

# ACP news



**The impact of COVID-19  
on pathology training**

**Captain Hindsight and the  
COVID redeployment**

**Buku Medicine**

**The culture club:  
building a safer future**

**Tales of pathology  
from history**

**A parody of pathology**

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## Calendar of Forthcoming Meetings & Courses

### DIARY DATES FOR 2022

| Date                                             | Title                                                 | Venue           | Contact Details                                                                                                                                    |
|--------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------|-----------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Wednesday<br>2 March                             | Autopsy Case<br>Presentations                         | Virtual         | <a href="mailto:rachel@pathologists.org.uk">rachel@pathologists.org.uk</a><br><a href="http://www.pathologists.org.uk">www.pathologists.org.uk</a> |
| Tuesday<br>8 March                               | ACP/BSI Clinical<br>Immunology<br>Training Day        | Virtual         | <a href="mailto:rachel@pathologists.org.uk">rachel@pathologists.org.uk</a>                                                                         |
| Monthly on<br>Thursdays                          | Chemical Pathology<br>Webinar Series                  | Virtual         | <a href="mailto:rachel@pathologists.org.uk">rachel@pathologists.org.uk</a>                                                                         |
| Wednesday<br>16 March &<br>Wednesday<br>13 April | Microbiology<br>Webinar Series                        | Virtual         | <a href="mailto:rachel@pathologists.org.uk">rachel@pathologists.org.uk</a>                                                                         |
| Monday 4<br>& Tuesday<br>5 April                 | ACP/BSI Clinical<br>Immunology Training<br>Day        | Bristol/Cardiff | <a href="mailto:rachel@pathologists.org.uk">rachel@pathologists.org.uk</a>                                                                         |
| Thursday<br>28 April                             | Hot Topics: Pathol-<br>ogy Leadership &<br>Management | IET Birmingham  | <a href="mailto:rachel@pathologists.org.uk">rachel@pathologists.org.uk</a>                                                                         |

**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

Spring 2022

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The cover image for this edition is a photo of Tintagel Castle from the east, drawing attention to the new bridge which has been built connecting the castle courtyards of the mainland and island. It is situated on a rocky headland and has over 1,500 years of human history. The rulers of the Cornish kingdom of Dumnonia used it as a royal citadel and trading port from the 5th century, and medieval writers have been inspired to use it as the setting for tales of Tristan and Iseult and King Arthur and Merlin.

I chose this as the cover image for the spring edition as I thought it reflected some of the challenges that we have all been through as a profession during the pandemic, attempting to cross a bridge over a rocky chasm and crashing water, exposed to the elements.

## 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.**

## Introducing the Editor – Dr Matthew Clarke



Matt is a Academic Clinical Lecturer in Diagnostic Neuropathology (ST3) based at the National Hospital for Neurology & Neurosurgery (UCLH, London) / Institute of Cancer Research who has completed a PhD in the molecular pathology of infant gliomas at the ICR. He is aiming to specialise in paediatric neuropathology and molecular pathology, with a strong emphasis on research and academic work. He completed a BSc degree in Zoology at the University of Liverpool before completing his medical training at Keele Medical School. After completing his foundation training he applied for core surgical training and completed his MRCS examinations before changing career paths to join histopathology. He hasn't looked back!

Matt has been a member of the RCPATH Trainees' Advisory Committee (TAC) for a number of years in the capacity of Association of Clinical Pathologists (ACP) representative, Examinations Committee and England Regional Council representatives, has also held the position of Vice-Chair. He has been the Chair of the committee since November 2018. He is very supportive of collaboration between pathology organisations and is actively involved in the different pathology societies, including being Deputy Meetings Secretary of the BDIAP, the Trainee Communications Officer for the ACP, Assistant Editor of the *ACP News*, and now the Editor. Matthew has been a regular contributor to the *ACP News* and enjoys

discussing the issues affecting trainees as well as the impact of pathology throughout history.

Matt loves to teach and is very involved with public engagement projects to promote pathology to other healthcare professionals, to schools and the general public. He has been the recipient of an RCPATH Trainee Research Award Gold Medal, the RCPATH Furness Prize for Science and Communication, RCPATH President's Award, ICR Public Engager of the Year Award and features in the Pathology Power List 2021.

Matt grew up in Suffolk and now lives in Sutton, London. Outside of work, he loves history and is a member of the National Trust, English Heritage and Historic Royal Palaces. He has an extensive library of books (his friends joke that they need a library card when they visit) and has a passion for reading and learning new things. He is interested in history, religion, astronomy, wildlife, nature and all things scientific! He enjoys the outdoors and is a regular walker and birdwatcher. He is keen on exercise and enjoys tennis, squash and running.

In his role as *ACP news* Editor, Matt recognises there will be challenges but is looking forward to developing the publication for its readership and helping it to continue as a portal for discussion, learning ... and a bit of fun!

## Introducing the Deputy Editor – Dr Elza Tjio



As someone of relatively few words, I felt a little apprehensive when Matt requested I write a personal introduction! To this end I have scribbled some anecdotes and thoughts which I hope will suffice.

Born and bred Singaporean (and proudly so), I have

spent most of my adult life in the UK, arriving at age 18 for medical school. So I consider myself a mixed blend, with Eastern and Western influences that work together seamlessly and sometimes inexplicably (even to myself).

I went to St George's Hospital Medical School (as it was known then) and enjoyed my formative years in the Big Smoke. It was a crash course in the British university experience, to say the least. I'm sure I'm not alone with fond reminiscences of university life.

What followed after graduation was some years spent gypsying around the country with junior doctor jobs, experiencing great diversity in patient populations along the way. Who knew there could be such differences from one county to the next? Immersion into varied cultures and practices was to prove very enriching, although sadly I still have mastered nowt about regional dialects despite repeated enthusiastic attempts, 'appen.

I commenced histopathology training in Yorkshire in 2013 and subsequently found my 'forever home' in Harrogate as a substantive consultant in 2019, undertaking general pathology work and also autopsy practice. Most recently I have been appointed as Medical Examiner at my Trust; this has been meaningful work and hopefully we have made a positive difference to bereaved families and their experiences following the death of a loved one.

Previously I was the Trainee Editor for the RCPATH College Bulletin, which was a useful introduction to editorial work – that is to say I am familiar with the

mad rush before copy date and have also personally made several desperate cries for submissions. I have enjoyed reading *ACP News* over the years; it has provided many chuckles and also useful insights into current matters.

The readership and contributors to *ACP News* are very diverse. Following so, there has been a tradition of a broad mix of subjects discussed and published within. This is no doubt a unique feature of the publication; indeed, there is something for everyone. Personally I enjoy the opinion pieces but also find plenty of amusement from the curettings! I hope to slip a few in every now and then, and I thank you in advance for indulging me. We have many experienced colleagues, long in the profession, with views to educate and encourage reflection. But we also have many fresh faces amongst us, sharing new experiences and offering alternative perspectives. That said, *ACP News* is not all work and no play; it prides itself on a healthy serving of quintessential British humour in every issue. Arguably it remains the perfect medium; as T.S. Eliot is quoted to have said, "humour is also a way of saying something serious!"

As the Editorial team, we hope that we will be able to continue the good work of our predecessors. We are grateful for all of your support and would be glad to receive any suggestions for improvement and any contributions.

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### From the Editor ... Matt Clarke

Welcome to the Spring Edition of *ACP News*! This is my first edition as Editor and I hope you will enjoy reading it. A huge thank you goes out to the Editorial Team comprising of Dr Elza Tjio (Deputy Editor) and the team of Assistant Editors who have been instrumental in supporting the development of this issue. I am going to enjoy working with you all. I would also like to take this moment to congratulate my predecessor, Dr Eric Watts, for what has been a fantastic term as Editor. The editions of *ACP News* that he has overseen have featured some superb examples of medical journalism, highlighting important issues affecting pathology for discussion, as well as allowing us to show what life is like outside of the specialty and introduce the people behind the work. Eric, thank you very much for all of

your hard work and supporting me in this transition. I have some very big shoes to fill! I have recently attended a Medical Editors Training Course, which has opened my eyes to the challenges of medical editing but has also got me very excited about the potential ways we can further develop our already successful publication!

Going forward, I am keen to build on the great work of the previous editions. As a trainee, I am also keen to promote the trainee voice so would encourage trainees to come forward and share their thoughts, generate discussion, educate and make us smile! I also want to encourage all specialities of pathology to feel they can contribute to our publication. Diversity and inclusion is something that is very important to me, I welcome submissions from all fields of pathology, in particular the smaller specialities. From my academic work, collaboration is

essential to success and I am keen to expand existing links with other organisations that you and I are involved with to help extend our voice. It is always great to hear about different events and meetings you have attended – a useful opportunity to keep us updated with the different changes that are taking place for our ever-changing and adapting specialty.

I am also completely open to suggestions and ideas from you, the reader. If you have any thoughts about how you would like to see the publication change over the coming years, we are here, ready to listen and evolve! But enough about work – we also have lives outside of our day jobs and it is great to hear about the trips and experiences that you have enjoyed, or receive amusing photos to help lighten the mood or help us relax after a particularly stressful day. Keep these submissions coming!

There is no doubt that we have been through one of the most challenging periods of our lives ... both in terms of our careers and our personal lives. We are now facing new challenges across the specialty in the form of immense backlogs of cases which the pandemic has created. At the time of writing, just as we begin to look forward to celebrating the holiday season, we are faced with the arrival of the Omicron variant of COVID-19 with the associated unknowns and are awaiting the challenges that this will bring. We are not out of the woods yet, and once again

the virus reminds us that it can adapt and evolve as quickly as we can. It is hoped that the lessons learnt from our previous experiences haven't been forgotten by the leadership of the UK and the world.

The impact of COVID-19 on training, trainers and pathology departments cannot be underestimated. Depending on the specialty, trainees (and some trainers) have been redeployed to other clinical areas and therefore have lost valuable time from training to help in the ongoing efforts. Others have seen case numbers diminish, their research time and plans obliterated, lack of supervision and teaching, and massive increases in work-related anxiety, and also anxiety associated with concern for family welfare both at home and abroad. Personal well-being has been challenged in new ways and the need for more robust support for all who work in the specialty has been brought to the fore.

As a result of these challenges, my theme for this edition of *ACP News* has been to focus on the challenges that COVID-19 has put on training and other aspects of the specialty, while also attempting to look to the future and the next generation; we are a fast-paced and cutting-edge specialty that can adapt and evolve to these ongoing challenges. I hope you enjoy it!



## NEXT ISSUE

In the next issue we will be exploring a theme of collaboration, looking at how we work together as part of pathology organisations, but also how we work together as colleagues; we will be looking at collaboration, leadership and how we support trainees in leadership roles. We will also be hearing about how our members spend time away from pathology, exploring different hobbies they enjoy and featuring a favourite poem of one of our regular contributors. As part of one of our regular features, we will look back at another significant moment that pathology played in our history - the reign of Queen Mary Tudor! Watch this space!



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