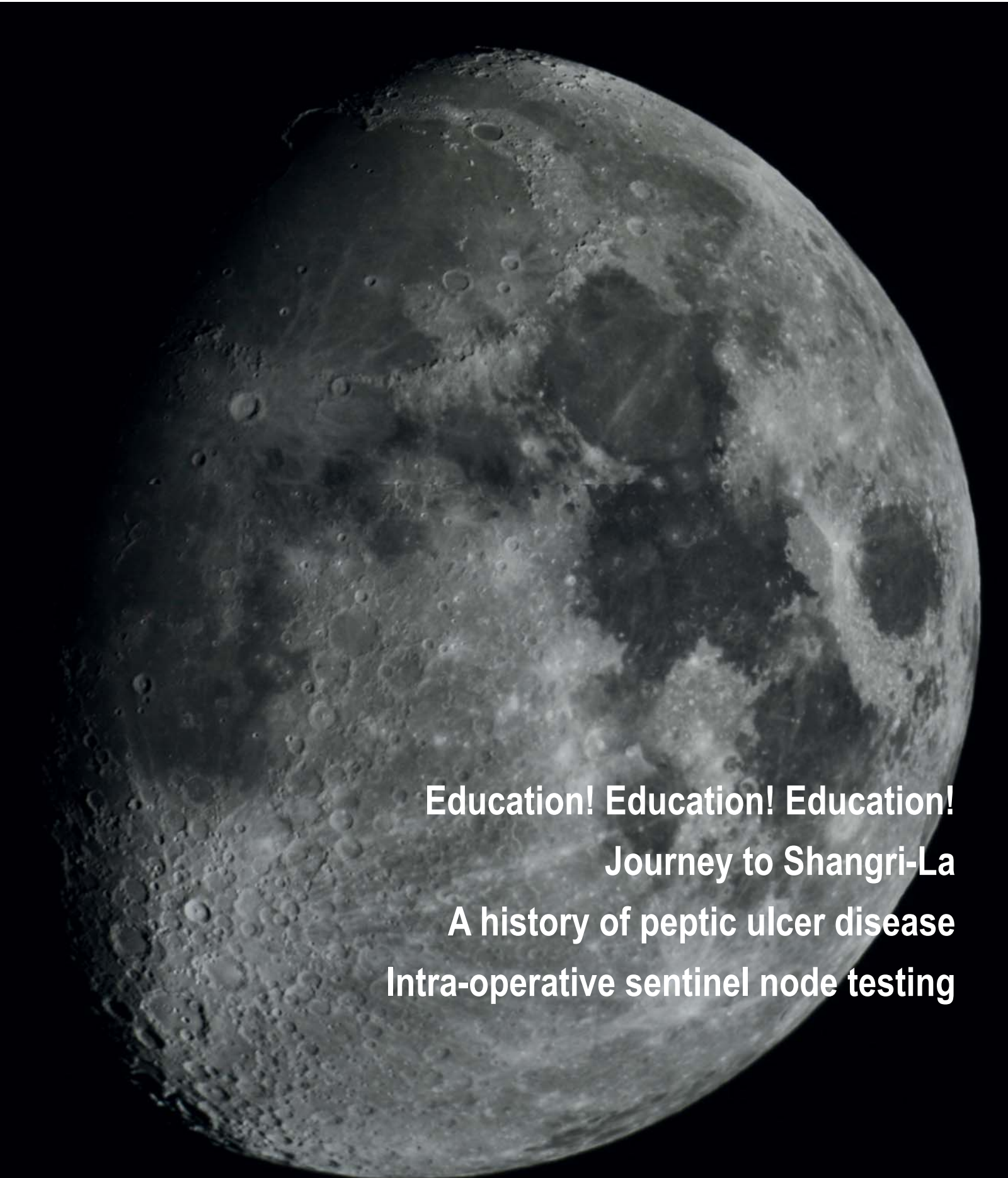


ACP news



Education! Education! Education!
Journey to Shangri-La
A history of peptic ulcer disease
Intra-operative sentinel node testing

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Charity registration number: 209455

Calendar of Forthcoming Meetings DIARY DATES FOR 2011

Date 2011 & Organisation	Title	Venue	Contact Details
2 March Association of Clinical Pathologists	ACP Basic Management Course	Copthorne Hotel Newcastle upon Tyne	Alison Martin 01273 775700 Alison@pathologists.org.uk
16 – 17 June Association of Clinical Pathologists	ACP Annual Scientific Meeting	RIBA 66 Portland Place London	Alison Martin 01273 775700 Alison@pathologists.org.uk
28 – 30 September Association of Clinical Pathologists	25 th 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.



Dr Ed Carling is Assistant Editor of ACP news and Locum Consultant Histopathologist



Dr Su Enn Low is Assistant Editor of ACP news and Consultant Histopathologist at Pennine Acute Trust

ACP news

Spring 2011

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The moon (in case you hadn't noticed). Reproduced for no reason other than its natural beauty. Photograph courtesy of Dr Phil Lumb, Home Office Pathologist.

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 nonhistopathologists, commentary on current affairs in pathology, occasional columnists, innovations in pathology, humorous writing on pathology-related topics, and anything downright cantankerous.

Format: The revised *ACP news* style guide can be found on the ACP website at http://www.pathologists.org.uk/all-page-stuff/publications_frameset2.htm. 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

Welcome to the Spring 2011 issue of *ACP news*. By the time you read this, hopefully the snows will have melted and perhaps even the first spring flowers are beginning to poke their buds bravely out into the world. Or perhaps there will be three feet of snow on the ground. Who can tell these days? Certainly I can't. In order to be ready for a Spring copy date the editorial is written some months in advance, so at the time of writing it is the very beginning of January and my thoughts are turned to the joy of New Year's Day.

Happy New Year

I turned into a grumpy old man at the age of about 25. It means that I can just about tolerate the Christmas holiday, though not that it seems to start being pushed down one's throat from July onwards. I detest New Year celebrations, and not just because the shops seem to fill with Easter eggs on 2 January. Why people bother with the celebration of the start of a new year, beyond the fact that one has survived the last one, is beyond me. I am usually in bed well before the clock strikes twelve, but like many others for me the New Year transition becomes a time for reflection. I am of the "glass is half empty" ilk and so I tend to ignore my successes and become maudlin about those things not yet completed or which didn't go to plan. Of course, some of you will prefer to think that the glass is half full and of course that is okay but nobody ever says what the glass is half full of.

This is without doubt going to be a challenging year for all of us. The NHS budget will tighten and the whole country looks set to face more work done by fewer people, for lower pay and higher taxes. Happy New Year indeed.

Fortunately, it isn't all doom and gloom and we have something to look forward to. In just a few months time we have a momentous occasion to occupy our attentions. The pundits haven't really started in on the topic yet, but give them time. Already there are musings about what clothes will be worn and how things will be different as a result. What will it mean for our great nation? I speak *not* of the royal wedding of course but of the fact that come 17 June the ACP will awake to a new President. He will have the challenge of leading the Association through difficult times. I am pleased to say that you can find some words from the President elect in this issue. I hope that you will join me in wishing him a trouble-free and successful term. Of course, a few minor controversies to help fill these pages would be welcome.

New resolve

It won't surprise you that I am not one for making New



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Year's resolutions. I know that there is little point in deciding to eat less fatty food, drink less alcohol or do some exercise as all will be irretrievably broken once I have flaked out on the sofa after the Cloudy Bay and nice cheeses on New Year's Day. I think my record for breaking a New Year's resolution was four minutes, but I'm not going to tell you what that one was!

I will, of course, through necessity, continue my resolve to work efficiently. That means a serious crack down on work-related questionnaires, which seem now to hit my email inbox with ever-increasing frequency. I am developing a pathological hatred of them. Given that I spend much of my time running a couple of years of an undergraduate MBChB programme, many of them relate to teaching. Each seems eminently noble and reasonable at first glance and they all come with the claims they will not take more than five minutes to complete, that they will lead to an enhancement of medical education nationally and that we will be provided with feedback on the results. In reality, and without fail, they will take at least an hour to complete, will require detailed searching of many years' worth of timetables and module handbooks, will be about the most obtuse and least consequential elements of a curriculum and once completed you will never ever hear from the person sending the survey ever again. In all probability neither will you ever find the results

published. Or worse, they generate a proposed national curriculum. Call me a cynic if you will, but I think one hour is more than enough time spent teaching about alternative medicine in year one (and possibly the whole course). Someone's chakras must be seriously misaligned if they think that anyone in medicine wants us to include 80 hours of teaching about crystal healing into an MBChB programme when it is hard to find enough time to fit in all the science and clinical medicine.

Situations vacant

We have two assistant editors who are histopathologists but I am eager to recruit one or two more. My search for assistant editors who are microbiologists or clinical chemists continues and you are welcome to nominate yourself or indeed to nominate others! The work isn't onerous and entails writing or commissioning one article per issue (four per year), keeping an eye out for interesting curettings and reading each issue of the *ACP news* from cover to cover.

Elsewhere in this issue

As ever, the *ACP news* strives to satisfy your desire to be

entertained and informed. In this issue you will find excellent guidance from Daniel Scott about the new histopathology curriculum, and the Trainees' Zone has an account of the experience of some of those who have been involved in FY1 pathology rotations. For a more global outlook we have commentaries about the CDC in Georgia by Eamonn Trainor, and Ian Chandler's breathtaking journey to Shangri-La. Zena Slim reports on her recent travels to present an unusual cardiac death in Lisbon. Perhaps you crave a historical context. No problem. Alexander Pollock, a retired general practitioner and now a medical historian, explores for us the history of peptic ulcer disease and Elizabeth Blythe gives an insightful account of the Alder Hey crisis. Want something with more scientific bite? *ACP news* has that covered. Ian Cree recounts his experience of the use of molecular biology in intra-operative sentinel node testing and Mike Harris gives a wonderful summary of the molecular biology of colorectal cancer in his meeting report. All that, *and* some book reviews, curettings and the thoughts of our regular and less regular columnists help us get 2011 off to a cracking good start. I hope that you enjoy it all, and that you have a happy, prosperous and productive year.



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ISSN No. 0260-065X



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