

## **Personal Statement – Dr Bernie Croal**

I would like to be the next College President....

Firstly, the obligatory background stuff: I am NHS Grampian Clinical Director for Pathology, with roles in Chemical Pathology, Forensic Toxicology, Clinical Nutrition and on-call Medical Director.

Approaching my 9<sup>th</sup> year on College Council and Trustee board, and having previously served as Vice President, I now chair four College committees – Scottish Council, Specialty SAC, Informatics Group and the Quality Assurance Management Group. This experience of College business and the rapport I now have with valuable College staff means I can hit the ground running from day 1.

I will of course fully support the many College activities stretching across the key themes of professionalism, learning and communication. Similarly, with 20 plus specialty groups spread across the four UK nations and internationally, all with varying expectations and needs, I will make sure that minority areas are not forgotten about and that the College is for everyone.

Unashamedly though, my College Presidency will focus on **PROFESSIONAL ENGAGEMENT (PE)** and this will be developed at various levels:

**PE: Fellows** – the College is its fellows and we need you more than ever – a new programme of direct engagement will be stimulated – improved data gathering, expert panels, better outreach and new role creation and a new focus on recruitment to help ensure all disciplines attract enough doctors and scientists in the challenging times ahead. In addition, our fellows need to see more value from their subscription fees – we need better communication of the valuable work the College does but we also need to involve more fellows and use the new building to facilitate more affordable educational events both physically and virtually in the form of on-line webinars.

**PE: Professional Groups** – Like never before, all staff groups within Pathology services need to come together - this strength in numbers, combining pathologists, clinical scientists, biomedical scientists, IT experts and managers can become a very potent and useful force for pathology. As President I will aim to strengthen and add to the good links already formed through initiatives such as the Pathology Alliance and create and formalise new multi-disciplinary task forces for Quality, Informatics and E-Learning.

**PE: Government** – While neither a political party nor a trade union, the College needs to make a strong stand against government policy when it is clearly detrimental to pathology services, pathologists and patients – and let's be very clear, the strategy and rhetoric emanating from NHS England in particular hasn't been collaborative or productive in recent years. But we need to do more than complain – as President I will develop a new constructive Pathology network resource alongside government and the private sector to guide policy and even define policy, as it does in some parts of the UK already.

As RCPATH President, I will stand up strongly for pathology, pathologists, scientists and patients. My vision will focus on developing Professional Engagement to empower pathology and elevate its importance in healthcare.

**RCPATH: New College, New President, New Vision..... Vote Croal.**