

MEETING OF COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held on 10 November 2021

Members attending:

Dr Fiona Donald, President	Dr Sri Gummaraju
Professor William Harrop-Griffiths, Vice President	Professor Jonathan Thompson
Professor Ravi Mahajan	Dr Rosalind Bacon
Professor Mike Grocott	Dr Ashwini Keshkamat
Professor Ellen O'Sullivan	Dr Ramai Santhirapala
Dr Mark Forrest	Dr John Hughes (FPM)
Dr Krish Ramanchandran	Dr Alison Pittard (FICM)
Dr Chris Carey	Professor Dave Lambert
Dr Helgi Johannsson	Dr Sandeep Lakhani
Dr Claire Shannon	Dr Dave Selwyn
Dr Claire Mallinson	Dr Mike Nathanson
Dr Sarah Ramsay	Dr Abrie Theron
Dr Jamie Strachan	Dr Daphne Varveris
Dr Lucy Williams	Dr William Donaldson
Dr Felicity Plaat	Mrs Pauline Elliott
Dr Mike Swart	Dr Marie Nixon
Dr Sarah Muldoon	

In attendance: Mr Jonathan Bruun, Ms Sharon Drake, Mr Mark Blaney, Mr Jonathan Whale, Ms Rose Murphy, Ms Natalie Dowsett.

Apologies for absence:

Dr Russell Perkins, Ms Nicola Brown, Professor Judith Hall,

The following deaths were reported:

- Dr Abu Khaled Mohammed Akramul Haq of Kent
- Mr Ben Brown of Plawsworth
- Dr Jean Mary Horton of Cambridge

1. Council Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 15 September were circulated:

MOTION Agreed: Council approved the minutes of the 15 September as a true and accurate record.

2. President's Statement

The statement highlighted meetings attended by the President and the Vice Presidents since the last Council meeting.

The President welcomed Dr Sandeep Lakhani, Co-opted member of Council, representing the Clinical Leaders in Anaesthesia Network to his first meeting.

Difficult National Airways Database

Recent consultations were reviewed by Council including the *National Difficult Airway Database*. Council members outlined support with conditions, particularly around the need to ensure that enough consideration is given to the patient voice. There were further questions around the safety and security of patient data. These queries have been referred to the College's Information Governance Officer.

ACTION: Sharon Drake agreed to review data protection in the National Difficult Airway Database and report back.

Logsdail Response

Dr Marie Nixon provided a report to Council which outlined the College's response to a Regulation 28 request, which had been prepared with the support of the Association, the Safe Anaesthesia Liaison Group and the Difficult Airway Society (DAS). The response included a high-level version of the action plan being developed by the Short Life Working Party for Unrecognised Oesophageal Intubation. The coroner had highlighted matters of concern including a lack of awareness of the "no trace, wrong place" (NTWP) campaign and other areas including non-technical skills.

The short life working party has developed a rapid response plan that addresses both NTWP and non-technical skills. The intention is then to create a longer term project focusing on Human Factors and ergonomics in anaesthetic practice. The project would involve partners at DAS, the Association and the Safe Anaesthesia Liaison Group (SALG). The action plan will involve:

- A baseline survey to measure awareness of NTWP
- Resource creation, including webpages, talk-throughs and flash card learning systems

The group will contact hospital Chief Executives and clinical directors, airway leads and trainee networks to encourage them to discuss the case at clinical governance meetings and across theatres, and to feedback on their progress.

A comprehensive awareness-raising and communications plan has been developed with partners, to ensure that key messages are heard by the whole team and by other medical professionals who undertake intubation. The group will continue to work with stakeholders to highlight the importance of theatre teams having sufficient time to undertake essential emergency drills training.

Future work will focus on culture change in practice. The focus on non-technical skills will lead into a broader focus on human factors within anaesthetic practice.

There will also be further work with device suppliers to consider practical design solutions.

Faculty of Anaesthesia Associates (AAs) Development Project

Dr Claire Shannon notified Council that the first AA Founding Board meeting was due to take place on the 10 November, chaired by Professor Harrop-Griffiths. The aim of the board will be to put governance and structure around the processes for Anaesthesia Associates. Whilst there has been no formal feedback from the General Medical Council (GMC), they appear content with the development of the curriculum.

The GMC have also notified the Board of delays in the legislative process required for regulation of AAs. The earliest date for regulation is now likely to be mid 2023 at the earliest. This will now mean that the AA examination will not need to be in place until mid-2025 and work continues with the Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) and the GMC to help develop a blueprint for the exam based on the draft curriculum.

The Scope of Practice Survey has been positively received by the Clinical Director Network and the work will be taken on by the Founding Board. The Anaesthesia Related Professionals Committee (ARPC) will continue to report to the Education, Training and Examinations Board (ETE) representing other Allied Health Professionals.

3. CEO Update

Agreeing an Extraordinary General Meeting (EGM) date, and clarifying rights of some member categories

A paper was circulated to Council to outline two points:

Calling an EGM in February 2022

There was a call for an EGM to be held in February next year to propose to the membership changes to the College's governance structure as a result of the recent review.

Motion Agreed: Council agreed to hold a virtual EGM in February 2022.

Clarifying Rights of Some Member Categories – Ms Lucy Devine presented a paper to Council to highlight and resolve an issue whereby certain categories of membership do not have in the governing documents some of the rights the College intended them to have in practice. The membership team

had highlighted that the categories of Fellows in Training, Anaesthetists in Training and the Senior Fellows and Members Club do not fit into any category of membership defined in the Ordinances. As a consequence, individuals in these categories would not currently have the right to attend, speak or vote at an AGM or an EGM or vote in College elections.

To correct that position, Council was asked to make three changes to the College's Regulations as a temporary measure.

Motion Approved: Council agreed to the changes to the regulations as outlined and discussed in the paper.

ACTION: Jonathan Bruun and Dr Helgi Johannsson, agreed to oversee the preparation of positive, active communications to link to information being available on the governance section of the College website in time for the College's EGM.

Agenda for December Annual General Meeting (AGM)

A paper was presented to meet the requirements of the current governing documents. Ordinance 9.1 gives Council the responsibility to convene an annual meeting of members and determine the business to be transacted. An agenda and the date of Thursday 9 December 2021 from 7pm to 8pm was proposed for approval.

Motion Approved: Council approved the agenda for the AGM to take place on 9 December 2021.

Current Council Elections

Council was notified that 30 candidates have put forward their names for the forthcoming elections, with information now live on the College website. The ballot will open on 16 November as agreed by Council. Thanks were given to Rose Murphy, the membership and communications teams for their work in processing this.

4. Items for Discussion

Workforce Wellbeing

Dr Ramai Santhirapala presented a paper on workforce wellbeing which noted that the GMC and College surveys prior to and during the pandemic have highlighted issues with workforce wellbeing pertaining to mental health, burnout, and morale. Currently the College has no unified strategy or channel for internal and external coordination of its role in the wider national remit focussed on workforce wellbeing.

Dr Santhirapala had been appointed as College wellbeing lead and sought to define and co-ordinate a remit for her work. There will also be an opportunity to link areas of this work within existing standards of Anaesthesia Clinical Services Accreditation (ACSA) and Guidelines for the Provision of Anaesthetic Services (GPAS). Council was also asked to consider the possibility of appointing a Bernard Johnson Adviser for Wellbeing to support this area of work. Council was further asked to consider support for the establishment of a Wellbeing Task and Finish Group, with the intention of developing wellbeing strategic priorities and focussed key deliverables.

Motion Approved: Council agreed in principle to the creation of a Wellbeing Task and Finish Group and that approval should be sought at the Board of Trustees in December.

Education, Training and Examinations update:

FRCA Examination Governance structure

A paper was circulated to Council by Dr Mark Forrest on the proposed changes and updates to the governance of examinations, which will include a restructure of the current examiner body from two distinct entities, Primary and Final, into one united group of examiners.

At present the examinations are overseen by the Chairs of the Primary and Final Examination, who chair the Primary Examinations Review Group (PERG) and the Final Examinations Review Group (FERG), which meet independently of each other to oversee and develop the respective examination and report to the Examinations Committee. It was reported that over time, PERG and FERG have successfully led and managed important innovations in the respective examinations. The new proposal aims to strengthen the principle that the FRCA examination represents a coherent summative assessment strategy, which is aligned in its approach and reflects best practice.

Council was in favour of the proposed recommendations as outlined in the document and congratulated Dr Forrest and Mr Russell Ampofo for their work on this initiative.

Examinations

Dr Forrest provided an update to Council to note that:

- Following problems with the recent Constructed Response Questions (CRQ) examination, processes have been put in place to ensure succinct communications with third parties in how the examinations are signed off, to ensure they run smoothly without problems in the future.
- The department is currently appointing an independent expert to lead to review the FRCA examinations and associated processes.
- Two listening events were held on 2 and 3 November in which candidates were able to share their experiences of taking the online examination in September and their recent interactions with the College. This process generated many positive questions and points to consider, and the communications team were preparing a response to the points raised.
- Dr Alison Pittard also briefed Council on issues surrounding the recent FICM FRCA examination. Communications continue with the trainers and trainees, and listening events were due to take place.

New Curriculum

Dr Carey thanked Dr Mark Forrest for his work on the College examination governance review. Dr Carey highlighted recent adverse public commentary about the College having released a curriculum during the pandemic. This kind of issue pointed to the need for further open communication on issues relating to the new curriculum.

Recruitment

It was noted that the Anaesthetics National Recruitment Office (ANRO) will establish an external review to explore recent recruitment issues. The College will have input into this review. It was suggested that the College should work with the other Royal Colleges to consider recruitment issues in the round and provide a response to the Academy of Medical Royal Colleges (AoMRC).

College Tutors – July & August 2021

A list of current College Tutor appointments was circulated to Council for information. It was highlighted that following some queries raised about the appointment of a College Tutor in Gibraltar this will be referred to the Training committee to reach a consensus view and Council will be updated in the future.

DRAFT 2022 Pre-hospital Emergency Medicine (PHEM) Curriculum and Syllabus

The draft 2022 PHEM Curriculum and Syllabus was circulated for review. PHEM is the only GMC recognised sub-specialty of Anaesthetics and the Intercollegiate Board for Training in Pre-hospital Emergency Medicine (IBTPHEM) has recently done a review to revise the PHEM curriculum. The programme is for 12 months, which will fit in around the 2010 and the 2021 curriculum structures, for advanced training or specialist interest training. The current changes include incorporating generic professional capabilities into the learning outcomes, some changes to workplace-based assessments and in changes in the Scope of PHEM practices. It was noted that there may be a further opportunity for a credential in the future. Council was asked to review, provide any feedback and endorse the proposed new PHEM curriculum.

Motion Approved: Council endorsed the latest version of the PHEM curriculum.

5. Report from the Association

Dr Mike Nathanson circulated a report detailing Association business since the last Council meeting to highlight that the Association remains concerned about recent issues related to recruitment. Dr Nathanson thanked the President for supporting joint communications on this issue, and a partnership approach to supporting trainees at this difficult time.

6. Boards and Reports

The President noted that following a formal application process the following appointments have been made:

- Dr Sarah Ramsay, as Chair of the Finance and Resources Board (F&RB).
- Dr Claire Shannon as Chair of the Clinical Quality & Resource Board (CQ&R).

Education, Training and Examinations Board

The Chair's summary and minutes of a meeting held on 13 October 2021 were circulated, Dr Chris Carey provided an update which noted that:

- The board agreed to recruit a simulation fellow to be overseen by Dr Claire Mallinson to take over the work started by the simulation working party. This has been funded by the Dinwoodie foundation.
- Challenges to the workload of staff within education and training were highlighted. Due to volume of work emails are currently not able to be answered within 24-48 hours and College staff working in the 3 main areas aligned to the board continue to be extremely busy. Consideration is therefore being given to additional staffing and other resources to support work that is an essential part of college business.

Clinical Quality and Research Board (CQ&R)

The Chair's summary and minutes of a meeting held on 14 September 2021 were circulated, Dr Claire Mallinson provided an update which noted that:

- Dr Ashwini Keshkamat will represent CQRB on the Equality Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) committee.
- The Board agreed to support the work Dr Chris Thompson is doing on behalf of NHS Digital, to review the standardisation of electronic anaesthetic records. This work is funded by NHS Digital and he is asking for support from the RCoA in name to help conduct a survey of anaesthetic record domains already in use. The board agreed to support this through a survey and to support additional administration which can be accommodated within existing resource.
- The Board agreed to continue to support the online COVID resource.
- Recruitment is underway for an RCoA sedation lead.
- It was highlighted for information that Benenden the first and only Private Healthcare provider with ACSA accreditation, is considering withdrawal from the scheme.
- In the new-year the lay role is moving from the communications directorate to the CQR directorate to ensure that the patient voice is heard at important patient facing areas for discussion.

Communications and External Affairs Board (CE&A)

Dr Helgi Johannsson provided a current update for the directorate to notify Council that:

- Thanks were given for the hard work to both Nicola Brown, who commenced her role as senior communications consultant in September 2021 and Peter Kunzmann, Head of Policy and Public Affairs who started recently. Dr Johannsson also commended the staff in Communications and External Affairs for their hard work during a very busy period.
- Work continues on Anaesthesia Fit for the Future, which is part of a project on workforce.
- There will shortly be an announcement that the British Journal Anaesthesia (BJA) and British Journal of Anaesthesia Education (BJAEd) are set to go digital in 2022.
- Following a recent request for interest to succeed Dr Lucy Williams as sustainability lead for the College Dr Johannsson has agreed to work as interim lead until this post is re-advertised and appointed in 2022.

Nominations Committee

The Chair's summary and minutes of a meeting held on 14 September 2021 were circulated, Dr Claire Shannon provided an update which noted that:

- There has been agreement to undertake a review of nominations processes and complete scoping work in preparation for holding workshops in April 2022.

Centre for Perioperative Care (CPOC)

The Chair's summary and minutes of a meeting held on 21 October 2021 were circulated, Dr Dave Selwyn provided an update which noted that:

- In collaboration with the AoMRC, CPOC has launched the patient facing shared decision making Video '[Peter's Journey: An Example of Shared Decision Making](#)' on the 18 October 2021. The video was co-produced by the Academy of Medical Royal Colleges (AoMRC).
- The recent Board meeting was attended by the College of Operating Department Practitioners (ODP)
- A recent application to the Board from the Association for Perioperative Practice, has now been accepted and will capture and provide support across the perioperative staff pathway.
- CPOC and Health Education England (HEE) are in the final stages of confirming the Perioperative Care Curriculum Contract. The 18 months of funding would be allocated for the development of the curriculum for medical and multidisciplinary professionals. CPOC hopes to begin this work in early 2022.

- CPOC have agreed to work closely with their patient representatives going forward, to develop a strong patient engagement strategy, to ensure that healthcare professionals represent the voice of patients.
- David Selwyn confirmed that Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists (RCOG) have been contacted about joining the board.

7. Devolved Nations

Scottish Board

Dr Daphne Varveris provided an overview of the current work which noted:

- Thanks from the Board to those who provided a college statement at the recent COP 26 conference and thanks given to Dr Chris Carey and the examinations department for their support in providing a webinar on examinations to the Scottish trainees.
- A meeting had taken place with the Department of Health (DOH) on Anaesthetic Associates. It was noted that a current programme of Anaesthetic Assistants (who are nurse trained) are already established in Scotland and there has been discontent from the Scottish government that the name is very similar. Work will continue to review the issues of regulation.
- The Scottish Multi-Professional Anaesthetics Development Group (SMAAD) was waiting for NHS Education for Scotland (NES) to advise about funding and the future leadership going forward.
- Following a recent complaint, there was agreement to have a more formal complaints process. Professor William Harrop-Griffiths agreed to check the current regulation and complaints procedures with the CQ&R Board.
- It had been some time since the mailing of the last newsletter, and the College and Board would need to consider together how best to support this important resource in future.

ACTION: Russell Ampofo agreed to review the Scottish newsletter with the communications team.

Welsh Advisory Board (WAB)

The Chair's summary and minutes of a meeting held on 19 October 2021 were circulated, Dr Abrie Theron provide an update which noted:

- The Constitution and Selection of Health Board (HB) representative, following the governance review has now been agreed. This will be further discussed with the CEO before the updated Terms of Reference are brought back to Council for formal approval.
- It has been agreed to increase the profile of the WAB to encourage more representation. It has therefore been agreed to reinstate the devolved nation newsletter and increase exposure on social media in order to facilitate this.
- Fit for Future Wales are continuing to have more robust plans in place in working towards ensuring that people can remain in the workplace longer, to review specific aspects such as retirement and return policies.

Northern Irish Board

The Chair's summary and minutes of a meeting held on 12 October 2021 were circulated, Dr William Donaldson provided an update which noted that:

- The Health Summit in Northern Ireland is unlikely to take place and there has been agreement to explore ways in which the College might influence the Northern Ireland Department of Health to agree a summit in the future.
- There has been agreement to re-engage with the College the possibility of having future SAS representation on the Board.
- It was agreed to review a manifesto for local elections, scheduled for May 2022 which would be similar to those carried about by both the Scottish and WAB.
- There is further work in developing the newsletter and agreement to work with the College's communications department to take this forward.

ACTION: Dr Helgi Johannsson agreed to discuss the development of an NI Board newsletter.

8. Other business

New Associate Fellows, Members and Associate Members

A list of new members to Council for September and October 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 September and October 2021.

Current College Consultations

The list of college consultations was reviewed.

9. Any Other Business**CCT/CESRs Process**

Dr Sri Gummaraju enquired about the process for applicants who require to know the status of their application, in particular what information is provided to update them throughout the process. It was noted that all processes lie with the General Medical Council (GMC) and not with the college, therefore communication comes directly from the GMC.

End of Meeting