

ACP news



Association of Clinical Pathologists

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Calendar of Forthcoming Meetings

DIARY DATES FOR 2016/17

Date 2016 & Organisation	Title	Venue	Contact Details
Mon 5 - Fri 16 September 2016	FCRPath Course	Princess Alexandra Hospital, Harlow	07899 883741 eoepathology@me.com www.eoepathology.com
Wed 14 - Fri 16 September 2016	ACP Senior Management Course	Hardwick Hall, Sedgefield	01273 775700 office@pathologists.org.uk www.pathologists.org.uk
Mon 19 Sept - Friday 7 Oct 2016	FRCPPath Slide Workshop	Princess Alexandra Hospital, Harlow	07899 883741 eoepathology@me.com www.eoepathology.com
Wed 16 Nov 2016	Autopsy Update Day	Historic Dockyard Portsmouth	01273 775700 info@pathologists.org.uk www.pathologists.org.uk
Date 2017 & Organisation	Title	Venue	Contact Details
Mon 20 Feb - Fri 3 March 2017	FRCPPath Course	Princess Alexandra Hospital, Harlow	07899 883741 eoepathology@me.com www.eoepathology.com
Thurs 9 February 2017	ACP Hot Topics & Current Issues	Royal Society of Chemistry, Piccadilly, London	01273 775700 info@pathologists.org.uk www.pathologists.org.uk
Mon 20 Mar - Friday 7 Apr 2017	FRCPPath Slide Workshop	Princess Alexandra Hospital, Harlow	07899 883741 slideworkshop@me.com www.eoepathology.com
Wed 14 June 2017	ACP National Scientific Leadership Meeting	Royal Society of Chemistry, Piccadilly, London	01273 775700 info@pathologists.org.uk www.pathologists.org.uk
Thur 15 June 2017	ACP National Scientific Meeting		

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.

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Cover Picture



Roseberry Topping, North Yorkshire, by Dr Graeme Watson

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 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	April	1 March
SUMMER	June	1 May
AUTUMN	October	30 August
WINTER	December	30 November

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 acpnews@pathologists.org.uk



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Welcome to the Summer 2016 issue of *ACP news*. In this time of truly historic changes in our country and its relationship to the world, I suspect I am not alone in finding security in our day to day jobs as pathologists, serving all members of our communities equally, no matter where they come from. I believe the struggle of humanity against disease and suffering is a universal truth that binds us all, and the petty differences of politicians should not be allowed to distract us from this common purpose. Life is too important to let the politicians get in the way of living.

In times of change, reflection upon the past is surely helpful. Since the last issue, the dispute between the British Medical Association and the government over the working conditions of those in postgraduate medical training appears to have taken huge steps to resolution. I hope this can soon be concluded to the satisfaction of both parties, given that frankly what is left of the government should be concentrating on bigger issues. I must express my appreciation for the way those in postgraduate medical training in pathology have behaved during the dispute. Their integrity and professionalism has been a great credit to themselves and us all.

Looking at the past in a wider view, 2017 will be a significant anniversary of the foundation of the Association of Clinical Pathologists. The organisation will be celebrating and reflecting upon this anniversary, and *ACP news* will be a part of both processes. I would therefore ask any members with memories, good or bad, of past events or characters that they might wish to share with the membership to submit them for publication in a special anniversary edition for next year.

In considering the past and the future of the ACP, I offer by way as a starting point a summary of a recent survey, taking feedback from those members who left the association in 2015. Although the survey was small (with 32 respondents) I think the findings are instructive.

All but one had been a member of the ACP for over ten years, and as such represent many lifetimes of experience. The majority (20 of 32) left the organisation due to retirement, but a significant number (9 of 32) left as they felt the ACP offered no benefit to them personally.

The vast majority (29 of 32) felt membership of the ACP represented value for money when compared with other organisations.

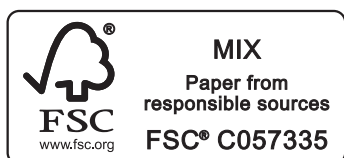
Slightly over half the respondents had taken part in a local branch meeting, suggesting a relatively high level of engagement for an organization such as ours. The vast majority (23 of 32) had never attended the National Scientific Meeting, but those that had found it overwhelmingly a useful experience.

The provided comments were very revealing and instructive. The obvious observation was made that the cost involved with professional memberships, especially from those organisations with regulatory functions, had increased vastly in recent times and has become an overbearing burden. It is difficult to disagree.

I will not quote directly from the survey for obvious reasons of confidentiality, but it was clear that membership of the Association had been of great value to a great many members throughout their careers. Many wrote of appreciating *ACP news* and the Journal of Clinical Pathology. Many wrote of the Association as a place of support and friendship. Long may this continue!

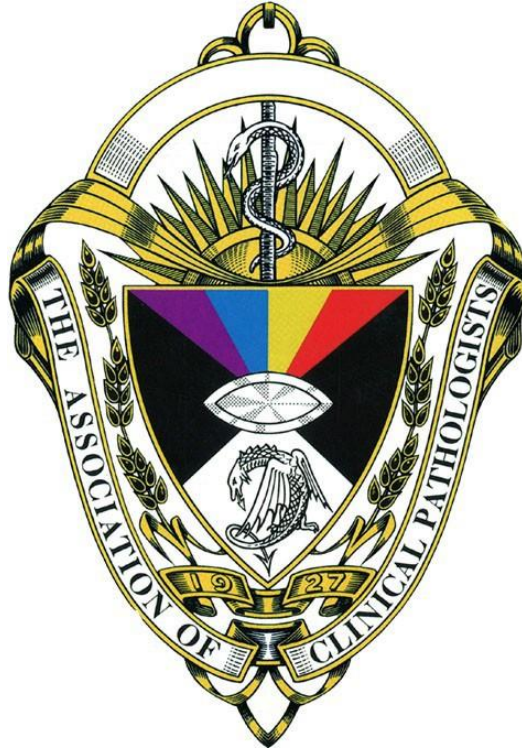
The Association will in the near future be considering the future more formally, and I would urge everyone reading to become closely involved in this process as it occurs.

Finally, let me happily welcome Dr Matthew Clarke, the trainee members group communication officer, on board as deputy editor. He has been of great help in attracting a younger group of authors to *ACP news*, which bodes very well for the future.



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ISSN No. 0260-065X



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