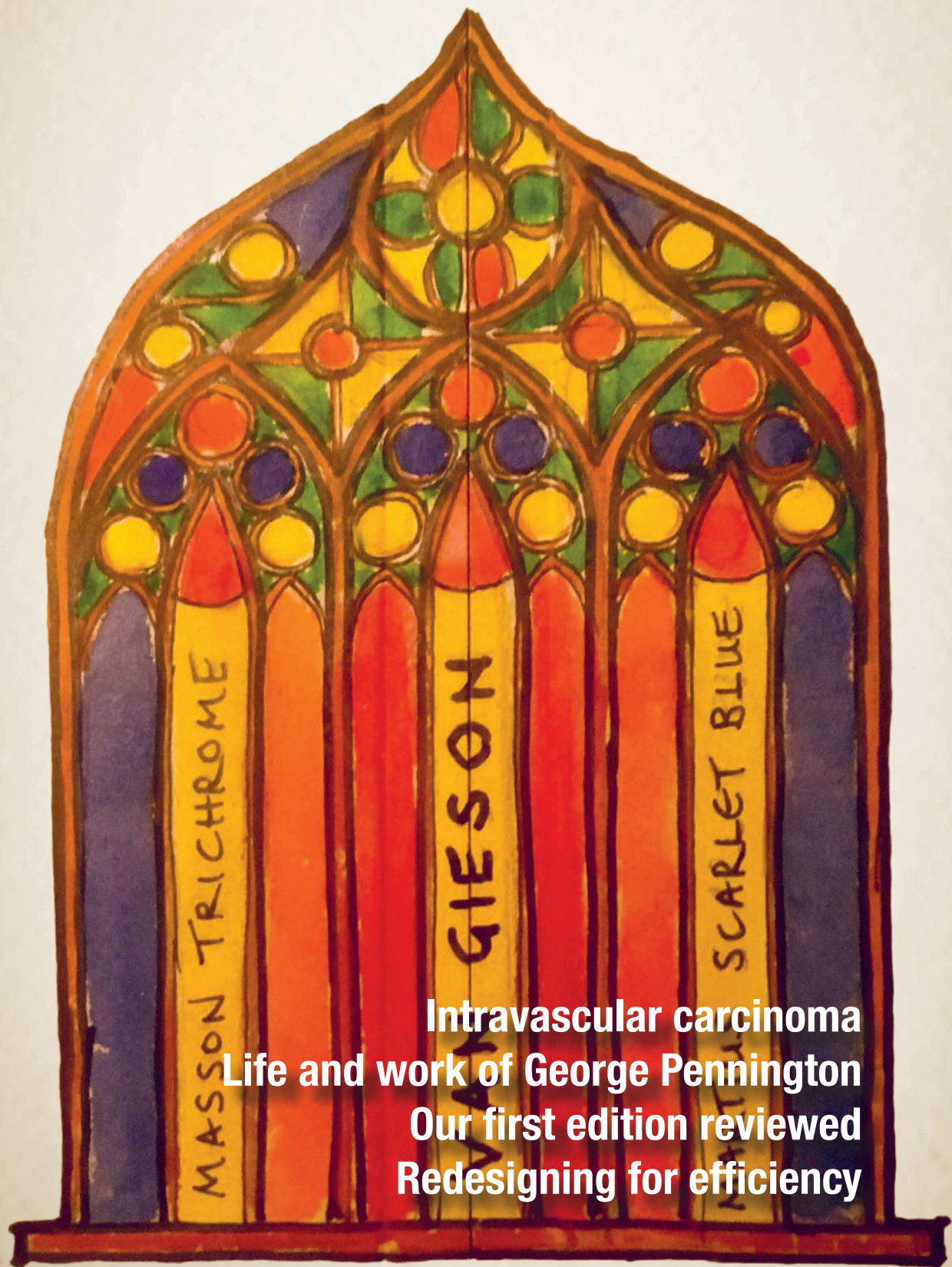


ACP news



Intravascular carcinoma
Life and work of George Pennington
Our first edition reviewed
Redesigning for efficiency

SPECIAL
GLASS

STAINED
WINDOW

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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 2021

Date	Title	Venue	Contact Details
Monthly on Thursdays	Chemical Pathology Webinars Series	Virtual Zoom Webinar	01273 775700 rachel@pathologists.org.uk www.pathologists.org.uk
Wednesday 15 September 2021	Autopsy Pathology Case Presentation Webinar Series	Virtual Zoom Webinar	01273 775700 rachel@pathologists.org.uk www.pathologists.org.uk
15 to 17 September 2021	Advanced Leadership & Management Course	Chilworth Manor Southampton	01273 775700 office@pathologists.org.uk www.pathologists.org.uk
October TBC	Histopathology Bone Marrow Webinars	Virtual Zoom Webinar	01273 775700 rachel@pathologists.org.uk www.pathologists.org.uk
Friday 26 November 2021	Autopsy Update Webinar	Virtual Zoom Webinar	01273 775700 rachel@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.

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This summer we have a collection of artwork provided by Dr Chris Mason, recently retired from his work as a histologist in Devon. We present his collection of drawings, some in classical cartoon mode and others in different styles, mostly drawn on slide trays rather than canvas.

Chris comments: "Some or most of the cartoon/pictures started out as doodles on histology slide trays that were then expanded into more formal artwork... I think that might help explain some of their randomness!"

The use of this unusual medium is probably a reflection on the materials available to him when the creative muse struck, and retirement may present new opportunities.

The progress of digital pathology may render the slide trays obsolete, which in the short term could provide plenty of material for him, and there will be further instalments of his work in future editions. The effect of digital modification can be seen by comparing the images on pages 7 and 8. Chris noticed a blemish on the slide tray that looks like an owl and got to work on it. Page 8 shows the cleaned up image without a clue to the history. Could this have implications for digitising pathology images?

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 online 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.

With summer approaching we feel a greater than usual sense of optimism this year. We look forward to the return of long hot days, blue sea haze and jukebox plays for those who remember that era. In 2021, we hope for a return to normality whilst recognising that it will be far from the good old days as we cautiously explore how to create a safe new normal that embraces the familiar joys of living and cooperation.

It has been another busy three months for clinical pathologists, with backroom boys and girls speaking from their labs and offices to the nation when they are quizzed by interviewers on the latest developments on virology, vaccinology, and the importance of variation in a platelet count.

In this issue I continue reports from the National Learning Skills Programme from last autumn along with a welcome contribution from one of our honorary members, Brian Edwards, previously chair of the Trent Regional Health Authority. Brian has been a good friend to pathology and our paths crossed when he lectured on the management course at Keele University some 30 years ago. I renewed contact with him after he had advised head office of the sad passing of one of the giants of pathology, Dr George Pennington.

George's life and work were remarkable and are described in this issue. He produced the first issue of *ACP news* that we have on record and we have reproduced six pages illustrating the issues of the day and how many of them have continued for 45 years. Readers may wonder what we have left out. The contents page reveals titles of items that we could reproduce in the future to show how much has changed and how much remains the same.

One fascinating revelation from this piece of history is that the Association was being asked for advice by leading NHS planners. That certainly is something which has changed and as a result many pathologists are working in difficult circumstances. We never have lived in a perfect world and it would be unrealistic to expect we ever could, but we do expect sweeping organisational changes to be properly evaluated in order that improvements can be incorporated into the next iteration of plans.

Change is one of the few constants in life and pathologists do not need lessons on how to keep up to date. Every working doctor is well aware of scientific and technological progress bringing increasing opportunities for us to do more in diagnosing and treating our patients. Few pathologists have access to all the equipment they could use, a point made well by Anthony Wierzbicki in his lecture on lipids, reported on page 40?

In the 1976 editorial, George Pennington commented on cooperation and two-way dialogue being essential to progress, and the ACP has had an important role in developing and sustaining this dialogue through meetings and correspondence. One significant change this century is the emergence of the Network, originally pioneered by pathologists as a common sense way of sharing limited



Looking forwards to summer sports

resources and expertise. Then the idea was seized upon as the solution to our problems and the programme began to roll out in spite of evidence that it was creating problems in some areas whilst making improvements in others.

The extent to which networks may or may not have helped to improve efficiency can be reviewed with the help of information through reliable benchmarking services. This is addressed on page 21?. All the data is anonymised and it would be interesting to hear from readers who are willing to share their experiences by submitting articles or by contacting the editor with comments.

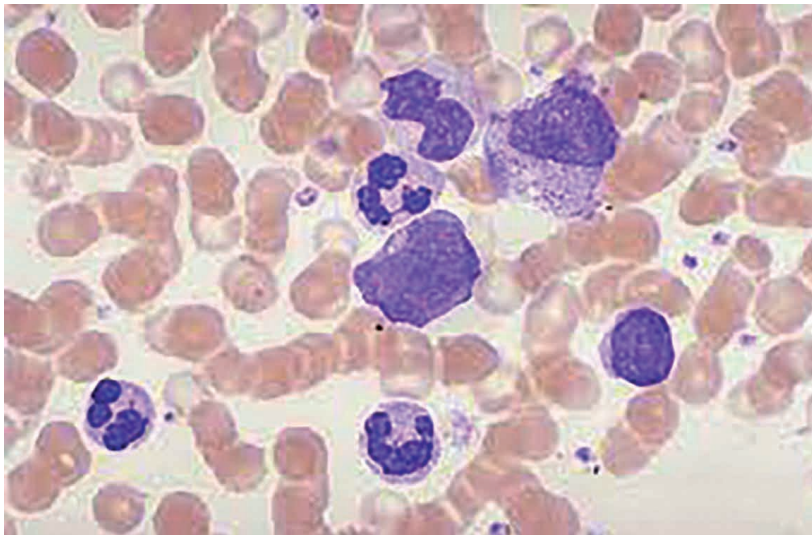
One enduring quality that we all need in our professional lives is a sense of humour and I am most grateful to Dr Chris Mason for providing a selection of cartoons. There is something to laugh at and much to admire as he shows us new perspectives, including appreciation of form and colour, essentials to a morphologist and also valuable in the appreciation of works of art.

Pathology is essentially the study of disease and it may seem perverse to admire objects of destruction but there is beauty in nature and fascination in how nature works. I see in Chris's work fascination with nature and an artist's talent in challenging us to look at familiar objects anew, especially when it comes to the imagined use of our special stains to create a colourful window.

So welcome to the summer edition and you may never see your slide trays in the same way again!

Eric Watts May 2021

Eric Watts
Email: eric.watts4@btinternet.com



NEXT ISSUE

The autumn issue will feature relevant news from the British Society of Haematology Annual Scientific Meeting of 2021. This was a virtual meeting with the mixed benefits that most presentations were pre-recorded. Although that reduced the normal spontaneity, it has the benefit of being available, along with the discussions following them, on the net and will remain there for a year.

There was a joint ACP/BSH session on laboratory management and part of that presentation is included in the summer issue on page 20.

As other pathology related educational activities go online and some are being recorded, we have the opportunity to include reports in the *News* so contributions which include summaries of online presentations from other specialties will be welcomed.



BSH 2021 Virtual ASM

25 – 28 April 2021

Registration open until 28 May 2021

[Register Here](#) [Access the Virtual Platform Here](#)

#BSH2021



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