

Communication from Chrissy Waterman:

Dear All,

Please could you circulate the following information to the Clinical Scientists in your laboratory who are preparing to sit FRCPATH examinations?

As the RCPATH Chair of the Panel of Examiners for Genetics, I want to bring your attention to the speciality specific guidance on the RCPATH website - this can be found in the examinations section under the for trainees tab.

In particular I wish to remind you and your colleagues that the format of the casebook written option changed in Spring 2017 and old style casebooks proposals are no longer being accepted. Proposals accepted before this date will not be affected but will be expected to be completed within three years of proposal acceptance.

I would also like to draw your attention to the changes to the Part 1 and Part 2 examinations whereby the practical exam has moved to Part 2 in line with other RCPATH specialities.

Candidates who have sat the old format Part 1 examinations

Candidates who have passed the Part 1 written examination but not the old Part 1 practical examination will transfer to the examination structure described above.

Candidates who have passed the old Part 1 examinations (written and practical) will proceed to the Part 2 Oral Examination only. In order to pass the entire examination and receive award of FRCPATH they will still have to submit a satisfactory written component (dissertation, MD/PhD or portfolio of published works) but candidates may take the Oral Examination in any available session and will not have to wait until the written component is completed. Candidates will continue to be subject to the maximum number of re-sit attempts stipulated in the Regulations.

The Part 2 examination will be available in this format until 2020; after that date candidates will have to take the Part 2 practical and oral examination.

There has been concern regarding the last point, the requirement to take the Part 2 practical if the oral has not been completed by 2020 and I have shared these concerns with the College Examinations Department. For clarification, the College expects candidates holding the Part 1 practical to have registered for their sub-speciality oral by 2020 but if they should be unsuccessful they will be able to sit the combined oral for subsequent attempts without having to sit the Part 2 practical, up to and including 2023.

Best wishes

Chrissy

Christine Waterman PhD FRCPATH