



National Pathology Week

2–8 November 2009

Frequently Asked Questions

When is National Pathology Week?

The second National Pathology Week will take place from November 2nd to 8th 2009.

What is the aim of National Pathology Week?

The aim of National Pathology Week is to increase awareness of the importance of pathology and the role of all the pathology specialties in modern healthcare.

How do I take part in National Pathology Week?

Pathologists and scientists are encouraged to hold events in their hospitals and communities to raise awareness of pathology.

Who is the target audience for National Pathology Week?

You can choose your audience. You can hold events for the general public, school children, medical students, fellow healthcare professionals, your Trust Board – anyone you think would be interested in finding out more about pathology.

What is the theme for National Pathology Week 2009?

National Pathology Week will have a heart theme, focussing on the role of pathology in the prevention, diagnosis, treatment and monitoring of all types of heart disease. The strapline is “Pathology: the heart of modern healthcare”.

Does that mean that I can't repeat an event that I held last year?

No, if you held a successful event last year, please do hold it again. You don't have to follow the heart theme; you can hold any event that highlights the role of pathology.

I didn't get involved last year, what sort of event can I hold?

Have a look at the January issue of *The Bulletin* to get some ideas of the sort of events you might hold. Or talk to your Regional National Pathology Week Coordinator about what you might do. Popular events held last year included laboratory open days for the public, interactive workshops for science students, photographic and art competitions, and hands-on events for school children. There's also a section on the website with templates from successful events to give ideas and advice.

What do the Regional National Pathology Week Coordinators do?

Each of the College's eleven Regional Councils has appointed someone to coordinate National Pathology Week events in their region. This doesn't mean that they organise all the events themselves, but that they communicate with every department to encourage pathologists and scientists to hold events and to register them on the National Pathology Week website. The Regional Coordinators are happy to give advice and support but can't organise your event for you.

I am a member of another specialist society. Can I organise an event through them?

We were delighted to work with many other organisations during National Pathology Week 2008 and hope to collaborate with even more people this year. Representatives from the ACB, IBMS, Path. Soc. and ACP are working closely with the Regional Coordinators' group to ensure that information and resources are widely available to members of those societies. If your organisation is not currently involved in National Pathology Week but would like to be, please get in touch with us.

What will be provided for National Pathology Week?

Resources will be available on the National Pathology Week website and will include posters, handouts, PowerPoint presentations and sample press releases. Promotional materials such as stickers and pens will be available from the College. Educational resources to take into schools will also be developed for organisers.

Is there any money available to pay for additional materials for my event?

No, there is no additional funding available centrally but you might like to obtain local sponsorship for your event, for example from a pharmaceutical company or local business.

What PowerPoint presentations will be available?

The two presentations from last year, "Careers in Pathology" and "Pathology Myths" have been updated and are available to download from the National Pathology Week website. There will also be two new PowerPoint presentations; "Pathology, the heart of modern healthcare" and an image-based quiz.

How do I register my event?

This year events can be registered online from July. Please see the event organisers' section of the website for more information.

How do I evaluate my event?

Model evaluation forms for different audience groups are available in the organisers' area of the website and a copy will be included in the registration pack. Feel free to modify the form to fit your event.

Why do I need to evaluate my event?

Evaluation is a very important part of National Pathology Week. Finding out exactly what your audience thought of your event helps improve future events and provides powerful information about the success of the week. The media, other professional organisations, potential funders and policy makers are all more interested in statistics than unqualified comments. For example, "97% of 14-16 year-olds rated the event as excellent" is more powerful than "everyone enjoyed the event".

I'm a trainee. Can I take part in National Pathology Week?

Trainees made a huge contribution to National Pathology Week 2008 and we hope that even more will be involved this year. Public engagement is an important part of developing communication skills. Engaging with all audience groups is beneficial for training and for the specialty as a whole. The College strongly supports involvement of trainees in public engagement events and encourages all trainees to get involved. There is even a College prize for public engagement, The Furness Prize for Science Communication, which will be awarded early in 2010. National Pathology Week provides the perfect opportunity for you to build on your previous experience to develop a portfolio of public engagement events to enter for the prize.

I am an educational supervisor. Is it appropriate to release trainees from their commitments to undertake public engagement work?

Yes, the College strongly encourages educational supervisors to release trainees to develop and take part in public engagement events. Trainees are a great asset to the profession and are often best placed to encourage young people to consider a career in pathology. Recruitment of bright students into the specialty is one of the aims of National Pathology Week and is something that trainees are particularly good at. Developing and holding an event during National Pathology Week gives trainees the opportunity to develop communication skills and team building experience and it is entirely appropriate that their contribution is recognised as part of their training.

I am a clinical or biomedical scientist. Can I take part in National Pathology Week?

National Pathology Week 2008 would not have been the success it was without the contribution of clinical and biomedical scientists around the country. The aim of the week is to promote the work of all pathology professionals and to encourage people to consider a career in any of the disciplines or professional groups so please get involved, whichever professional group you belong to.

Can I receive CPD points for holding or attending an event during National Pathology Week?

Yes, CPD points are available both for developing and attending an educational event.

I'm too busy to organise a big event for National Pathology Week. Is there something smaller I can do?

There are no rules about the type of event you can hold during National Pathology Week. Many people enjoy developing ambitious events but please feel free to do something more modest. You don't even have to do anything you wouldn't do already. If you're holding a teaching session or giving a lecture during the week, why not badge it as a National Pathology Week event? Or you may prefer to repeat something that you've done before so that minimal preparation time is involved, such as a postgraduate lecture or a tutorial for trainees.

My question is not answered here. How do I find out more about National Pathology Week?

Please contact your Regional Coordinator or email one of the central organising team (see contacts).