both in the UK and internationally, from autumn 2026. The team has worked proactively to ensure international examinations can be delivered safely and securely for both candidates and examiners wherever possible, adapting to the challenges posed by international conflicts.

We remain committed to supporting international medical graduate pathology training in the UK. In March 2026, NHS England closed the Medical Training



Specialty webinars

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36
webinars managed between July 2025 and June 2026

106
contributors, including speakers and chairs

5,280+
attendees at live webinars

3,222
views of website webinar recordings

6
specialties covered and counting

100+
countries represented across webinar attendees



Initiative scheme, and we have actively contributed to discussions about its future, highlighting the significant impact on Sri Lankan doctors, for whom overseas training is a mandatory part of postgraduate training.

The International team successfully supported all 14 graduates who had submitted applications before the scheme closed, enabling them to proceed with UK training placements. The team is also updating the College’s sponsorship scheme information pack, which supports eligible doctors with GMC registration. We continue to work closely with international partners to provide guidance and support in light of the recent Medical Training Prioritisation Act.

The Pathology Portal: a collaborative approach to education

With more than 100 editors and contributors from across the profession developing and curating content, the Pathology Portal has continued to grow over the past year, attracting 2,000 new users, including international members, bringing total membership to more than 8,000. Over that time, it has seen 200,000 launches and, with more than 7,500 accessible, high-quality educational resources, it supports learning regardless of location, helping to reduce variation in educational experience across pathology.

The Portal has built on previous success in hosting external quality assessments (EQAs), with regular circulations supported through hosted slides and post-EQA reports.

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“The Pathology Portal is a very effective way to maximise the educational value of EQA schemes by giving them greater visibility to resident doctors in particular. The interface and speed of the Portal make using the system intuitive and frictionless.”

— Tim Kendall, UK Liver Pathology Group

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The range of teaching delivered through the Portal has expanded significantly, combining innovative technology with expert-led content to widen access to progression. The haematology editorial team hosted a successful ST3 webinar series attended by more than 200 trainees. New inherited metabolic disease sessions were hosted for chemical pathologists, while the Portal’s extensive EQA slide collection continued to grow, supporting education and professional development in areas such as cardiac pathology, urology and skin pathology.

Strengthening the development of cancer datasets

Cancer datasets play a vital role in standardising cancer reporting, defining good practice in specimen handling and supporting high-quality cancer diagnosis and care.

This year, we supported the introduction of the Hierarchy of Evidence for Tumour Pathology into the cancer dataset development process. Designed specifically for tumour pathology, this framework provides a more appropriate method for evaluating evidence than traditional grading systems, which often focus on clinical trials and treatment interventions rather than diagnostic pathology.

The framework has improved support for dataset authors, helping them apply a consistent methodology, and will strengthen confidence in our recommendations and ensure evidence is interpreted in a way that reflects the realities of histopathology practice.



Members & registration

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11,046

members from 91 countries

259

new fellows welcomed at admission ceremonies in September 2025 and February 2026

176

new specialty registrars registered with the College

8

new and returning corporate members

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CPD

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2,876

CPD returns processed

354

events approved for CPD

Guidelines & audits

.....

14

clinical guidelines published

4

best practice recommendations published

4

clinical audits published

20

audits submitted to the audit certification scheme

67

attendees at our 3 guideline implementation webinars

11

courses accredited for CPD

5,566

members used our CPD portfolio

189,627

hours of CPD logged



Top: Our RCPATH 2026 Achievement Award winners. The RCPATH Achievement Awards celebrate excellence in pathology practice and promote high standards in pathology education, training and research to deliver the best patient care.



Left: Sarah Hall MP, College President Dr Bernie Croal, Dr Simon Opher MP, and Registrar and President-Elect Professor Sarah Coupland at the College's parliamentary event 'Pathology Solutions'.



Section 3

Our governance

Trustee Board and College Council (as at 30 June 2026)

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Trustee Board

Vince Voon,
Chair and Lay Trustee

Dr Bernie Croal,
President

Professor Sarah Coupland,
Registrar

Dr John Ashcroft,
Treasurer

Professor Marta Cohen,
Vice President for Learning

Dr Noha El Sakka,
Vice President for Communications

Dr Laszlo Igali,
Vice President for Professional Practice

Professor Peter Johnson,
Vice President for Workforce and
Corporate Engagement

Dr Gareth McKeeman,
Chair, Northern Ireland Regional
Council (to 12 November 2025)

Dr Alison Watt,
Chair, Northern Ireland Regional
Council (from 12 November 2025)

Dr Charu Chopra,
Chair, Scotland Regional Council

Dr Anu Gunavardhan,
Chair, Wales Regional Council
(to 12 November 2025)

Dr Emma Short,
Chair, Wales Regional Council
(from February 2026)

Lesli Flinn,
Lay Trustee

Jennifer Phillips,
Lay Trustee

Dr Shubha Allard,
Co-opted Trustee

Professor Marco Novelli,
Co-opted Trustee

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Council Members

Dr Bernie Croal,
Chair and President

Professor Sarah Coupland,
Registrar

Dr John Ashcroft,
Treasurer

Professor Marta Cohen,
Vice President for Learning

Dr Noha El Sakka,
Vice President for Communications

Dr Laszlo Igali,
Vice President for Professional Practice

Professor Peter Johnson,
Vice President for Workforce and
Corporate Engagement

Dr Gareth McKeeman,
Chair, Northern Ireland Regional
Council (to 12 November 2025)

Dr Alison Watt,
Chair, Northern Ireland Regional
Council (from 12 November 2025)

Dr Charu Chopra,
Chair, Scotland Regional Council

Dr Anu Gunavardhan,
Chair, Wales Regional Council
(to 12 November 2025)

Dr Emma Short,
Chair, Wales Regional Council
(from February 2026)

Dr Arthi Anand,
National Elected Member and Chair,
Histocompatibility and Immunogenetics
Specialty Advisory Committee (SAC)

Dr Sayed Bukhari,
National Elected Member

Dr Susanne Burdak-Rothkamm,
National Elected Member

Dr Guy Hannah,
National Elected Member

Dr Alex Haragan,
Elected Member (England, North)

Dr David Bailey,
Elected Member (England, Midlands
and East; from 12 November 2025)

Dr Rachael Liebmann,
Elected Member (England, London;
from 12 November 2025)

Vacant,
Elected Member (England, South)

Vince Voon,
Chair of Trustee Board and Lay Trustee

Professor Tahir Pillay,
Chair, International Committee



Co-opted Council Members

Dr Shubha Allard,
NHS Blood and Transplant

Professor Marco Novelli,
Medical Director, HCA Laboratories

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Observers to Council By Invitation

Joanna Andrew,
Past President, Institute of
Biomedical Science
(to December 2025)

Dr Lisa Ayers,
Chair, Healthcare Science
Committee

Dr Adrian Bateman,
Chair, Cellular Pathology SAC

Professor Ralph Bouhaidar,
Chair, Forensic Pathology SAC

Professor Sebastian Brandner,
Chair, Neuropathology SAC

Professor Nicki Cohen,
Clinical Director of Examinations

Professor Angharad Davies,
Clinical Director of Publishing and
Engagement

Dr Claire Deakin,
Chair, New Consultants Committee
(from 12 November 2025)

Dr Mike Eden,
Clinical Director of Safety and
Quality

Dr Clair Evans,
Chair, Prenatal, Perinatal and
Paediatric Pathology SAC
(from 12 November 2025)

Lesli Flinn,
Lay Trustee

Dr Ian Godber,
President, Association for Laboratory
Medicine (from June 2025) and
Chair, Clinical Biochemistry SAC
(to June 2025)

Dr Martin Goddard,
Chair, Death Investigations
Committee (from February 2026)

Professor Keith Hunter,
Chair, Research Committee

Lt Col Dr Emma Hutley,
Military Observer

Dr Jan Klapwijk,
Chair, Toxicology SAC

Dr Shireen Kassam,
Sustainability Lead

Professor Eric Kilpatrick,
Chair, Clinical Biochemistry SAC
(from 12 November 2025)

Dr Pamela Kelly,
Chair, Veterinary Pathology SAC

Professor Jo Martin,
National Specialty Advisor for
Pathology, NHS England/Improvement

Dr Tony Maddox,
Chair, Cytopathology Sub-Committee
(to 12 November 2025)

Vacant,
Chair, Cytopathology Sub-Committee

Dr Bipin Mathew,
Chair, Dermatopathology
Sub-Committee

Dr Sian Morgan,
Chair, Genomics and Reproductive
Science SAC

Professor Ronan McMullan,
Clinical Director of Training and
Assessment

Dr Karen Mitchell,
Chair, Pathology Informatics
Committee

Dr Shruthi Narayan,
Chair, Transfusion Medicine SAC

Jennifer Phillips,
Lay Trustee

Dr Sarah Pitt,
President, Institute of
Biomedical Science
(from January 2026)

Dr Natasha Ratnaraja,
Chair, Joint Medical Microbiology
and Medical Virology SAC

Dr Sophie Roberts,
Chair, Trainees' Advisory
Committee (to 12 November 2025)

Dr Golda Shelley-Fraser,
Chair, Medical Examiners
Committee

Dr Shari Srinivasa,
Dean, Faculty of Pathology
of Pathology, Royal College of
Physicians of Ireland

Dr Darren Treanor,
Chair, Digital Histopathology
Committee (from February 2026)

Dr Patrick Yong,
Chair, Immunology SAC

Dr Esther Youd,
Chair, Death Investigation
Committee (to February 2026)



The Royal College of Pathologists
Pathology: the science behind the cure

Thank you!

Thank you to our members, volunteers and staff for all they have achieved over the year. We're excited for next year and building on our achievements and successes.

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