

ACP news

The GIRFT Pathology Report

Audit of Autopsy

Archives

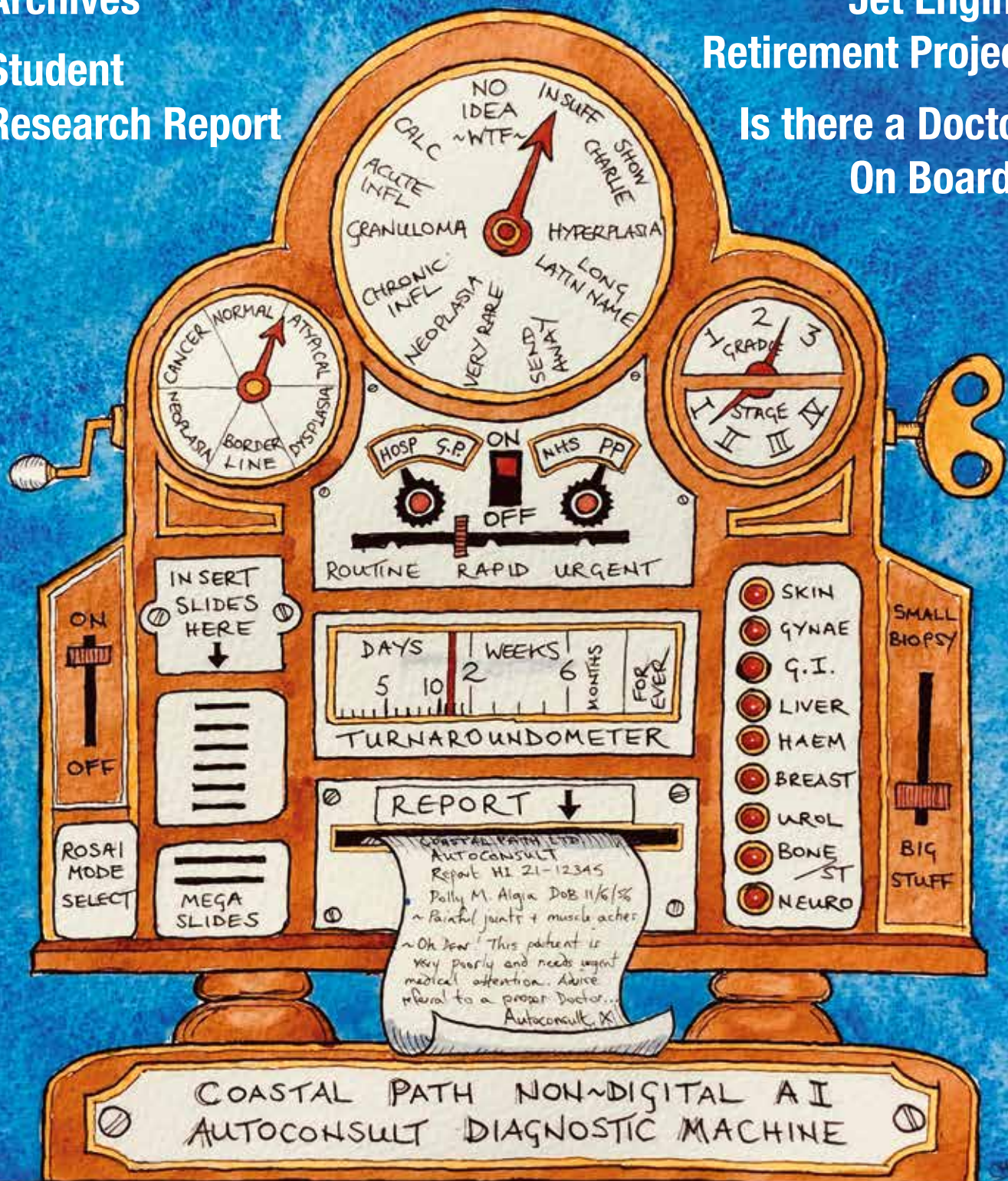
Student

Research Report

Continuing Covid
Controversies

Jet Engine
Retirement Project

Is there a Doctor
On Board?



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Calendar of Forthcoming Meetings & Courses

DIARY DATES FOR 2021

Date	Title	Venue	Contact Details
Monthly on Thursdays	Chemical Pathology Webinar Series	Virtual	01273 775700 rachel@pathologists.org.uk www.pathologists.org.uk
Friday 26 November 2021	Autopsy Update Day	Virtual Webinar	01273 775700 rachel@pathologists.org.uk www.pathologists.org.uk
January February 2022	Histopathology Bone Marrow Webinars	Virtual	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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Winter 2021

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The Coastal Path Non-Digital AI Auto Consult Diagnostic Machine is the invention of Chris Mason and brilliantly encapsulates one of the most important issues in pathology, both for today and for long into the future.

Automation, algorithms and artificial intelligence all have their place in pathology but exactly what their places are and how best to incorporate them into our work are still challenging questions.

Automation can certainly replace the mindless tedium of simple tasks but resorting to automation instead of critical and intelligent thought brings its own problems. It is timely that the GIRFT report, which features in this issue, calls for a more critical approach, both in terms of what investigations should be carried out and how they can be used for maximum clinical benefit.

Chris comments on his work: "As a digital dinosaur trapped within an increasingly hi-tech world (and faced with a new laboratory computer!) I thought it might be entertaining to imagine what a conventional mechanical diagnostic machine might look like – and now I know! Pity it's purely imaginary ..."

Thanks, Chris, for this delightful picture and the accompanying message.

Chris is a recently retired consultant histopathologist from Royal Devon and Exeter NHS Trust

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.

A little over three years ago I had the privilege of being appointed to be the editor of this fascinating periodical. Although I had retired from clinical practice, I still enjoyed reading about developments in the field and the rich interplay of work and social gatherings that epitomise the ACP.

My plan had been to write about what had attracted me to the ACP and what it does well, i.e. the value of the many excellent meetings held in interesting places up and down the country. Regional meetings where we hear what the hosts have been doing and where we would hear from the local experts, and national meetings often with international names working at the cutting edge of science.

The great value of these meetings was to be able to sit down with your peers or with experts after the formal sessions and talk about everything that we had heard, what it means to us? Can we generalise from one example? Should we give these new ideas a try ourselves or let someone else do the donkey work and see how they evaluate a new system?

There was always a great deal to be gained simply from sharing experiences and either being reassured that those problems you face are shared by others or to realise that there is something about your set-up that may need changing.

Covid changed all that, but we have been able to continue with national meetings such as the Management and Leadership program. The Covid experience continues to evolve and it has taught us the value of having a well-equipped national laboratory service linked to the public health system to deal with epidemics. We must hope that the necessary lessons will be learned in time for the next challenge.

Even without Covid, we have not been short of challenges; since I moved from the wards to the lab more than 40 years ago there has been a constant challenge to handle increasing workload with a reducing budget. Pathologists have been subject to several reports from people with little first-hand experience of running the service, leading to reforms that are re-reformed, often as soon as they are implemented. The debate between centralisation and access has gone well into extra time with every new arrangement bringing a new set of problems.

When our Association was set up in 1927, one of its key aims was to train doctors to take charge of hospital laboratories. Taking charge involves accepting responsibility for many aspects of the work that are outside the doctor's control and the task has been made more difficult in those laboratories which

have been subjected to aggressive cost-cutting policies.

The Get it Right First Time Report, featured on page 24, has come at the right time to counterbalance the policies that have led to poor standards in some departments. It is a long report but well worth the read as it is grounded in real life experience

and the sound judgement of people who know their subject thoroughly and who have seen how previous reports have been implemented.

The Association can be proud that two of the authors have previously been our presidents. We can also be assured that our founding principles have been reasserted. There should be more clinical involvement for pathologists, expanded and better trained workforce, and realistic budgeting.

I chose the photo of myself in the DJ as a sign of cautious optimism that we will be getting back to our traditional social meetings before too long. In the meantime, I am delighted to hand over to the new team (both of whom have written for the news before) of Matthew Clark as editor and Elza Tjio as assistant editor.

My concluding comments on this unique periodical are to be found in end piece.



Your editor

Eric Watts

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Announcing the Association of Clinical Pathologists' Brumfitt Medal – Julian Burton

*Dr Julian Burton is the Chair of Council
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Professor William Brumfitt was a member of the Association of Clinical Pathologists (ACP) from 1958 until his death in 2020. He made a sizeable bequeathal to the ACP, which has now been received. Council is mindful that we already have medals to recognise outstanding contributions to the Association of Clinical Pathologists (Marshall Medal) and to Pathology (Dyke Medal). We are delighted to recognise Professor Brumfitt's contribution to the Association with the creation of the Brumfitt Medal, which will recognise and reward excellence in teaching at ACP meetings and events. We have, in the last year, developed a consistent feedback scale for all such events. All those who organise and/or deliver teaching for the ACP, whether this be at a meeting or in an ACP webinar, will automatically be considered. The Brumfitt Medal is being launched in 2022 (considering teaching delivered throughout that calendar year) and will be first awarded in June 2023.

Award frequency

The Brumfitt Medal will be awarded annually.

Award value

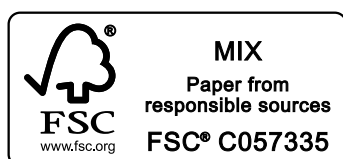
The Brumfitt Medal will comprise a medal with the ACP Logo on one face and "ACP Brumfitt Medal" and the year of award on the other. The Medal will be awarded at the Summer ACP Council Dinner to which the winner and their partner will be invited. The award includes the cost of the winner and their partner travelling to and attending the dinner (from within Great Britain, Northern Ireland and Ireland) plus one night's hotel accommodation.^{1,2}

Award criteria

- The Brumfitt Medal recognises excellence in pathology teaching organised and delivered at Association of Clinical Pathologists' educational events and meetings, whether delivered in person or online.
- Delegates at all such events will be asked to provide the ACP member organising the meeting and all speakers (regardless of ACP membership status) with feedback on the quality of the event/teaching session on a five-point scale of 1 (Poor) to 5 (Excellent).
- In addition, when providing feedback, delegates will be asked whether they wish to nominate any speaker/organiser for the Brumfitt Medal.
- The ACP Council will consider the average feedback scores attained by each speaker in the preceding calendar year at the spring meeting of Council.
- Council will award the Brumfitt Medal to the person with the highest average score.
- In the event of a tie, the person with the highest score who also has the highest number of nominations for the Medal will win the award.
- A person can be awarded the Brumfitt Medal only once in any given three-year period, but there is no other limit to how often a person may be awarded this medal.

Notes

1. In the event that the winner either cannot attend to receive their award, or if the winner is outside Great Britain, Northern Ireland and Ireland, the Medal will be couriered to them.
2. There is no alternate cash value to the Medal and associated travel, accommodation and dinner costs.



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