

acp **N**ews



Hiroshima

Lean thinking

Live long and prosper

The trainees ~~section~~ zone returns

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Calendar of Forthcoming Meetings

Date 2010 & Organisation	Title	Venue	Contact Details
25 February Association of Clinical Pathologists	Hot Topics Management Day inc Liaison & Branch Officers' Meeting	Institute of Physics, London	Rachel Eustace 01273 775700 Rachel@pathologists.org.uk www.pathologists.org.uk
16 – 20 May Hosted by the BSCC on behalf of the International Academy of Cytology	17th International Congress of Cytology	Congress Venue - The Edinburgh International Conference Centre	www.cytology2010.com
10 – 11 June Association of Clinical Pathologists	ACP Annual Scientific Meeting	Royal Institute of British Architects, London	Alison Martin 01273 775700 Alison@pathologists.org.uk www.pathologists.org.uk
22 – 24 September Association of Clinical Pathologists	ACP Management Course	Hardwick Hall Hotel, Sedgefield	Jacqui Rush 01273 775700 Jacqui@pathologists.org.uk www.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

Winter 2009

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Leading this issue is a wake-up call from the wards by *Silvester*. We really could do things a bit better if we tried. No better time than the present

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Cover story: *the Scream*

This has got to be the best histological lookalike we've ever seen (Yes: this is a clear challenge to all readers and their colleagues). It was spotted by Richard Bishop and identified by Alison Cairns, Leeds and arrived via Emyr Benbow, of course. Thanks to all for a rare visual treat.

The Norwegian Expressionist artist, **Edvard Munch**, produced a series of paintings and prints entitled *The Scream* (Norwegian: *Skrik* which probably equates better to *shriek*) between 1893 and 1910. The scene was identified as being the view from the hill of Ekeberg, overlooking Oslo. At the time of painting the original work, his manic depressive sister was a patient in the mental hospital at the foot of Ekeberg. Various versions of the *Scream* have been stolen from public galleries, including, in 1994, a version in the National Gallery. It is interesting to speculate whether this reflects on the psychology of the thieves or that of the collectors who commissioned the thieves.

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.

Curettings: 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.

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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 should be sent as JPEG digital images or hard copy prints. Please do not embed images in your text. Send them as separate files.

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

National Pathology Week and the feelgood factor

Hiroshima? Oh dear. Regular readers of the *acp News* may feel they have detected an “Armageddon Now” flavour to the editorials and articles since Mike Harris hung up his red pen as editor. All doom and gloom and soggy cardboard boxes stuff about a bleak post-Carter (and post-Northern Rock) world where it’s all going to end terribly badly just you wait and see. So running a piece on Hiroshima in this issue is clearly going to reinforce this impression. Especially with a spectacular histological version of *The Scream* on the front cover.

Not so. The gloom abates when you recognise the author, Carl Gray, and read the article, along with some of the others. We’ve got ghosts, jigsaws, museums and bits on training and management and, underpinning it all, is a terrific sense of enthusiasm around who we are and what we do. Members of the Association of Clinical Pathologists manage to stagger back after a hard day at the coalface – and what a variety of faces we face – yet still find the energy for creative writing.

So what has this got to do with National Pathology Week? It is probable that the Royal College decided to launch National Pathology Week purely as an external public relations exercise, aimed at correcting the public perceptions of pathology and improving recruitment into laboratory medicine. It has been a brilliant initiative and we look forward to reading about the successes of this year’s hearty menu in the next Bulletin.

But there is another constituency that deserves to benefit from this week-long celebration of the importance of pathology to the development and maintenance of modern healthcare: the individuals who work in and around the laboratories, from the folk in data entry all the way along the food chain to pathologists themselves. We all suffer a huge handicap compared with our clinical colleagues. Virtually nobody, ever, says thank you. National Pathology Week should serve to remind us what a tremendous contribution we all make to patient care and to patient safety. Next time you are passing specimen reception, give them a cheer. Because they’re worth it.

Elsewhere in this issue

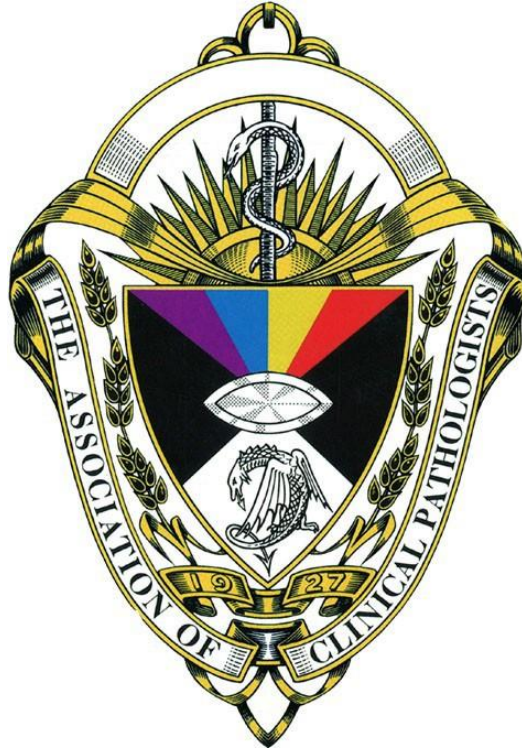
Leading this issue is an article from Dr Kate Silvester, a national star in the service improvement area with a background in ophthalmology and manufacturing. Before you dismiss “Lean” as yet another management fad, read the case study. Are you sure it’s not your Trust that Kate is talking about?

We have exhumed the Trainees section, thanks to the enthusiasm and energy of Zena Slim, Yvonne Bury and the current trainees group. With them lies the future of the profession and the Association. When you have finished with your copy of the *acp News*, please pass it on to a junior or drop it off into the registrars room with a strong recommendation that they join the ACP. Because they’re worth it.



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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