

## MEETING OF COUNCIL

### Minutes of the meeting held on 15 September 2021

#### Members attending:

Dr Fiona Donald, President  
Professor William Harrop-Griffiths  
Dr Russell Perkins  
Professor Ravi Mahajan  
Professor Mike Grocott  
Professor Ellen O'Sullivan  
Dr Krish Ramanchandran  
Dr Chris Carey  
Dr Helgi Johannsson  
Dr Claire Shannon  
Dr Jamie Strachan  
Dr Lucy Williams  
Dr Felicity Plaat  
Dr Mike Swart

Dr Sri Gummaraju  
Dr Sarah Muldoon  
Professor Jonathan Thompson  
Dr Rosalind Bacon  
Dr Ashwini Keshkamat  
Dr Ramai Santhirapala  
Dr John Hughes (FPM)  
Dr Alison Pittard (FICM)  
Professor Dave Lambert  
Dr Dave Selwyn  
Dr Mike Nathanson  
Mrs Pauline Elliott  
Dr Marie Nixon  
Dr Simon Ford

**In attendance:** Mr Jonathan Bruun, Ms Sharon Drake, Mr Mark Blaney, Mr Jonathan Whale, Ms Nicola Brown.

**Apologies for absence:** Dr Mark Forrest, Dr Sarah Ramsay, Dr William Donaldson, Dr Claire Mallinson, Dr Sandeep Lankhani, Professor Judith Hall, Dr Daphne Varveris, Dr Abrie Theron, Mr Russell Ampofo.

The following deaths were reported:

- Professor Peter Kopelman distinguished clinician and academic who had worked with the college on the development of the Faculty of Anaesthesia Associates.
- Dr Guy Langford Bayley of Bristol, known as Guy.

The Council observed a minute's silence in remembrance.

#### 1. Council Minutes

**The minutes of the meeting held on 7 July were circulated:**

**MOTION Agreed:** Council approved the minutes of the 7 July as a true and accurate record, with a minor amendment to a sentence under item five, bullet point one to read:

'Colleagues at the Association met with the President, Dr Fiona Donald and Mr Jonathan Bruun to discuss issues raised in the publication'.

**Vaccination statement** - It was noted under the list of actions that the Academy of Medical Royal Colleges (AoMRC) will shortly be sending a further consultation on their vaccination statement, to check if the College is satisfied with the current proposals.

**Action on Smoking and Health (ASH) Consultation** – following only 12 responses from Council, with nine against, it was felt that the college did not have a clear position on this proposal. It was agreed however to respond directly to ASH to reflect the narrative and update them based on the responses and various opinions expressed.

#### 2. President's Statement

The President's statement was circulated and outlined a list of meetings the President, Professor Ravi Mahajan and the Vice President's had attended since the last Council meeting.

### **Sustainability Lead**

The President highlighted that Dr Lucy Williams will demit as sustainability lead when she leaves Council in March 2022. To recruit a new lead a job description and person specification will be circulated to Council for interest, who will be asked to provide a 650-word statement and application by the deadline of 8 October.

### **Logsdail Case**

Dr Perkins provided an update to Council on the Regulation 28 Report to Prevent Further Deaths (PFD) for Glenda Logsdail. For clarity, it was explained that such documents are issued by the coroner in response to inquest findings when they believe that future deaths could occur unless action is taken by bodies such as DHSC, Trusts and Royal Colleges. Dr Perkins updated Council on the subsequent work and actions the College were taking to increase awareness of unrecognised oesophageal intubation.

### **Faculty of Anaesthesia Associates (AAs) Development Project**

To date the General Medical Council (GMC) had not yet confirmed details relating to the curriculum consultation. They continue to have discussions about AA's examinations and a concession contract has been produced in order to allow the Faculty to design, develop and run future examinations in line with the test GMC specification. The Faculty Founding Board will meet for the first time in November 2021 to take the project forward, and to consider detailed questions around the administration, leadership and governance, and educational standards of the Faculty and its members. The College will be required to support the future model, which will complement the new College strategy but will require resourcing.

It was noted that in future the work on AA development will be undertaken by the Faculty Founding board and not the ARPC. It is proposed that the Anaesthesia Related Professionals Committee (ARPC) should continue to represent the interests of the other professionals who relate to Anaesthesia and that this will continue to report to the ETE Board.

### **Faculty of Anaesthesia Associates Founding Board - Terms of Reference**

The RCoA has been working on a wide-ranging programme of work as part of the expansion and development of the role of Anaesthesia Associates, and this includes a commitment to the establishment of a Faculty of Anaesthesia Associates within the governance of the college, in order to support the AA profession. Initially a three-year project, it has received funding from HEE in order to support development. In agreement with the Board of Trustees and HEE, the initial steps of establishing the Faculty of AAs will be to establish the Founding Board in 2021, who will be responsible for establishing the governance structures and overseeing operational work of the Faculty, and it will be a precursor for establishing the main Faculty Board next year for agreement at the 2022 Annual General Meeting.

The Founding Board will be accountable to Council, and any amendments and revisions to the Terms of Reference will be submitted to Council for approval. The first Founding Board meeting is due to take place in November 2021 and therefore, the Faculty Development Group sought approval from Council for the Founding Board Terms of Reference.

**MOTION Approved:** Council approved the Founding Board terms of reference.

## **3. CEO Update**

### **Appointment of New Chair to RCoA National Honours Committee**

It was noted that Dr Judith Hulf, Past President (2006- 2009) has been recommended as new chair by the committee, which was ratified by President, Professor Ravi Mahajan. Judith's appointment was proposed to Council for approval.

**Motion Approved:** The Council approved the appointment of Dr Judith Hulf as new Chair of the National Honours committee.

### **2021 Council Elections: Nomination's update**

A paper was circulated to provide an update on the nomination period for the election to Council and the communications programme aligned to it. The CEO noted thanks to the Executive Office and the Communications team for their work throughout the year on highlighting these vacancies. For this round it was noted that, nominations open on 22 September, they will close at 12 noon on 20 October, with ballot emails distributed on 17 November and closing on 16 December. The results will be announced on 17 December 2021 and all new members will take up their posts in March 2022.

Council members highlighted the expressions of interest from anaesthetists in training and whether the ordinances would allow in having additional trainee places on Council in the future.

**ACTION:** JB agreed to review the opportunities for additional trainee places in the future, to formulate a discussion with Council, to be aligned with the Governance review. It was agreed to discuss this at a future Council meeting.

#### **4. Items for Discussion**

##### **Proposal to Support Co-opted Membership for a Regional Adviser (Anaesthesia) representative on RCoA Council**

A paper was circulated in support of the proposition that, alongside the Chair of the Clinical Directors (CD) network, a Lead RAA should take up a co-opted position alongside elected members of the College Council. It was felt that the presence of a Lead RAA, as representative of the RAAs throughout the UK, will support Council Members and Senior Leadership of the College in receiving information directly from RAAs around the country on issues within the profession that align with the current roles of the RAA. It will further support in communicating more efficiently the activity of the Council and wider college back into the regions.

Council was supportive of a RAA representative on Council but were mindful that a one-year tenure is too short of the financial implications of a further post on Council. It was agreed to put forward the proposal to the Governance review as part of the composition of Council for the future.

**MOTION Agreed;** Council supported the proposal for a co-opted RAA on Council but agreed first to take it to the governance review for discussion around future composition of Council.

##### **Faculty of Pain Medicine (FPM) Request for RCoA support for a National Strategy for Pain Management**

A document was circulated to Council following a joint meeting between the FPM, RCoA and The Royal College of General Practitioners (RCGP) to develop a national strategy for pain management from point of first contact to highly specialised interventions. It is envisaged that this will be an overarching strategy that is multispecialty and interdisciplinary, working across the various boundaries including social and physiological care as well as third sector interaction. The strategy will also fit within the broader framework of the NHS Long Term Plan and principles of the Personalised Care Model. Whilst written from an NHS England (NHSE) perspective, the underlying principals would apply to the four nations.

Along with the backing of other Royal Colleges and key stakeholders, Dr John Hughes sought formal support from Council for this draft document and its objectives, subject to change. Following support FPM will be able to progress the strategy to the next stage with the aim of getting a broad spectrum of support before presentation to NHSE and assessing their engagement.

**MOTION Approved:** Council were in agreement to endorse the National Strategy for Pain Management document.

#### **Education, Training and Examinations update:**

Dr Carey provided the following information to Council:

##### **Training and Events**

- Diplomates Day held on 10 September was successful and well received by candidates. Thanks were given to the Examinations team for the organisation of such a successful day.
- A risk assessment is taking place to review future events planned to be held towards the end of 2021, contingencies are in place should face to face events have to change at short notice so that they switch to online events. Social distancing and vaccine passports will continue to be in place to support key face to face events to ensure the highest possible standards.
- Due to the pressures in dealing with clinical responses the work on various projects with the simulation group has been delayed. External funding has been received for one particular project which needs to be delivered in a tight time frame, and the College is exploring various possibilities going forward to ensure that it is sustainable and deliverable. There is the option of recruitment of a Fellow which will support on delivery of the Dinwoodie project.
- To support training, guidance for educational development time for trainees in order to support generic capabilities and the non-clinical component of the curriculum will be circulated, it will outline how much time trainees should dedicate to their non-clinical roles.
- A review of working flexibly whilst training, is taking place, following a change by the GMC on the rules that stipulates that trainees need only spend one year within a fully recognised training programme, providing they meet other requirements for a CCT in a chosen speciality. Further guidance will be published shortly.

- Work with the Specialist Societies has been proposed to produce material to support the new curriculum, the aim is to provide additional educational support for specialist societies in order to support their relationship with trainees and with anaesthetists in training.
- A curriculum development group is being set up to support the work of the implementation group, with support from the Trainees committee. The focus of the work will be to support the ongoing adjustment with the new curriculum.

## **Recruitment**

- Following the recent difficulties with recruitment the Medical Dental and Recruitment Selection (MDRS) announced at a recent stakeholder event that they would have a potential round for ST4 in 2023.

## **Examinations**

- Thanks were given to Dr Mark Forrest for his all his work with the Examinations team and as chair of the Examinations committee following his announcement to stand down from Council.

## **5. Report from the Association**

Dr Mike Nathanson circulated a report detailing Association business since the last Council meeting to note that:

- 21 Portland Place has now partially re-opened, with more normal opening during the month of September. Hybrid Council, the Board and some committee meetings have re-started. It is expected that most committee meetings, working party groups, and other ad-hoc groups and meetings will remain virtual.
- Karin Pappenheim has left the organisation after 10 years as CEO; plans for short-term cover and then a permanent replacement is currently being developed.
- The Trainee Conference took place in Newcastle in July as a hybrid event, with 500 delegates, including 130 face to face.
- The forthcoming Annual Congress has now been converted to a virtual meeting. It was noted that there is little demand, at this time, for face-to-face educational meetings.

## **6. Boards and Reports**

**Communications and External Affairs Board (CE&A)** – The Chair's summary and minutes of a meeting held on 15 June were circulated, Dr Helgi Johannsson provided an update to note that:

- Nicola Brown was welcomed to her first Council meeting, Nicola has been employed as a contractor for six months to bring her expertise and to work on various projects, including the restructure of the C&EA directorate, strategic communications, and improvement of communications with trainees.
- The British Journal of Anaesthesia (BJA) and Bulletin changes have been delayed, but the move to online delivery is scheduled for January 2022. Preparations for an improved online bulletin product are going well.
- Anaesthesia – 'Fit for the Future' is a very important piece of work, which has had support from the Royal College of Surgeons after they highlighted the shortage of anaesthetic capacity in their 'New Deal for Surgery' report.
- The closing date for the Patient Information Lead was late August and several candidates have applied for the role, interviews will take place shortly.

**Centre for Perioperative Care (CPOC)** – The Chair's summary and minutes of a meeting held on 22 July 2021 were circulated, Dr Dave Selwyn provided an update which noted that:

- CPOC has launched the [Shared Decision Making Hub](#) for clinicians on the CPOC website. It contains a range of resources such as short podcasts, education and training packages, suggested quality improvement projects and national guidance.
- The Shared Decision Making (SDM) work stream led by Dr Ramai Santhirapala is producing a SDM Patient Facing Animation in collaboration with the Academy of Medical Royal Colleges (AoMRC). This will involve a case study, which will support in relaying key messages. This will be launched in October 2021 and will be used by trusts to promote SDM to patients.
- CPOC is working with HEE to finalise the contract for the development of a Perioperative Care Curriculum. CPOC will be commissioned by HEE to develop the curriculum and the contract details are being confirmed. It was noted that intellectual property aspects will sit with CPOC and financial aspects and timelines for delivery are still being negotiated. It is projected that this work will begin in early autumn 2021.

- CPOC's concept of 'turning waiting lists into preparation lists' was promoted in an [RCoA Podcast](#) recorded by the CPOC Executive. The podcast has had 567 listeners.
- Further to the Patient Safety in Perioperative Practice Event in April 2021 CPOC produced a podcast with the RCoA to discuss the winning project 'Identifying and mitigating latent safety threats using in-situ simulation with human factors feedback delivered by pilots.' The podcast will be published shortly.
- It was noted that at present 100% of CPOC's core funding is from the RCoA and this will continue until summer 2022, it is hoped that the RCoA may continue to provide core funding, however, this is not certain or confirmed. The current level of core funding would allow CPOC to continue at the current level of activity, however, as CPOC is expanding, it would like to take on more projects and work streams.

## **7. Devolved Nations**

### **Welsh Board**

The Chair's summary and minutes of a meeting held on 20 April 2021 were circulated, Dr Simon Ford, Deputy Chair provided an update which highlighted the following key points:

- The current demand in Wales continues to increase with a high demand of cases in intensive care.
- The Board is currently working with the Welsh Government to review existing workforce details and the future work deficit and current problems, they will be sharing plans for workforce strategy with High Involvement Work Systems (HEIW's) shortly.
- The Academy Board is due to meet with the Minister for Health and Social Care of Wales, in order to work closely together to ensure improvement in Wales going forward.

## **8. Other business**

### **New Associate Fellows, Members and Associate Members**

A list of new members to Council for June, July and August 2021 was circulated.

### **CCTs CESR(CP)s for Council**

A list of recommendations of members made to the GMC for approval was circulated. This noted that CCTs/CESR (CP)s have been awarded to those who have satisfactorily completed the full period of higher specialist training in Anaesthesia, or Anaesthesia with Intensive Care Medicine or Pre-Hospital Emergency Medicine throughout July and August 2021.

### **Current College Consultations**

The list of college consultations was reviewed.

### **Changes to Regional Advisors**

The following changes were noted and approved by Council.

#### **Regional Advisers Anaesthesia**

##### **Severn**

Dr Sheridan (Ted) Rees to succeed Dr Anne Whaley for Severn

#### **Deputy Regional Adviser**

##### **Defence**

Lt Colonel Emma Coley to succeed Dr Lt Colonel Clinton Jones

### **Any Other Business**

Dr Felicity Plaat presented a short report on **Gender Inclusive Terminology**

The Guidelines for the Provision of Anaesthetic Services (GPAS) in the obstetrics chapter promotes equality by addressing health inequalities'. One of the protected characteristics of this act is gender reassignment. This refers to people, known as 'trans people' whose gender identity differs from the sex they were assigned at birth (registered on their birth certificates). For several years there has been support by sections of society for the use of language, and in particular the use of nouns and pronouns that recognise trans people. This is currently a topic being debated in the context of childbirth and associated services.

A selection of examples of language used by NHS Digital and RCOG were reviewed and Council agreed to consider further discussion on adopting language going forward. It was agreed that further discussions should take place at the Equality, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) committee as this will follow policy when discussing and making such decisions.

**ACTION:** SD to take to EDI committee for further discussion.

**End of Meeting**