



RCOA

Royal College of Anaesthetists

Global Partnerships Priorities 2020–2021

The College is extremely pleased with the achievements that have been made over the past four years and we are extremely grateful to all our stakeholders, volunteers, members and staff for working together to deliver a broad and exciting programme of work right across the world.

We are committed to improving patient safety, wellbeing and outcomes through the maintenance and advancement of standards in anaesthesia, critical care and pain medicine globally

Through our products and services, anaesthetists will be well trained and well supported, and will continue to uphold a central role in the development and delivery of high-quality healthcare.

As we evaluate our international activity, our overarching objectives will continue to be:

- 1 raising the profile of anaesthesia as part of the surgical team among decision makers, international organisations, the wider health sector and patients
- 2 developing projects, products and services that share good practice and improve anaesthesia training and develop the workforce in Low and Middle Income Countries (LMICs)
- 3 working in partnership with education providers to develop standards and high-quality training that meets the needs of local healthcare systems
- 4 advocating alongside global health ministries, educational bodies and associations across the world to recognise the need for improved anaesthesia services and the provision of anaesthesia as part of the wider surgical team to improve patient experiences and outcomes
- 5 supporting and engage with College members who are based outside the UK to ensure they feel valued, through a range of initiatives including the use of regular and effective communications and by establishing local country champions.



Our priorities for 2020/2021 are as follows:



Establishment of an International Academy of Anaesthesia Colleges

We aim to create a collaborative alliance, through shared resources and ideas. Areas of activity will include supporting the development of workforce and capacity building in the global health context, quality improvement in anaesthesiology, perioperative care pathways and patient safety.



Support the establishment of the College of Anaesthesiologists of East, Central and Southern Africa (CANECSA)

The RCoA will be working in partnership with global, UK and Norwegian anaesthesia-related organisations in an alliance established in 2019 to support the creation and development of CANECSA.

The CANECSA constituent countries are Kenya, Malawi, Mozambique, Rwanda, Eswatini, Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia and Zimbabwe. It is estimated that the population of these countries is approximately 231 million and the number of physician anaesthesiologists servicing this population is estimated at 596.[†]

Our activities over the next 18 months will include (but not be limited to):

- development of and approval of training sites in order to train the first CANECSA cohort of anaesthetists
- development and delivery of training of trainers and training courses to improve the infrastructure to deliver high-quality, competency-based training
- development and delivery of CANECSA examinations to set a national standard for anaesthesia training across the region
- seek funding for educational bursaries for anaesthesiology trainees in the CANECSA region.



Develop and expand the MTI programme and to explore other sponsorship routes available for training and experience

The Medical Training Initiative (MTI) is a UK government scheme designed to assist doctors with proven ability in anaesthesia/intensive care/pain medicine from LMICs to pursue further specific specialist training in the UK.

The MTI scheme provides training to equip anaesthetic doctors with skills and experiences that they can in turn take back to their home countries. It is expected that these individuals will return and take up leadership roles in their home hospitals, especially in the areas of quality improvement, training and advocacy.

[†]Workforce Map. WFSA, 2018 (wfsahq.org/workforce-map).

We intend to continue to develop the scheme through:

- developing different modes of delivery of our New to the NHS induction days for MTI doctors and our MTI Hosts Days, which provide an overview of our MTI scheme, in particular looking at delivery online and, in the future, a blended approach
- development of simulation courses for MTI doctors as part of a wider induction to working in anaesthesia within the NHS.

In addition, we will establish a sponsorship route for doctors who reside in countries that are not classed as LMICs, who are currently excluded from the MTI scheme, to allow doctors to gain access to training opportunities within the NHS. This will be run separately from MTI as we wish to ensure that the philanthropic aims of the MTI continue to be met.



Supporting training and education in LMICs

The RCoA have established an increasing number of partnerships with organisations to promote high-quality fellowship programmes. Our programmes ensure that individuals undertaking international fellowships develop vital clinical skills while also supporting the development of local anaesthesia provision. Current opportunities include placements within the Zambian Anaesthetic Development Project (ZADP), the King's Sierra Leone Partnership (KSLP) and Mercy Ships. We will continue to seek out new partnership working with a wide range of organisations to establish more fellowships in LMICs and facilitate access to UK placements where possible.

We will ensure that the placements we support are mutually beneficial, both to the fellow undertaking the placement and to the host institution and host healthcare system. We encourage fellows to undertake teaching, research or quality improvement projects to support their hosts.





Design and development of training site accreditation

The College will begin to scope and develop a process leading to training site accreditation of training sites outside of the UK. This will allow training sites that delivery high-quality training and robust quality assurance processes to be recognised by a leading authority in anaesthesia. This will ensure the quality of anaesthesiology training within these sites, which will lead to high-quality services being delivered to patients.



Development of trainers internationally

The College has experience of delivering trainer development courses both in the UK and internationally. We will develop these products and services further, ensuring that content remains contemporaneous and attractive to our partners. We will also be exploring modes of delivery, particularly using e-learning, webinars and face to face teaching through a blended programme.



Scope out the delivery of the Primary MCQ examination internationally

The College will explore how the Primary MCQ examination might logistically be delivered overseas and alongside partner organisations and health authorities.

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