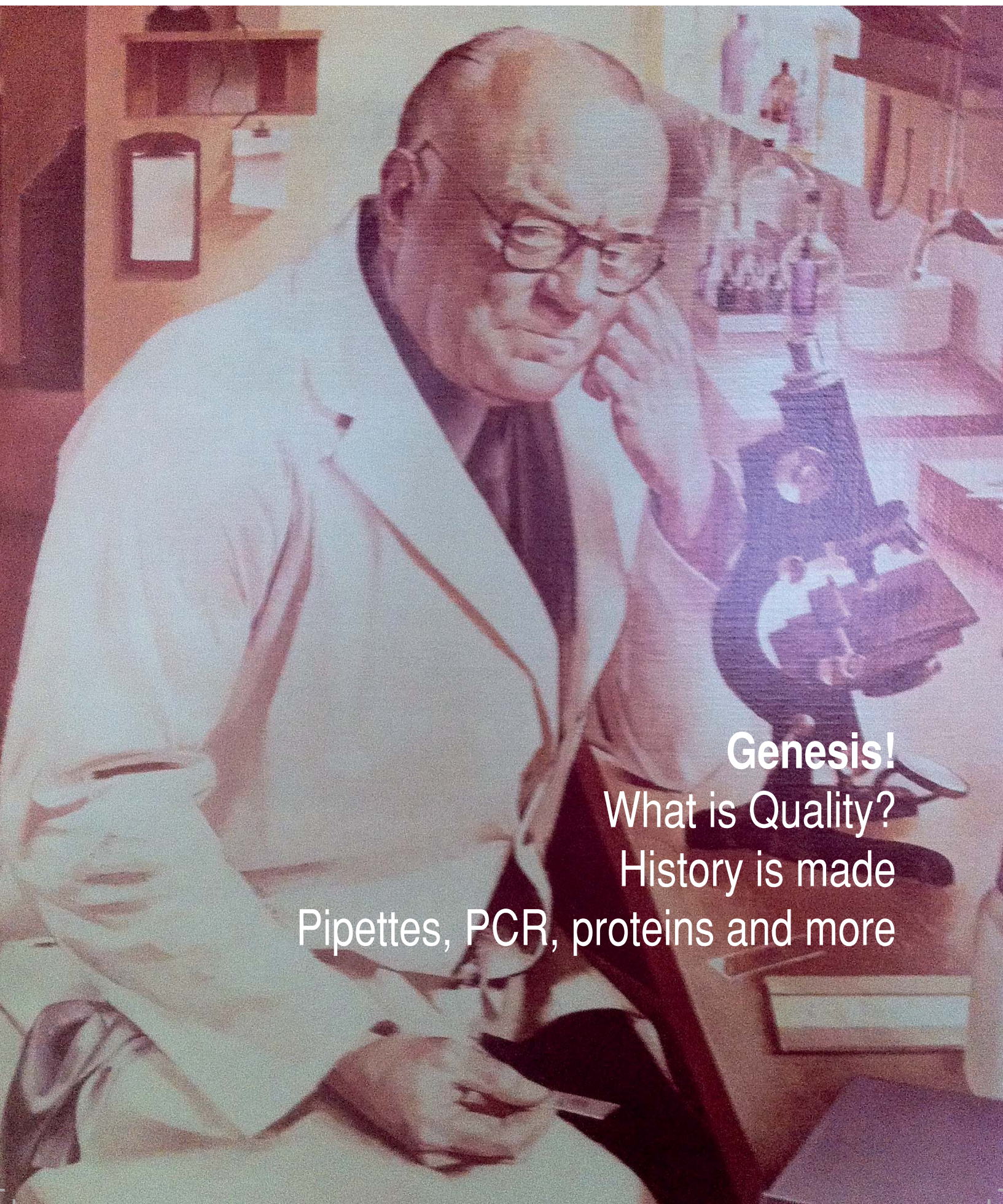


ACP news



Genesis!
What is Quality?
History is made
Pipettes, PCR, proteins and more

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Calendar of Forthcoming Meetings

DIARY DATES FOR 2012

Date 2012 & Organisation	Title	Venue	Contact Details
Thursday 28th & Friday 29th June	ACP Annual Scientific Meeting (multi-disciplinary)	RIBA 66 Portland Place, London	01273 775700 info@pathologists.org.uk www.pathologists.org.uk
Wednesday 5th to Friday 7th September	26th ACP Management Course	Hardwick Hall Hotel, Sedgefield	01273 775700 admin@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 Ed Carling is Assistant Editor
of ACP news and
Consultant Histopathologist at
James Cook University Hospital*



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



*Dr Abigail Pugh is Trainees Editor of
ACP News and ST4 in Histopathology
and Birmingham Children's Hospital*

ACP news

Summer 2012

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Cover Story



This portrait of Dr Sidney C Dyke hangs in pride of place in the downstairs hallway of the Association of Clinical Pathologists' offices in Hove. The artist is seemingly unknown, and if you do know who they were, the editor would like to know! Sidney Dyke was the founder of our Association 85 years ago. The ACP still holds true to the ideals upon which he based this august society and in this issue we honour his memory.

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 tidbits 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 *ACP news* style guide is now available on line via the ACP website in PDF format at: http://www.pathologists.org.uk/allpagestuff/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

I have been in academic practice for fourteen years now. Back when I started there were busy points in the year that were nicely countered by some quieter ones, particularly around Christmas and in the Summer when the undergraduates had gone home. They were useful. They allowed one a chance to take stock, catch up, think for a while and plan for the future. Now, alas, those quieter times are a dim and distant memory – its busy all year round, with little let up. September through December provide me with an immense teaching load. Then there are a few months spent writing, rewriting and polishing examinations. Before you know it the exams are upon us and there is marking to be done, students to be counselled and consoled and resits. Then the planning for the next year must begin in earnest and before you know it, there is a new crop of students waiting to be taught.

Now I know what you're thinking – what about all those long holidays in the academic year? Well, students now ignore them and indeed also ignore weekends, bank holidays or the fact that it is 11pm when they send their query. I suppose it is partly my fault for having an email monkey on my back and checking my emails so late. It will only get worse of course when students start paying £9000 fees from September. I feel their pain, but suspect that it will be contagious. And <rant> now they complain about their exam questions! "This question was too hard!", "This question was not fair because...". How times change. When I was a student you knuckled under and just did your best. If you couldn't answer a question it was because you hadn't done enough work rather than the examiner's fault </rant>. In case you're wondering, if you were to sit an examination I had set you could be very sure that it related to what you had been taught (and that I could prove it), and that it had been checked, double checked and checked again.

All of this is a long-winded way of noting that an awful lot seems to have been happening lately. As Editor, this is of course a boon. It means that there is plenty for people to write about, and this ensures that I have lots of copy in my inbox to include in this issue. Hurrah. And what an issue it is. I am sure you will enjoy it.

Happy birthday ACP!

In March I had the pleasure of travelling down to Brighton with my other half to attend the ACP Spring council meeting. We travelled down the night before and had an interesting and fun weekend, though at one point Paul leant across the breakfast table and whispered, "*They're all a bit odd, aren't they?*" "Odder than me?" "No, I take your point." And perhaps to the outside world we are all a bit strange, although I don't see it. Then again, perhaps



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my other half isn't the only one who thinks this of us – have a gander at Mike Harris's column.

As part of the weekend I had the chance to journey up to the ACP head office, which resulted in a fruitful trawl through the archives. It turns out that the Association is 85 years old this year, and it seems a shame to let such an event go unnoticed. Within the archives are a number of speeches written by our founder, Dr Sidney Dyke. I present one of these for you as a leader article in this issue, and we shall hear more from him through to the end of the year. Much of what he had to say still seems apposite today.

A new member of the editorial team

It gives me great pleasure to announce that the editorial team of *ACP news* has a new addition. Dr Abigail Pugh comes on board as the new Trainees' Editor. Abigail chairs the Trainee Members' Group and is an ST4 in histopathology in the West Midlands. Born and bred in Staffordshire, she graduated in Cardiff and completed foundation training in North Wales before returning to live near Cannock Chase. In her spare time, when not now embroiled with the *ACP news* she tells me she likes to do all things crafty, especially knitting cupcakes (or I may have misread that and actually she likes knitting and baking cupcakes). You can read more about her in the Trainees' Zone.

A new direction?

I am often stopped by complete acquaintances who tell

me how much they like the *ACP news* and that they look forward to it landing on their doormats every quarter. That is most edifying. I would, however, like to see a change in direction for this publication if possible and this is down to you dear reader. I am mindful that our title is *ACP news* and I would very much like to be able to include more news about what is going on in the ACP. Recently I attended a half-day ACP study day on respiratory pathology in Leeds, which was most informative (and most useful – the good people of Sheffield have a propensity for dying trying to cough up a lung). In this issue we make a start, and I am pleased to present a number of Branch reports and Bursary/Award reports. Please let me know what you're getting up to.

I would also like to see an increase in the size of the Trainees' Zone. Trainee pathologists are the future of the Association and I would very much like this publication to be relevant to them. Articles written by trainees (or by non-trainees for trainees) are always welcome and looked upon favourably. Of course all the usual content is most welcome too! In this issue, Dr Merve considers the nature of academic training.

Regular readers of these pages will be well aware that each year we award prizes for Journalism in Pathology. These are awarded to the authors of the best articles written for *ACP news* in the previous year. Who decides which are the best ones? Well, the editor produces a shortlist that others are free to completely ignore (but didn't this year) and the winners are chosen by a panel of senior members of Council. As a previous first-prize winner, I find it all very exciting and you can find out who won the 2011 prizes in this issue.

Elsewhere in this issue

As pathologists we strive to do the best we can for our clinical colleagues and, more importantly, for our patients. As workloads continue to increase, along with pressures to do more with less, we strive constantly to ensure that we deliver a quality service. But what is *Quality*? Professor Tim Stephenson, President of the Association tackles this thorny issue most eruditely in our other leader article. All I can say is – *Timeo Danaos et fava fabam ferentes* (which if I have gotten my pigeon Latin right roughly means "Beware of Greeks bearing fava beans").



You will no doubt be aware, if based in the UK, that the Health and Social Care Bill has now been enacted. The *Royal College of General Practitioners* was against it. The *Royal College of Surgeons* was for it. And the *Royal College of Pathologists*? Well, that is an opportunity to tell my favourite joke. What is the difference between a physician, a surgeon and a pathologist? A physician knows everything but does nothing. A surgeon knows nothing but does everything. And a pathologist knows everything and does everything but a day too late.

That the College considered the matter was not a joke. That the Extraordinary General Meeting concerning this bill occurred after it was enacted was due to regulations of the College that did not permit an earlier meeting. The College is, I understand, reviewing its regulations. And let us not forget that this was the first ever Extraordinary General Meeting. Whatever your views on the Act, the EGM, I think, deserves some due notice, praise and attention and I doff my cap to those involved. You can read more about it, from some of those who were involved, in this issue.

National Pathology Year continues apace and I trust that you have all been busy. I'd very much like to hear what you are up to. John Nottingham considers what we might be watching on the box as the public become more aware of what we do, and I have my TiVo set to record. I am sure you will enjoy his proposed listings.

You might think that that seems like more than enough for one issue, but no! Sara Mahgoub considers what it is like to spend time in laboratory medicine as a Foundation Year 1 trainee and Tristan Sawle takes us on an exploration of the history of Huntington's disease. What's more, our columnists have also been beaver away.

You see – I told you a lot was going on. If you want to keep yourself up to date and cannot wait for the next issue, then you will be pleased to know that you can now follow the ACP on Twitter at @ACPathologists.



www.pathologists.org.uk

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