

The Association of Clinical Pathologists

Autumn 2010

acp **N**ews



Thorns or low hanging fruit?

The new landscape for pathology

Dr Moletthrottler, police surgeon

Learning leadership

Association of Clinical Pathologists

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Calendar of Forthcoming Meetings

Date 2011 & Organisation	Title	Venue	Contact Details
24 February Association of Clinical Pathologists	Hot Topics Management Day ACP Liaison & Branch Officers Meeting	Institute of Physics 76 Portland Place London	Rachel Eustace 01273 775700 Rachel@pathologists.org.uk
2 March Association of Clinical Pathologists	Basic Management Course	Copthorne Hotel Newcastle upon Tyne	Alison Martin 01273 775700 Alison@pathologists.org.uk
11 – 12 June Association of Clinical Pathologists	ACP Annual Scientific Meeting	Institute of Physics 66 Portland Place London	Alison Martin 01273 775700 Alison@pathologists.org.uk
28 – 30 September Association of Clinical Pathologists	ACP Management Course	Hardwick Hall Hotel Sedgefield	Jacqui Rush 01273 775700 Jacqui@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.



*Julian Burton is
editor elect of acp News
Be afraid
Be very afraid*



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

Autumn 2010

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James on MAPS • *Molethrottler* on the joys of being a medical examiner • *Knowles* wants you to design your own KQIs • some tips from *Burton* on how to get your book published • *Hodkinson* provides a student's eye view of the coroner • *Chandler* on China

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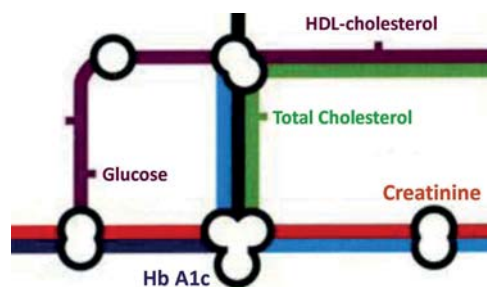


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p7 Medical leadership competencies

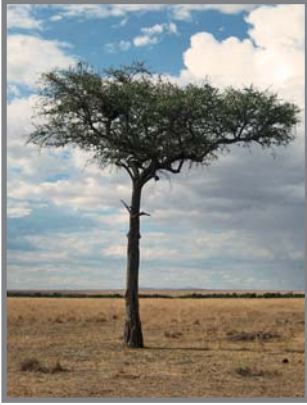


p16 A Map of the future



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Cover Story



The Masai Mara in Kenya during the annual migration. If you look behind the photographer you will see thousands of Wildebeests. Definitely not the view from Fawlty Towers.

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.

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 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 JulianBurton@doctors.org.uk

As we move into the autumn, and the Comprehensive Spending Review, we find ourselves in a very interesting place. Andrew Lansley has made it crystal clear that he has spent a great deal of time in opposition working out what he wants to do with the NHS; and it is radical. Bang go SHAs, PCTs, NHS Direct, most of the Department of Health and over one hundred quangos for a start. Public health goes, apparently, to local government (which will be interesting for those laboratories involved in screening programmes) and we all start concentrating on outcomes instead of targets.

A focus on outcomes rather than targets is to be welcomed, but it does leave pathology in a particularly awkward bind: how do we measure outcomes for our service? How do we prove that we are not merely a 'back office' function or, worse, a commodity that can be bought from the laboratory that offers the cheapest cost per test?

There have been two important letters from Ian Barnes over the Summer, requesting and requiring an additional turn of speed from the SHAs – while they still exist – regarding their plans to respond to Carter and QIPP. It may, however, simply be too late. Reading between the lines, it would seem that patience at 'the centre' is running out. Our perceived reluctance to get to grips with the challenge of cash release from pathology may precipitate a more radical approach. If we can't sort ourselves out soon, market forces will be unleashed and it will be left to 'any willing providers' to slug it out over the cadaver of traditional laboratory medicine. What does this mean for the ACP and its members?

The spirit of the ACP has always floated more or less directly over the laboratory bench or the clinical pathologist's consulting room. We are a service orientated, pragmatic group of specialists, with a strong focus on clinical care, service development and practical postgraduate training. The Association is represented on many of the national bodies that influence the ways in which we work but it is equally important for us all to make sure that our clinical colleagues genuinely understand what is at stake here. Adopting a bunker mentality will be fatal. We need to be clearly identified with the clinical QIPP workstreams. That is where we can really make a difference.

Elsewhere in this issue

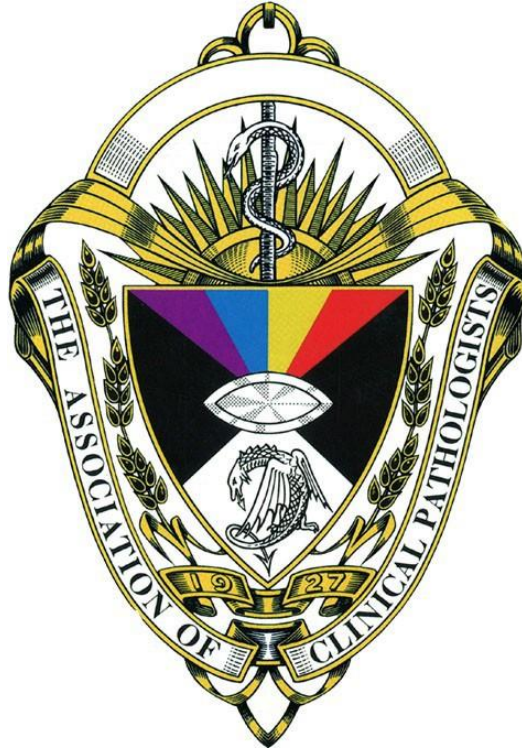
With the recent incorporation of leadership as a core competence for medical training, Chris Clough gives us a guide to the approach being taken by the Academy of Medical Royal Colleges. Anyone with responsibility for junior staff needs to be aware of this development. Ian Barnes is, inevitably, associated with the consolidation aspects of Carter but he is the first to point out that this is only one facet of the challenge facing pathology, as is clear from his article with Lesley Wright on service improvement. And we get a hint of what it's like to be a forensic medical examiner from Dr Cyril Moethrottler.

Next issue, as a Christmas treat, readers will be treated to a brand new, but very familiar, editor of the *acp News*. I wish Julian Burton the very best. It's a fab job and I am really looking forward to reading a rejuvenated magazine this winter.



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