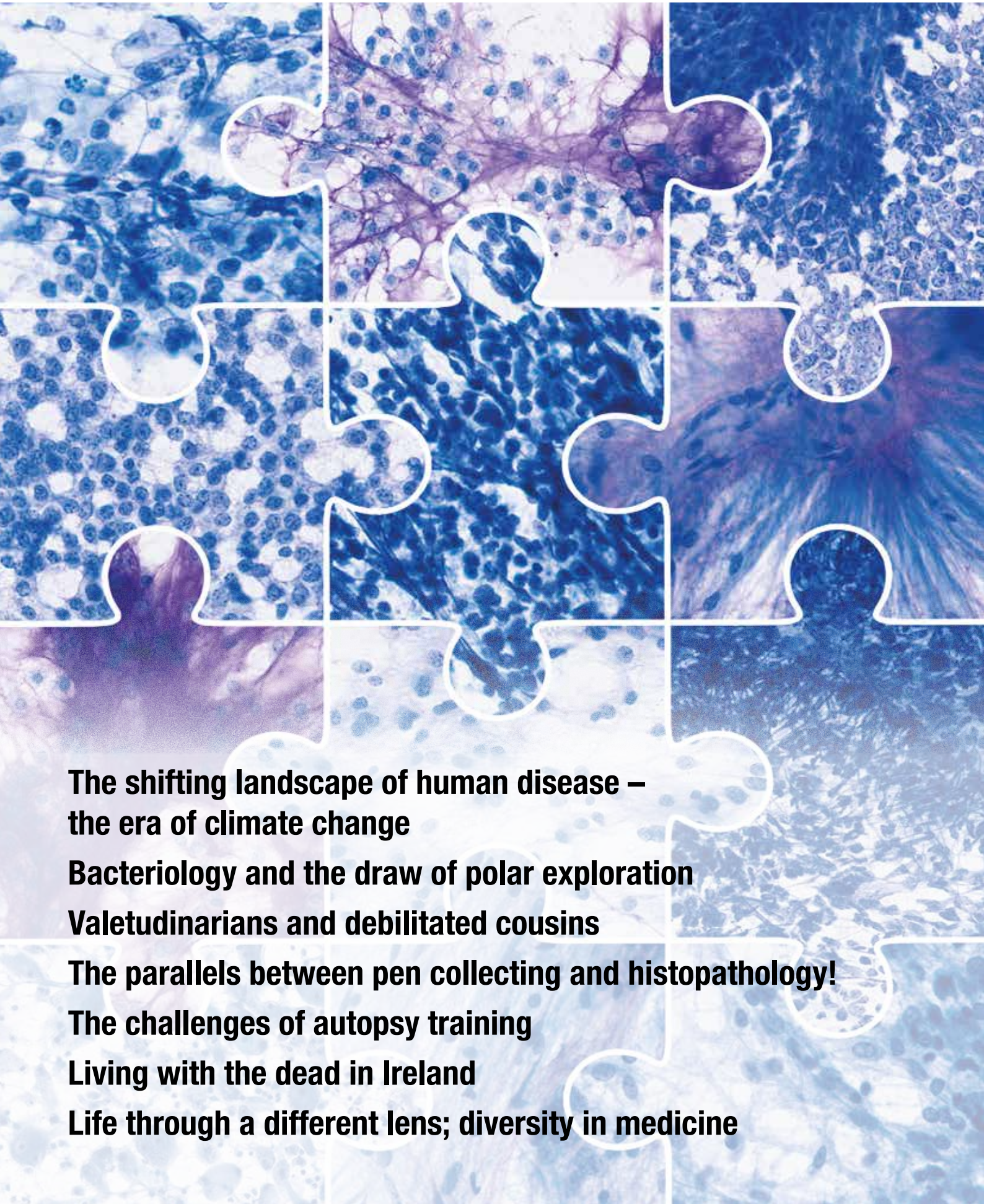


ACP news



**The shifting landscape of human disease –
the era of climate change**

Bacteriology and the draw of polar exploration

Valetudinarians and debilitated cousins

The parallels between pen collecting and histopathology!

The challenges of autopsy training

Living with the dead in Ireland

Life through a different lens; diversity in medicine

Association of Clinical Pathologists

Officers

President

Dr S Lishman

Chairman of Council

Dr A Pugh

Secretary

Dr K Skordilis

Treasurer

Dr T El-Shanawany

Editor

Dr Matthew Clarke

Deputy Editor

Dr Elza Tjio

Assistant Editors

Dr G Watson

Dr T Bracey

Education Secretary

Dr M Morgan

Management Course

Organiser

Dr B Wilkins

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 2024

Date	Title	Venue	Contact Details
Jan 2024 to December 2024	Chemical Pathology Webinar Series	Virtual	www.pathologists.org.uk
March 6 & May 8 6pm to 7pm	Autopsy Case Presentation Webinar	Virtual	www.pathologists.org.uk
June 3, 10, 17 & 24 6pm to 7.45pm	Bone Marrow Trephine Biopsy Histology	Virtual	www.pathologists.org.uk
June 15 12pm	AGM	London	www.pathologists.org.uk
September 2024 25-27 (three days)	Advanced Leadership & Management Course	Chilworth Manor Southampton	www.pathologists.org.uk
For further information please see the website: 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.

ACP news

Spring 2024

Contents

FROM THE EDITOR

- P4 Cover image commentary
- P4 Invitation to contributors
- P7 Letter to the Editor – Dr Ian Chandler

ARTICLES

- P9 The shifting landscape of human disease: a pathologist's perspective in the era of climate change – Dr Tim Bracey
- P12 Of bacteriology and the draw of polar exploration – Major Scott Pallett
- P17 Life through a different lens; diversity in medicine – Dr Rachel Rummery
- P20 A lifetime of pathological chance and opportunity: Part 4 – Prof Sebastian Lucas
- P24 The current challenges with post mortem training – Dr Elizabeth Webb
- P26 Autopsy training for diagnostic neuropathology – past, present ... and future (an opinion piece) – Dr Monika Hofer
- P28 Pathologists and their hobbies; the parallels between pen collecting and histopathology – Dr Paul Matthews
- P30 Reciprocity coefficient – Dr Elza Tjio

PATHOLOGY AND HISTORY

- P31 Living with the dead in Ireland – Dr Ronan MacManus

THE ART OF PATHOLOGY

- P35 The art of pathology: slide tray art – Dr Chris Mason and colleagues
- P39 The art of pathology: the 'Macrophage' project – Dr Helene McCarthy

EDUCATION AND TRAINING

- P40 Promoting consistent, sustainable practices in multi-modal diagnostics – Dr Joy Staniforth, Dr Fiona Cullen, Dr Anna Godfrey, Dr Audrey Morris, Dr Livia Rásó-Barnett
- P45 The Royal Society of Medicine and Pathological Society Joint Conference – Dr Sarah Ruane
- P47 An interview with ... Dr Holly Buist – Dr Cristina Ilinca

SPECIAL INTEREST

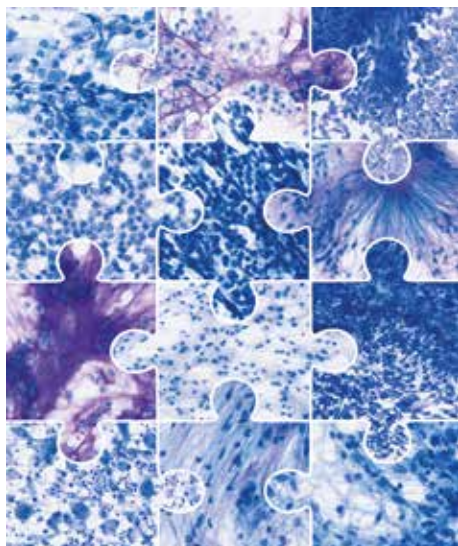
- P50 Valetudinarians and debilitated cousins: concepts of frailty in 19th century fiction – Dr Carl Gray
- P57 Click Clack Moo, Cows that Type: a book review – Dr Elza Tjio

SUPPORTING THE NEXT GENERATION

- P58 We get by with a little help from our friends – Dr Natasha Varshney
- P59 Exploring academic histopathology as a foundation doctor – Dr Jonathan Callaghan
- P61 My first encounters with pathology – Helgaud Gérard

ACP RESEARCH AWARDS

- P63 ACP Research Award: Democratising diagnostics – Oluwaseyi Akinola
- P65 ACP Student Research Award 2022 – Aleksander Sulkowski



As I have been navigating through my never-ending revision programme, I have been looking at A LOT of intraoperative neuropathology smears. These are a little different to the usual frozen sections undertaken in histopathology. Looking at them, I have been struck by some of the artistic representations that the cells of different tumours show and create, nicely illuminated by different shades of blue and purple derived from the Toluidine blue stain we use. It also provides an interesting opportunity to observe the differences in the cytological architecture of the cellular compositions of different tumours. I have therefore collated a set of my favourites, featuring different metastatic tumours, ependymomas, high-grade gliomas and others for you to look at and appreciate. As we and others have mentioned before, even something so awful as cancer can have an inner beauty and art to it. (Intraoperative smears from the archive of the NHNN neuropathology department).

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.

Dear readers,

I hope you are all keeping well. Welcome to the first edition of *ACP news* of 2024! It is hard to believe we are well into February already. I hope the new year is treating you well and that you are able to keep a positive outlook for the rest of the year. Sadly, this can be very difficult when we look at what is happening in the world at the moment, with the ongoing conflicts appearing to worsen and, alongside this, the suffering of those impacted increasing. It continues to be horrible to watch. My thoughts are with all colleagues who have family and friends affected by this.

I was also very sad to hear of the passing of Professor Kim Suvarna at the beginning of the year. I have fond memories of talks he gave about cardiac pathology and I am sure many have benefited from his training over the years. Our readers will recall his last article on autopsy EQA in the winter 2023 issue. He has contributed so much to the ACP and we will be looking to pay tribute and showcase his input and work in the next issue. I extend my condolences to all of his family and friends for such a sad loss.

The new year has also seen some significant changes and big decisions for me! When last I wrote, I mentioned that 2024 would see me attempt my FRCPath Part 2 neuropathology exam. What I hadn't anticipated was that it would be in the spring of 2024! In December, I received feedback from some of my supervisors that they felt I was ready to do it so why was I waiting until the autumn? It was really nice to receive feedback reflecting that colleagues had confidence in me and that I could do it. I think it is a very difficult decision as to when to 'bite the bullet' and apply, as I expect all who have been through it will testify, and it remains a decision for the trainee. But having this boost was what I needed; within 24 hours of the conversation, my application was completed, submitted and the fee paid – I had been trying to save some money for this day but it didn't diminish the pain of having to part with almost £1,500 in one go, particularly at a time where everyone needs to watch the pennies more closely.

Since that time, my head has been very much in my books and frantically looking at cases throughout my spare time. Christmas and New Year celebrations were very much side-lined (although I did take a break to enjoy Mum's delicious Christmas lunch, spend time with the dogs, and enjoy a nice walk, as the photos will testify!) and sadly I had to cancel a booked trip to Rome and Pompeii which I have

been so looking forward to since it was booked last year. It is still painful to think I won't be going. But a holiday in late February with less than eight weeks to go would not have been relaxing. The sacrifices that have to be made!



Just down the road from my family home, some Highland cattle have taken up residence. This was a photo I took on Christmas morning, capturing an affectionate moment between a mother and her calf

It has been quite some time since I have needed to revise and it has been an uphill struggle. I am in a training post which is split between research and clinical work and that division has certainly been challenging to navigate, and has been made even more difficult by this. Trying to get control of the weight of pressure, expectation and self-doubt is a process, as well as feelings of isolation and loneliness. There are also the challenges associated with what to revise – existing training inequalities mean that I have to travel across the country to be able to see particular areas of neuropathology that I have never seen before, and yet could be examined on. And I am not enjoying my 4.25am starts to enable me to undertake post mortem training – although I am absolutely loving the opportunity to do post mortems again! It is also not just the neuropathology knowledge that has to be learned; I am having to train myself as to how to approach the exam, which is often different to the approach in clinical practice – I find this very difficult to do. For an assessment such as this, the two perspectives should be aligned. In my previous extracurricular committee roles, there was a lot of talk about reviewing the assessment

load, format and feedback for trainees across all specialties; I think it is important to ensure that a possible approach of 'this is how it has always been done and so should stay the same' does not take hold and that assessments move with the times, as our specialties and clinical practice do.

As a result of this commitment, my time has been very restricted and for the first time in quite a while, I have not contributed an article to this edition – I hope you will understand! However, I hope to be back at my laptop for the summer issue and already have some exciting articles to share with you. However, I am delighted that we have some fantastic submissions for this edition. The theme was centred on climate change and sustainability. We didn't have a lot of submissions related to this, and from speaking to members of the community, I think there remains a lot of uncertainty about what we should be doing. However, I will direct you to Dr Tim Bracey's article that very eloquently summarises the issue at hand, and some of the challenges we will be facing. Related to this, we also have a fascinating article from Dr Scott Pallett who, in the first of a two-part series, wanted to share with us the details of a planned polar expedition he is undertaking very shortly – well worth a read! We also have a story of achievement from Dr Rachel Rummery, who talks us through her career and the challenges she has been through to get to the stage of completing her training. I have known Rachel since the very beginning of histopathology training, and she has been a great friend and huge support; I hope you will enjoy reading her very inspiring journey. And in keeping with a theme of achievement, we welcome the final part in the series by Professor Sebastian Lucas about his incredible career; a huge thank you to Sebastian for sharing this with us over the previous issues.

I always like to draw some focus onto particular challenges in pathology, and in this issue I have tried to draw attention to the difficulties currently being experienced in post mortem training. We welcome the perspectives of a consultant histopathologist, Dr Lizzie Webb (who I was very fortunate to train with when based in Leicester!) and a consultant neuropathologist, Dr Monika Hofer, who is hugely supportive of trainees and training. Both superbly highlight the difficulties currently being experienced. We all need to work together and continue to discuss how best to mitigate these, and maybe these articles will help to stimulate further conversation across specialties. We are also pleased to share



**Something to bring a smile if you like dogs!
This is Esme, one of Mum's companions, giving
her best camera pose**

more contributions from our community on the art of pathology, and also some fascinating 'special interest' articles from our Deputy Editor, Dr Elza Tjio, providing an intriguing book review with some important messages, and another classic from Dr Carl Gray on valetudinarians and debilitated cousins – hopefully that will entice you to explore more! Dr Paul Matthews provides us with the parallels of pen collecting and histopathology, and we also have an important contribution from Dr Joy Staniforth who describes a new approach from the haematology community in relation to training and multi-modal diagnostics. And there is much, much more! I hope you will enjoy reading them all as much as I did.

So with that, I will now sign off for another issue. Thank you so much to all of our authors for their valued contributions and excellent writing. Also, a big thank you to the editorial team for their extra support as I prepare for my exam. For all those who are preparing for exams in the spring sitting, I wish you all the very best with your continued revision and for the exam itself – we CAN do it! And to everyone else, wishing you all the very best for the next few months and I will look forward to writing to you again in the spring, hopefully under a little less pressure!

Dr Matt Clarke

Editor

Sutton, February 2024

Dear Editor,

I read with interest Dr Suvarna's article in the winter edition of *ACP news* on a possible autopsy EQA scheme. I am a sceptic of the current system of UK EQA schemes in general, and certainly opposed to a new one covering autopsies. Despite noting that autopsy pathologists are few on the ground and autopsy work currently paints a bleak picture, the article admits such a scheme would nevertheless increase the conflicting demands on our time. This work is already frequently time shifted as it is not core NHS work, and in my view, for those pathologists who are on the brink, it would put them off doing autopsy work even more.

The article reinforces the inherent problem with EQA schemes organised in this country, which is that they cannot be both educational (which implies a supportive process) and a form of mini-examination (which is punitive). Showing isolated slides out of context and then presenting the results a few weeks later is not how anyone would rationally design an educational programme and is in reality a mini exam, which is basically what the article proposes. It is not appropriate to treat EQAs as a form of exam because they do not have the rigour of case selection and marking that proper College exams have, even though they can potentially have serious consequences for getting a participant in trouble with their medical director and their career. The problem of this is even worse for autopsy histology where, because of issues related to tissue preservation and autolytic changes, and the frequency of seeing suitable entities, an autopsy histology EQA would be highly skewed and unrepresentative of everyday work.

I would suggest that EQA enthusiasts who sit on College committees and who organise the schemes mistake the grudging compliance of rank and file pathologists for enthusiasm. We have enough bureaucratic nonsense to put up with in our daily work from many directions without more being heaped upon us in the name of gilding the lily of quality improvement when, for the majority, the quality is perfectly satisfactory anyway. I wish those who promulgate EQAs would be more honest in admitting that they are really mini exams and not educational, for if they were educational, they would be organised differently. For example, the USCAP general EQA scheme, which I have done in the past, is a good example where an information booklet that is circulated with the slides, discusses the differential

diagnoses and explains how a correct diagnosis is best reached.

An autopsy EQA scheme can, by its nature, only cover a fraction of the common and potential diagnoses seen, which I assume is why one has not been set up before. I for one welcome the absence of an autopsy EQA scheme and hope that an absence may long continue.

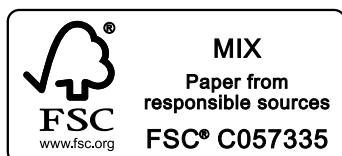
Yours,

***Dr Ian Chandler MD FRCPath
Consultant Histopathologist,
Royal Devon & Exeter Hospital***



NEXT ISSUE

In the summer issue, I would like to explore the theme of academic pathology. What are the challenges facing academia, both now and in the future? We are very short of pathologists who engage with research at present – why might this be and is there any way we can improve this? What are the benefits to getting involved in research? And what are the disadvantages? Do we provide enough opportunities for those who are interested to find a way in to academic work and explore their interests further? Do we expect too much at an early stage from those who want to get involved, and therefore lose potential researchers? How might academic pathology need to adapt and change as our profession changes as a whole? We look forward to hearing your thoughts and views!



www.pathologists.org.uk

ISSN No. 0260-065X