

ACP news



Life and work of Sidney Dyke

June meeting reports
Leadership & lymphomas
NHS Safety Strategy
Our link with the Devil

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The Association of Clinical Pathologists

189 Dyke Road
Hove, East Sussex, BN3 1TL
Tel: 01273 775700
Fax: 01273 773303
email: info@pathologists.org.uk
<http://www.pathologists.org.uk>

Administrator

Mrs R Eustace

Correspondence should be addressed to:
The Editor,
Association of Clinical Pathologists,
189 Dyke Road, Hove,
East Sussex, BN3 1TL
Email: acpnews@pathologists.org.uk

Calendar of Forthcoming Meetings & Courses

DIARY DATES FOR 2019

Date	Title	Venue	Contact Details
15 November	ILMC	Peterborough	01273 775700 info@pathologists.org.uk www.pathologists.org.uk
27 November	Autopsy Update Day	Royal College of Physicians, Edinburgh	01273 775700 info@pathologists.org.uk www.pathologists.org.uk
External Courses 2019 – 2020			
17 – 28 February '20	EOE Systemic FRCPath Course	Princess Alexandra Hospital, Harlow	frcpath2020@me.com 07445 554567 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.

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Autumn 2019

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The Devil's Dyke is a mere 5 miles from our office – coincidence or is there a connection?

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	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

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.

In this issue I consider people in pathology: one person in particular but also professionals involved in providing pathology services.

The one person who we look to in some detail is naturally our founding father, Sidney Dyke, and I am very grateful to our fellow editors for allowing me to reproduce the detailed biography previously published in the *Journal of Clinical Pathology*.

Reading his story reminds me of the value of celebrating great lives, not only to wonder at what drove them and made them so prodigious in their output but also to view the challenges they faced, how they overcame them, and what lessons we can learn from them.

One of his earliest quotes, when he was young enough to be forgiven for the poor grammar was: "Me wants to learn" – insatiable curiosity leads to great discoveries, and acknowledging that you have a lot to learn is key to making progress.

What would he say if he were with us now? Some of his comments were of their time but some were timeless; one quote: "the impression exists that the beginning and end of clinical pathology is the examination of the specimen without reference to the patient", is surely timeless.

He was a great believer that the clinical pathologist's place was with the patient and not isolated in the laboratory. His comment that the clinical pathologist's place was at the bedside may be more of its time; certainly there is much to be gained through patient contact but cellular pathologists in particular will have to choose carefully whether they work more efficiently by spending time out of the lab rather than working through the piles of slides in the standard reporting session. For many, periods of isolation, i.e. working undisturbed with the door shut, is the best way of getting the work done.

The science that underpins pathology has progressed in leaps and bounds since then but has the way we have delivered our services kept pace?

We have seen many reorganisations, some beneficial, others not. I remember when I took up haematology the great delight of working within the laboratory that produced answers often rapidly and efficiently. What was simply regarded as the "path lab" by colleagues at the time would now be renamed an "Integrated one-stop diagnostic and treatment facility". The main lab with staining machines was right next to the phlebotomy room, also used for taking bone marrow samples and other procedures.

This meant that should a blood film or a paraprotein spike suggest myeloma, I could be looking at the bone marrow aspirate within 10 minutes of deciding to take the sample. After explaining the diagnosis, I could send the

patient round to pharmacy for his first course of chemo straightaway.

Alas, no more. A younger colleague told me that they now send the majority of investigations away to a distant lab, resulting in a slower service, and they have much less of a hands-on experience in the laboratory, which has implications for the quality of the service. I expand on this in the article on contracting for quality and safety in pathology. Because quality in the case of a distant lab is not ensured by the consultants continued input and presence, but through a contracting process involving many intermediaries, mostly managers with no first-hand knowledge of the subject.

For pathologists working in blood sciences the danger of being "isolated in the lab" is being replaced by the dangers of being too distant from the laboratory.

One characteristic of many great men and women in science and other areas of endeavour is their acknowledgement of the efforts of others in contributing to their success. Sometimes this is a memorable phrase, such as the one by Isaac Newton that he could only see further because he stood on the shoulders of others.

Pathologists can only do their highly detailed and advanced work because of the vital preparatory work done by non-medical laboratory staff. Some aspects of this work can be automated but I believe we are seeing an over-reliance on equipment, which cannot replace all aspects of human functionality. Current trends in the workforce need to be re-evaluated. I report on problems which may be the thin end of the wedge, and it would be very useful to hear from other colleagues where there have been reconfigurations as to how well the services are being delivered.

My thanks, as always, to our contributors. You may notice one topic has been subjected to double reporting. The Study in Leadership lecture by Angela Douglas has been reported both by Jules, as part of his review of the Leadership Skills meeting, and as a separate report by myself. This is not to suggest that we needed a second opinion but reflects the fact that we were both inspired to write about it and when I completed my article I found Jules had sent his in.

Double reporting has its purposes and I would like to see this as evidence that this was such an inspiring talk



Your editor

that we both got straight down to reporting it without delay. Anyone eager enough to look for differences between the two will hopefully conclude the contents are similar but the style is different.

A double dose also this time from Mike Kearney, with his Norwegian adventures educating us in both geography and history. A special vote of thanks to Mike for his sterling efforts for the News.

A welcome piece, too, from another stalwart, Matt Clarke, always prepared to address serious topics deserving our attention but which are seldom given the priority they deserve. There is always something more urgent to enable us to neglect difficult topics, so many thanks to Matt for reminding us of the importance of the common problem of mental illness and the value of showing compassion.

He is not alone in speaking up for colleagues feeling the strain of work pressures. I include another piece from David Zigmond, who worked some sessions as a psychiatrist at the temple of science that was Hammersmith Hospital when I worked there in the 1980s. There is no doubt that in our early work on bone marrow transplantation we were pushing forward the frontiers of knowledge at a pace that stressed both doctors and patients. They both

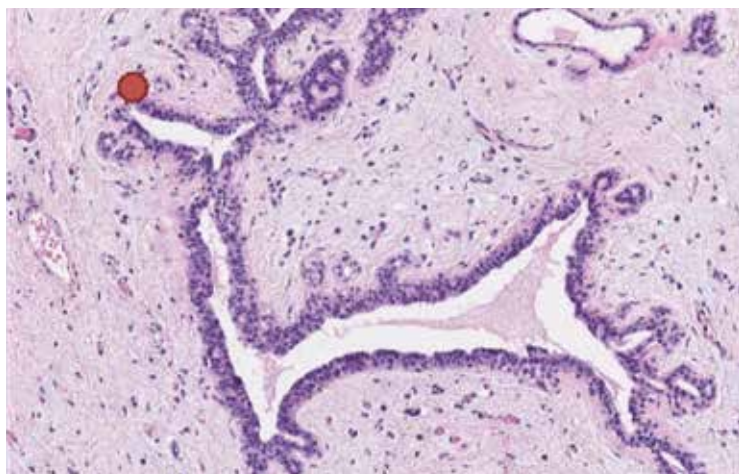
benefited from a dose of the human touch that he was able to provide along the lines of a spoonful of sugar helping the massive doses of medicine to go down. He wrote his reflections on "From family to Factory" after observing changes in our health service over subsequent decades.

The *ACP News* has always provided a rich mixture of topics and for future issues I would like to see more pathology, and that means more contributions from you, dear readers. The formal guidance for contributors is on page 4 and there are many categories. Currently we have a section entitled "Reports", which can include anything of interest to the readership; this could be audits, quality improvement projects, and other items worth sharing. The great advantage of the News over more formal publications is that we are not hidebound by rules and regulations on presentation. If it is interesting and informative, it goes in.

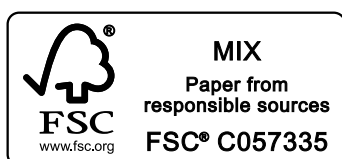
As for our links with the devil, all will be revealed in the article about Devil's Dyke, less than five miles from our office and the connection is the number 77 bus, which goes right past Dyke House.

Eric Watts

Email: eric.watts4@btinternet.com



There are no prizes for identifying the character in our winter puzzle picture, this time it's entertainment only to bring you some mid-winter cheer !



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