

# ACP news



## **Glass microbiology**

**A mock MDT for trainees**

**ACP meeting reports**

**Patient safety strategy**

# Association of Clinical Pathologists

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# Calendar of Forthcoming Meetings & Courses

## DIARY DATES FOR 2019

| Date                                     | Title                                    | Venue                                  | Contact Details                                                                                                                                                |
|------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 11 – 13 September                        | Advanced Leadership & Management Course  | Hardwick Hall, Sedgefield              | 01273 775700<br><a href="mailto:info@pathologists.org.uk">info@pathologists.org.uk</a><br><a href="http://www.pathologists.org.uk">www.pathologists.org.uk</a> |
| 15 November                              | ILMC                                     | Peterborough                           | 01273 775700<br><a href="mailto:info@pathologists.org.uk">info@pathologists.org.uk</a><br><a href="http://www.pathologists.org.uk">www.pathologists.org.uk</a> |
| 27 November                              | Autopsy Update Day                       | Royal College of Physicians, Edinburgh | 01273 775700<br><a href="mailto:info@pathologists.org.uk">info@pathologists.org.uk</a><br><a href="http://www.pathologists.org.uk">www.pathologists.org.uk</a> |
| External Courses 2019 – 2020             |                                          |                                        |                                                                                                                                                                |
| 16 – 18 September                        | FRCPATH EOE Diagnostic Cytology Workshop | Newmarket                              | <a href="mailto:frcpath2020@me.com">frcpath2020@me.com</a><br>01279 827899                                                                                     |
| 2 – 13 September<br>17 – 28 February '20 | EOE Systemic FRCPATH Course              | Princess Alexandra Hospital, Harlow    | <a href="mailto:frcpath2020@me.com">frcpath2020@me.com</a><br>07445 554567<br>01279 827899                                                                     |

**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.**

# ACP news

Summer 2019

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This beautiful glass sculpture is of a swine flu virus and is part of the Wellcome Collection. It was created by Luke Jerram and more of his work is presented in the glass microbiology article on p43.

## 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](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          | 5 December  |
| SUMMER | May               | 5 March     |
| AUTUMN | August            | 5 June      |
| WINTER | November          | 5 September |

Copy is best submitted by email, 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](mailto:acpnews@pathologists.org.uk)**

**In keeping with GDPR, please state if you wish your contact details to be published; they will appear in the print issue and will also be available as a PDF in the members' area of the website.**

As I look at the drizzle outside I note the long-range forecast is that cool and unsettled weather is likely to continue. Fortunately, I had not planned a halcyon summer scene for the cover but opted for a fascinating glass sculpture as described under Glass microbiology (p43).

It is seeing such objects and their astonishing beauty that reawakens the excitement of studying pathology; our chosen subject is endlessly fascinating. Unfortunately, most of the working day is not spent admiring the beauty of cellular structures or metabolic processes but in dealing with their effects at a cellular, human and organisational level.

Much of the work of the ACP described in this issue is not to do with the subject matter that we study but is about how we work with each other and the many colleagues who are part of our working lives.

Management and leadership have been major subjects for the ACP for many years and I report on excellent meetings where I have heard insightful presentations and spirited discussions. The emphasis has been on leadership, which effectively means one person taking charge and others following, or not following – presenting another set of issues. It is important to continue studying leadership, as anyone who takes a position of authority needs to understand how to get the best out of people and the organisation as a whole.

The presentations I have heard so far have been excellent in describing different leadership styles, making the point that to be too authoritarian is often counter-productive. I heard an interesting comment from one participant in a leadership course, said with not a hint of irony, that ‘I don’t need any more leadership training, my staff need follower training’.

A beautiful example of someone setting out what promises to be an interesting journey of self-discovery if he is to continue with his ambition! I wonder when his Eureka moment will come and he realises that everyone is important, both in getting the work done and in keeping a productive and well-staffed department. The leadership programme continues and reports of meetings will continue to be a major feature in coming issues. I would welcome reports from participants, especially those who are in the early stages of their careers.

I also enjoyed the East Mercian study day with a good variety of topics and a welcome dose of fun in taking pathology to school or taking school students into labs. Other topics included a report on workforce issues, virtual autopsies and helpful advice on giving a good lecture.

I have also included my personal response to the Department of Health’s consultation on a patient safety strategy. Definitely not a fun item but an important subject that does need to be aired. I only found out about this with limited time to respond, which is why I have submitted my views as an individual rather than canvassing the views of others. I shall report on the response when it is available.

It is always interesting to note the public perceptions of our work, discussed in this issue by Matt Clarke. I often find the public response to be a mixture of fascination and fear. Fascination is in the beautiful sculptures and fear in respect of the conditions that we work with. Last night I heard a comedian playing the part of the doctor with a poor bedside manner, singing: ‘Here’s a musical clue of what’s wrong with you, it begins with E and it rhymes with Coca-Cola...’ I am sure you can imagine the rest. From an early stage, we learn to live with the maxim attributed to TS Eliot, ‘The mind cannot stand too much reality’.

So this issue comes with bite-size chunks of theory, reality and a little bit of fun!



*Your editor*

*Eric Watts*

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**No competition in this issue as we have no prizes available!**

**The puzzle is to find a link between this dramatic scenery and our founder.**

**All will be revealed in the autumn issue.**



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