

acp **N**ews

Join the debate: What is the point of Foundation Trusts?

The Ups and Downs of Cytopathology
Commissioning and the Tariff
Pathological Art

Association of Clinical Pathologists

Officers

President
Dr R M Young

President-elect
Dr W A Telfer Brunton

Vice-Presidents
Dr L McWilliam
Dr S Maxwell

Chairman of Council
Dr M J Galloway

Secretary
Dr A N Stark

Treasurer
Dr W J Fuggle

Scientific Meetings Secretary
Professor T M Reynolds

Editor/Publications Secretary
Simon Knowles

Assistant Editors
Prof K G Kerr
Dr J L Burton
Dr P J Twomey

Postgraduate Education Secretary
Dr M S Morgan

Management Course Organisers
Drs A and M Galloway

Secretariat

The Association of Clinical Pathologists
189 Dyke Road
Hove, East Sussex, BN3 1TL
Tel: 01273 775700
Fax: 01273 773303
email: info@pathologists.org.uk
<http://www.pathologists.org.uk>

General Administrator
Ms A A Martin

Administrator – Finance
Mrs R Eustace

Editorial Assistant
Miss J Rush

(Correspondence should be addressed to:
The Editor,
Association of Clinical Pathologists,
189 Dyke Road, Hove,
East Sussex, BN3 1TL
Email: simon.knowles.acpnews@gmail.com)

© acpnews 2008 all rights reserved.
No part of this publication may be reproduced in any way whatsoever without the permission of the Association of Clinical Pathologists.
Charity registration number: 209455

Calendar of Forthcoming Meetings

Date 2008 & Organisation	Title	Venue	Contact Details
3 October ACP/BSG	Gloucestershire One Day Gastrointestinal Pathology Course	The Gold Cup Room, Cheltenham Racecourse	Ms Pauline Baker pauline.baker@glos.nhs.uk
8 - 10 October Association of Cardiovascular Pathologists	3rd Biennial meeting	Institute of Physics, Portland Place, London W1B 1NT, UK.	Dr SK Suvarna 0114 271 4942 (s.k.suvarna@shef.ac.uk) Dr PJ Gallagher (pig4@soton.ac.uk) www.anpat.unipd.it/aecvp
7 November ACP Caledonian Branch	Autumn Meeting 2008	Education and Conference Centre Stirling	Fiona Roberts fiona.roberts@ggc.nhs.scot
2009			
26 February Association of Clinical Pathologists	Liaison and Branch Officers Meeting: More Hot Management Issues for Consultants	Institute of Physics 76 Portland Place, London	Jacqui Rush Tel: 01273 775700 jacqui@pathologists.org.uk
11 - 12 June Association of Clinical Pathologists	Histopathology & Forensic Pathology Annual Meeting	RIBA 66 Portland Place, London	Alison Martin Tel: 01273 775700 alison@pathologists.org.uk

The ACP accepts no liability for errors or omissions in this calendar of meetings. Readers are reminded that advertised meetings may be cancelled. Those intending to attend are obliged to check the details on booking with the organiser in every instance. There will be a £25 administration fee per issue for entries in this table.



Dr Burton is Assistant Editor of acp News and Lecturer in Histopathology at the University of Sheffield



Prof Kerr is Assistant Editor of acp News and Consultant Microbiologist at Harrogate District Hospital



Dr Twomey is Assistant Editor of acp News and Consultant Chemical Pathologist at Ipswich Hospital

Autumn 2008

CONTENTS

6 THE ACP DEBATE

Members of the ACP believe that there is no point to Foundation Trusts

12 ACP BUSINESS

Council Report June 2008 • *Bury* on the International Scientific Meeting • *Burton* on Prague and abstracts of the winning posters from the meeting • UK PIN

19 ARTICLES AND REGULAR FEATURES

Harris When to Say no to HM Coroner • *Chandler* An Alternative View of the Inquest • Students' Experience of the Autopsy • *Vale* Pathological Art • *Price* Commissioning and Tariffs • *Herbert* The Ups and Downs of being a Cytopathologist • *Coghill* Confessions of a Petrolhead

43 TRAVEL, MEETINGS AND RESEARCH

Shelton on her BSc • *Kakkar* on his time at Kings • *Wilson* on the Hammersmith Dermatopathology course • *Benbow* and *McMahon* on recruitment

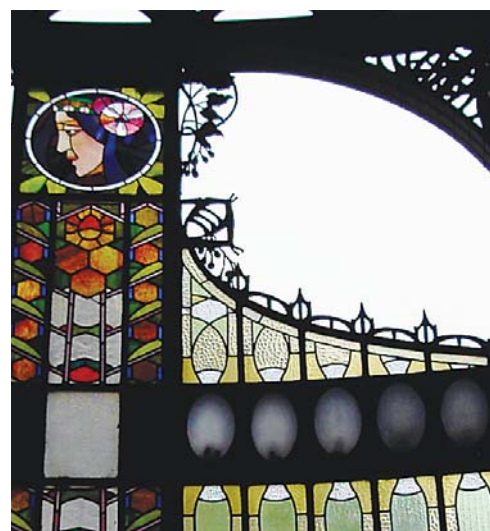
48 THE COLUMNISTS

Harris on reports (again) • *Twomey* on midwifery • *Dixon* on vermin • *Reynolds* on Carter, Darzi and NuLabour • *Rory* on litterboxes

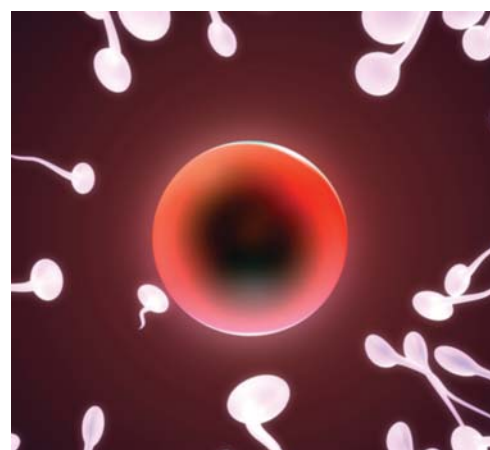


www.pathologists.org.uk

ISSN No. 0260-065X



Prague 2008 p13



Art and Pathology p30



Get on your bike p38

Cover Story



A small detail from the Municipal House in Prague, taken during an evening in June, recuperating from the excellent programme at the International Scientific Meeting. The Municipal House really is a triumph of Art Nouveau and a wonderful venue for a highly sociable evening.

As mentioned in the Council Report, the recent International Scientific Meeting is likely to be the last in the traditional multidisciplinary format.

Sic transit gloria pathologica.

Invitation to Contributors

In addition to the constant flow of material from ACP Council, ACP committees and ACP branches, *acp News* needs new material from you, the members of the ACP.

Pathology news items (1200-1500 words): Any items related to the ACP or the College, pathologists in general, or medical and management matters that may have an impact on pathologists.

Articles (1500-2000 words): These can be papers, reviews, essays, commentaries, critiques or polemics. Submitted articles are always very welcome, as well as suggestions for articles and/or details of people whom the editor may approach.

Reports (1000 words): These may be personal views and reports on interesting meetings, travel or anything else of interest to the readership. Travel reports are specifically for holders of ACP travel fellowships; however, other reports from abroad are welcomed.

Columns (600 words): Regular and irregular columnists exercise their thoughts. Please feel free to rant.

Pathological creative writing: All literary forms, including short stories, serials, surrealism and even poetry.

Appreciations (1000-1500 words): We prefer appreciations on retirement, rather than obituaries. Please discuss these with the editor before submission.

Photo-journalism: Favoured subjects include pathologists doing something interesting, or College and ACP officers doing anything at all. Interesting or artistic photographs are welcomed.

Cartoons: Suggestions are welcomed.

Curetings: Jokes and humorous titbits are always needed.

Debate: Letters to the editor are welcomed, but may be shortened for publication, or even converted into articles. Please try to refrain from writing unless you are prepared to be published. All criticisms of organisations or named individuals will entitle the parties to a right of reply. Please bear in mind the UK libel laws!

Trainees: Trainees are especially encouraged to submit material in any and all of the above categories. These will normally be placed in the trainees' section. Appointments committees in particular value publications in *acp News*.

Editorial Policy: The editor would particularly encourage overseas contributors, material from trainees, material from non-histopathologists, commentary on current affairs in pathology, occasional columnists, innovations in pathology, humorous writing on pathology-related topics, and anything downright cantankerous.

Format: The *acp News* style guide was published in the autumn 2005 issue, pages 11-12, and copies can be obtained from the editor. The publication is a magazine, not an academic journal, and long lists of references are generally considered unnecessary. Where given, references should be in the Vancouver style and should be kept to a maximum of around six per article, unless absolutely necessary. Alternatively, authors may prefer to give a recommended reading list, or a list of relevant internet links. The editor prefers these as they take up less space.

All suggestions are welcome; however, the editor's decision is final.

acp News is published quarterly. Regular publication dates are:

Issue	Publication month	Copy date
SPRING	February	5th December
SUMMER	May	5th March
AUTUMN	August	5th June
WINTER	November	5th September

Copy is best submitted by email, or on disc if the file size is large, in any version of Microsoft Word, although it should be possible to accommodate other formats. Submissions on paper by snail mail will also be accepted. Illustrations can be sent as transparencies or prints, but high-quality digital images (TIFF or JPEG) are preferred.

Please send email submissions direct to the editor at simon.knowles.acpnews@gmail.com

Foundation Trusts – more red tape or a genuine step forward?

We are a mixed bunch in the ACP but many of us will have this in common – a monthly meeting in the Trust Boardroom where the Directors of Finance and Strategy barrage us with facts and figures; figures being the more striking part of the bombardment. In many hospitals the discussion will revolve around how best to convince Monitor that the Trust is “fit for foundation” with that magical promise of freedom from management by dictat. In FT Boardrooms it is more likely to be all about how to duck the searchlight when we are just about to “breach”.

The explosion of Regulation over the last decade might seem somewhat surprising, given bright and breezy electoral promises about doing away with all that red tape. There is nothing wrong with a bit of innocent political enthusiasm but it doesn't last. And it didn't. Targets followed reviews. Regulations followed guidelines. And still the criticisms from the Centre burgeoned: the NHS isn't proactive; won't innovate; and point blank refuses to perform as smartly as the independent sector, or so we are told. In short, NHS organisations do not operate like businesses.

At the other end of the food chain there is an army of bright and committed professionals across the health-care landscape who would love to be at the cutting edge but who get ground down by institutional and corporate inertia, endless paperwork and a deeply unadventurous command and control culture which stifles the very breath out of anything innovative. Those who have worked in the independent, corporate or private sector – call it what you will – know that the problem here is not that we won't innovate. We can't innovate. It's just too hard, and we all have time-sensitive day jobs, thanks to the new contract. In short, NHS organisations do not operate like businesses.

So we come to a rare consensus: Organisations desperate to do their local best. And an administration that wants to believe its own rhetoric regarding downward delegation. The consensus? Run NHS organisations like businesses. Has it worked? In this issue we will argue the toss. And you have a chance to have your say. Don't miss out. Log onto the ACP website at www.pathologists.org.uk and make your vote count.

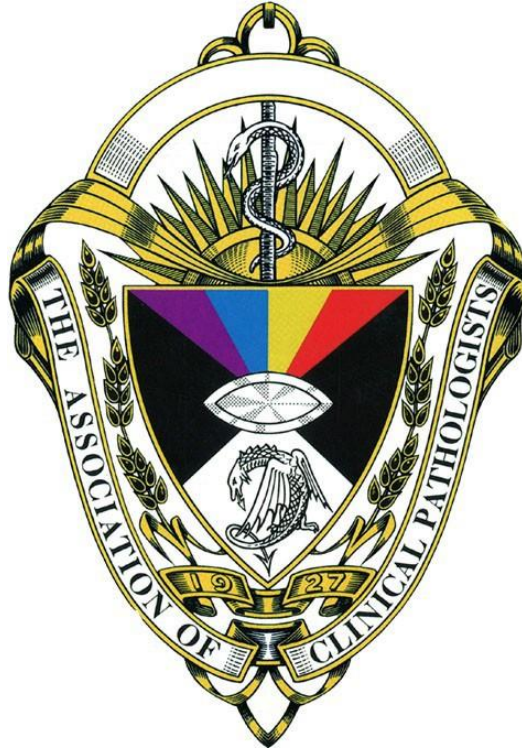
Elsewhere in this issue

The Prague ACP Annual Scientific Meeting may well be the last, at least in its current format. We look at the event and the implications for the future. Price takes a helicopter view of commissioning pathology services, Herbert waves the flag for clinical cytopathology and Coghill comes up with a variety of excuses for motorcycle madness. Vale touches on how the visual arts may help increase community awareness of the importance of the pathological sciences which seems timely, given the launch of National Pathology Week, coming soon to a Department Near You. And a host of regular columnists and sporadic contributors will give you ample excuse to read the *acp News* right now, rather than catching up with all that tedious post-holiday paperwork.



Dr Simon Knowles is a pathologist in Somerset
Email: simon.knowles.acpnews@gmail.com





If you would like to view the full version of the *ACP news* please login to your account. If you are not a member you can join by contacting the Association's central office or email info@pathologists.org.uk