

MEETING OF COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held on 9 November 2022

Members attending:

Dr Fiona Donald, President	Dr Elisa Bertoja
Dr Russell Perkins	Dr Satya Francis
Professor William Harrop-Griffiths	Dr Rashmi Rebello
Professor Mike Grocott	Dr Sunil Kumar
Dr Chris Carey	Dr Lorraine De Grey
Dr Helgi Johannsson	Dr Daniele Bryden
Dr Claire Shannon	Dr Matthew Davies
Dr Claire Mallinson	Professor Dave Lambert
Dr Felicity Platt	Dr Simon Maguire
Dr Sarah Ramsay	Dr Matthew Tuck
Dr Mike Swart	Dr Giovanna Kossakowska
Dr Ros Bacon	Dr Sandeep Lakhani
Dr Sri Gummaraju	Dr Dave Selwyn
Professor Jonathan Thompson	Dr Abrie Theron
Dr Ashwini Keshkamat	Dr Daphne Varveris
Dr Ramai Santhirapala	Mrs Pauline Elliott
Dr Toni Brunning	Dr Roger Sharpe

In attendance: Mr Jonathan Bröün, Ms Sharon Drake, Mr Mark Blaney, Mr Graham Blair, Mr Russell Ampofo, Mr Jonathan Whale.

Guests: Dr David Bogod, Chair of the Ethics Committee. Ms Emily Worth, Membership Engagement Manager.

Apologies for absence:

Dr Marie Nixon, Dr Sarah Muldoon, Dr Sarah Thornton, Ms Jude Tidnam.

The President welcomed to their first meeting:

- Dr Giovanna Kossakowska and Dr Matthew Tuck, newly co-opted Anaesthetists in Training (AItS)
- Dr Matthew Davies – President, Association of Anaesthetists
- Dr Daniele Bryden – Dean, Faculty of Intensive Care Medicine (FICM)
- Dr Lorraine De Grey – Dean, Faculty of Pain Medicine (FPM)
- Dr Simon McGuire – Lead Regional Adviser Anaesthesia (RAA)

1. Council Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 14 September were circulated:

- A correction was required on Page 4 – ETE bullet, point 4, which reads: 'A working group has recently been formed to discuss the acceptable list of overseas qualifications. Dr Johannsson and Dr Bacon will be meeting with the GMC shortly to discuss this in more detail'.

There was agreement to remove the names from the sentence so it should read:

'A working group has recently been formed to discuss the acceptable list of overseas qualifications'.

MOTION Agreed: Council approved the minutes of the 14 September as a true and accurate record with this correction.

2. Items for Discussion

Assisted Dying and the RCoA Position

To date the RCoA currently has a 'no stance' position on assisted dying, the ethics committee have been asked to advise on the College's current position, and whether the membership should be polled to seek their opinions. If Council do wish to conduct a poll, then it is agreed that careful consideration will need

to be given to the questions asked and the status of the poll, namely whether Council will regard it as advisory or directive. To date the British Medical Association (BMA), The Royal College of Physicians (RCP) and the Royal College of General Practitioners (RCGP) have polled their members and changed their stance.

Council discussed the points raised and felt that a poll was a good idea, in an advisory capacity, to understand what the membership think about the subject in more detail. Most other Colleges have a neutral position as it allows them to represent the diverse views of their members and for their voices to be heard. RCoA should outline the differences between palliative care and assisted dying and be prepared for questions from the membership who are likely to have a range of views.

Council discussed the following questions posed by the Ethics committee: *Is the current 'no stance' position one which they wish to maintain, especially in the face of other Royal Colleges and medical organisations taking more nuanced positions?* – There was agreement that if we do change our stance, we would most likely move from a no stance position to a neutral position so that the College can become involved in the debate.

- *If not, should members be polled to seek their views?* 13 members of Council were in favour of conducting a poll and that it should be advisory.
- *If polling is to take place, what questions should be asked?* There was agreement to form a working group to discuss questions at a later stage.
- *What would be the status of this poll? Specifically, should it be regarded as advisory or directive?* There was agreement that this should be advisory.

ACTION: Dr David Bogod agreed to circulate information via email, to seek views and an indication on what people think about the work going forward in more detail.

Buffer Zones around Abortion Clinics and RCoA Position

Dr Daphne Varveris, Chair of the RCoA Scottish Board asked the Ethics Committee to consider the issue of buffer zones around abortion clinics. There is currently a consultation on a bill before the Scottish Parliament to establish 'buffer zones' to restrict anti-abortion protesters from gathering at hospital and clinic entrances harassing patients and staff as they enter. A 'buffer zone' would retain the right to peaceful protest whilst ensuring that everyone can access lawful health services and attend their place of work without fear of intimidation or abuse. Council took the advice of the Ethics committee to wait for the Supreme Court's decision on Northern Ireland before making a decision but at this stage would like to make a statement on access to healthcare and safety for staff, to ensure that everyone is allowed to access care, free from any kind of intimidation. There was agreement to notify the Academy of Medical Royal Colleges (AoMRC) to see if they would like to make a joint statement in the first instance.

ACTION: FD to notify the AoMRC the intention to provide a broad statement and whether they would like to be involved in a joint statement at this stage.

Proposed GMC changes to the routes to Specialist Registration in the UK

The Chair of the RCoA Equivalence Committee Dr Ros Bacon, presented a paper to Council, following on from the "Proposed GMC changes to the routes to registration in the UK" in July 2022, to reflect various updates since the July 2022 Council meeting. These highlighted that:

- The proposed pathways for different cohorts have now been defined with single Knowledge, Skills and Experience (KSE) standard, which will future proof towards any changes to legislation. There are no proposed changes to any CCT curricula.
- A timeline has been confirmed for amendments to the PMET Order with the new standards to be laid before Parliament in November 2022 with a commencement date of 30th November 2023. The new Specialty Specific Guidance (SSG) will therefore need to be ready by September 2023. The Recognised Specialist Qualification (RSQ) pathway will be introduced in 2024 (Brexit standstill will end late 2023/ early 2024), followed by the Sponsorship (confirmation) pathway in 2024/2025 and the Fellowship (consolidation) pathway in 2025/2026.
- The next steps for the GMC include working with all Royal College and Faculty partners to ensure they are ready for the implementation of the new standard and framework for assessment. Work will then focus on the RSQs, starting with the inclusion of relevant European qualifications already "tested" during UK membership of the EU and some GP qualifications from international curricula that RCGP have already mapped.
- The GMC will seek advice from Royal College and Faculty partners on entry criteria and experience for the new routes to Specialist Register (SR).

- At present there are no specific asks of partners for the new routes, however, the GMC will engage in the RSQ pathways in 2023.

Focus of discussions at the AoMRC short life working group (SLWG) included quality assurance issues, involvement of Royal Colleges and Faculties, workforce planning and engagement with SAS doctors. Trainee impact was seen as a risk with trainees potentially seeing new pathways as an "easier" route to the specialist register. However, the GMC intend to set criteria for experience to the new routes, at a level that is unrealistic or unattractive as an alternative training route.

Council are aware of the complexities and length of the work which could affect many of the College's Committees and Boards. There was also a need to understand fully the GMC's expectations of the College, now and in the future so the College can draw up a fully developed business plan and consider it within the current financial climate.

Board of the Faculty of intensive Care Medicine (FICM)

Dr Daniele Bryden presented an updated version of the FICM regulations which included the following change:

- The concept of moving to elected member status for the Board's ACCP representative, which is currently co-opted. The ACCP elected representative will speak to the ACCP community and advise on any issues, as well as being a member of ACCP Sub-Committee.

Dr Bryden highlighted the current difficulties on recruiting SAS doctors to the FICM Board, however, they are currently represented on other Boards. She highlighted that should there be further changes to the regulations, it is likely that there will need to be a governance review.

Motion Approved: Council approved the updates to the FICM regulations, to add an elected ACCP Representative to the Faculty Board and other edits made to the regulations.

Update on Examination Reviews

Dr Roger Sharpe provided an update to note that:

- The GMC have indicated that they are satisfied with the comprehensive external examinations report but were interested in the communications to support publication.
- Work continues towards the action plan and timelines to be ready for a suitable format and publication date.

Council agreed that the publication date in early December would need to fall after exams week and therefore would be too close to Christmas to enable adequate support and discussion to support feedback. There was a further need to ensure FICM were involved in any further consultations before release. Council agreed that January 2023 would be a more pragmatic option as this would allow ETE to ensure the communications are correct and Dr Chris Carey agreed to take this back to ETE for further discussion.

3. President's Update

The update outlined a list of meetings the President had attended since the last Council meeting.

The President updated Council on the following events:

- **Let's Talk Governance events** on Tuesday 15 November 2022 at 7 to 8pm and on Tuesday 22 November 2022 7 to 8pm
- **The Annual General meeting** – on Thursday 1 December 2022
- **Council Christmas Dinner** – on Tuesday 13 December at 7pm

It was reported that Council [elections](#) ballot will open on 16 November and close on 15 December and Nominations for the Welsh and Scottish Devolved Nation Board elections will open in November 2022 with results announced in February 2023.

The following deaths were reported:

- Dr Anthony Madden
- Dr Alastair Marshall
- Dr Geoffrey Snow

Council held a minute's silence.

Faculty of Anaesthesia Associates (AAs) Development Project

Dr Claire Shannon gave an update and noted that:

- The work with the GMC on the AAs regulatory assessment is ongoing.
- The Founding Board is reviewing membership for AAs in the new regulatory environment, to look at ways to enable them to have limited access to the Lifelong Learning Platform (LLP), to utilise the logbook and CPD functionalities.
- AA guidance is being reviewed to ensure it is up to date and relevant in the new regulated environment, and work continues to ensure that supervision is appropriately mapped to Scope of Practice.
- Work continues reviewing training capacity and revisiting the training environment.
- Current work on communications includes: a presentation to the SAS committee and Anaesthetists in Training group. There are also plans to support AAs at forthcoming external events. A podcast will be released shortly to promote AAs and answer any questions.
- There are plans to survey Clinical Directors and AAs to gain feedback as this will support future workforce planning.
- The College is supportive of a moderate increase in numbers of AAs with appropriate consultant and trainee doctor expansion to allow training and a balanced workforce.

The President congratulated Dr Shannon on her appointment as new Chair of the Founding Board of AAs once Professor Harrop-Griffiths steps down.

Logsdail Response

Dr Russell Perkins gave an update from the short life working group to note that:

- The last meeting took place on 13th November, the minutes will be brought to Council in December for review. Actions have been completed and transferred to CQR and The Safe Anaesthesia Liaison Group (SALG) as planned.
- The Flash cards are ongoing with templates being available for people to write their own scenarios, new scenarios were recently launched and well received.
- The website has been updated to improve access and visibility of resources.
- Work continues collating all the work on the Logsdail case and will aim to capture all those who supported the process. This will be presented to both the coroner and Mr Logsdail to inform them of the work that has been done.
- Council have reviewed the Project for Universal Management of Airways (PUMA) guidelines, with feedback and responses being collated. The PUMA group has invited the College to join an international implementation group for the guidelines and Council agreed that we should be engaged.

4. CEO Update

Mr Bruun presented the agenda for the Annual General Meeting (AGM) and a paper to meet the requirements of the current governing documents, Ordinance 9.1, which gives Council the responsibility to convene an annual meeting of members and determine the business to be transacted. Council was asked to approve the content of the agenda and papers for circulation. Dr Ramsay, sought clarification of the minutes of the previous meeting in which it was stated that there was a motion that the previous report and accounts are approved. There was also a request to check which period the annual review covers in the 2021 calendar year.

Motion Approved: Council approved the papers and the agenda, on the proviso that the previous minutes and annual review is checked.

Mr Bruun thanked Ms Natalie Dowsett for her support on the governance, AGM and College work on the elections.

5. Report from the Association

Council reviewed the report which highlighted the current work of the Association to note that:

- The Association recently ran some focus groups at the Annual Conference on AAs, to represent membership views on the ongoing work around regulation. A statement will be released shortly.
- Work continues preparing statements and supporting colleagues who will be considering taking industrial action during the winter period.
- The Annual Congress took place in September, the face to face event was a success.
- The next Winter Scientific Meeting (WSM) will be a hybrid two day event to be held in London in January.

6. Boards and Reports

Clinical Quality and Research Board (CQRB)

The Chair's summary and minutes of a meeting held on 14 September 2022 were circulated, Dr Claire Shannon provided an update to note that:

- A review was conducted of the Ockenden report against the CQ&R workstreams. The College teams were tasked with considering any actions to be carried out according to the Ockenden's report recommendations.
- The Board approved the new PatientsVoices@RCoA strategy.
- The Board approved the National Institute of Academic Anaesthesia (NIAA) Strategy for 2022-2027.
- The draft five year Health Services Research Centre (HSRC) strategy, for the period 2022-2027 has been presented, to highlight that the name may change to the RCoA Centre for Research and Improvement. This would bring together the two institutions, HSRC and UK Perioperative Medicine Clinical Trials Network.
- Discussions are taking place to review the Advisory Appointments Committee (AAC) work and the review of and standardisation of backfill policy to ensure transparency and equality.
- It was agreed to share with Council the Beano project established by the Patient Information Group along with the Association of Paediatric Anaesthesia (APA), a comic publication which follows Dennis's perioperative experience!

Education, Training and Examinations Board (ETE)

The Chair's summary and minutes of a meeting held on 12 October were circulated, Dr Chris Carey provided an update noting that:

- The Board has recently supported changes to the examiner tenure policy which will allow flexible working for examiners, support retention and increase the pool of examiners.
- Decisions made in the prioritisation work includes handing over administrative support of the Acute Care Common Stem (ACCS) committee to the Royal College of Emergency Medicine (RCEM), which will allow for a saving to the College.
- There was agreement to withdraw payment of the membership of the Pre-Hospital Emergency Medicine Board as this is not currently good value for money for the membership.
- The Board recommended that the College continues to offer CPD accreditation. It was suggested that this is done by RAAs for local and regional events. For national events there should be charge of £100 to £50 for accreditation depending on the meeting size with no charge for free meetings. The ETE Board will be taking a proposal to the F&RB to outline accreditation for CPD going forward.
- The Board agreed to continue to support undergraduates with attendance at careers fairs and their careers work.
- The President highlighted a correction to Point 5, paragraph 7 of the minutes, which reads: A set of principles for appointing Board and Committee chairs, deputy chairs and members was approved and discussions about how to implement will take place. It was noted that this only applies to Board Chairs and Vice Chairs as it stands, it is therefore up to Boards to decide how they appoint their committee Chairs. It was agreed to clarify this in the minutes.

Workforce Committee, Terms of Reference

Council reviewed a copy of the terms of reference for the new committee, which will encompass details from the established Workforce Committee and the Anaesthesia Related Professions Committee, but without the element that has become the AA founding Board. The purpose of the Workforce Committee is to consider, monitor and review all aspects of workforce planning to inform and help guide national workforce strategy in anaesthetics and critical care at all levels. Council was asked to approve the new committee and terms of reference, with the various changes as noted.

Motion Approved: Council fully supported the Terms of Reference for the Workforce Committee.

Membership, Media and Development (MMD) Board

The Chair's summary and minutes of a meeting held on 13 September 2022 were circulated, Dr Ramai Santhirapala provided an update noting that:

- The minutes circulated are approved and the next meeting will be held on 13th December.
- Work will start on collecting data to enhance the vision of MMD and outface of the College by continuing to ensure that it remains an inclusive Board, and by revising and reiterating what it reflects.

Membership and Examination Certificate change requests

The Membership Engagement Manager, Ms Emily Worth undertook an extensive review of the College membership and examination certificate production process. There is an opportunity to modernise the

production process with the focus on reducing wait times for members to receive their certificate, reducing administration time and to make the benefit more accessible to members by introducing digital certificates. This will also reduce long term costs, introduce more up to date anti-fraud devices and maintain the high quality certificates produced. A list of recommendations was provided, for review outlining changes to College membership and Fellowship certificates, to include:

- *For the Examination and Fellow certificates (Fellow by Examination (FRCA), Fellow ad Eundem (FRCA) and Member (MRCA):*
 - To change the size of the certificate, as per member request, to either A4 as the standard, or A3, on request at no extra cost.
 - To produce a printed version in line with current process with the first one being without charge and any re-prints on a replacement template, requiring an affidavit and fee to be paid.
 - The introduction of digital certificates.
- *For all membership certificates (excluding Fellow by Examination (FRCA), Fellow ad Eundem (FRCA) and Member (MRCA):*
 - To change size of certificate to be A4
 - To introduce digital certificate as the primary version
 - A4 printed versions would not be automatically produced, but would be available on request free of charge. Re-prints would be charged for.
- *Replacement certificate change request:*
 - In line with GDPR, to remove the requirement for the address of the individual to be printed on their replacement certificate.
- *Change in design:*
 - To introduce up to date but discreet anti-fraud devices.

ACTION: Ms Worth noted an action to confirm if the use of a digital seal on the Fellowship and membership certificates would be in accordance with Regulation Part 13 section 1.3 'A Diploma or Certificate issued by the College confirming admission to a category of College membership is valid only when it carries the College Seal.'

A summary of costs outlined the ways digital certificates are administered and accessed, with a view to looking at the most cost effective ways. Whilst this is not a cost saving exercise the aim would be to enhance the value of the certificates for members. Council agreed with the requests made by membership and that it would support the sustainability strategy.

Motion Approved: Council agreed and approved the current changes, subject to clarification on how the digital seal fits in with the College ordinances.

Centre for Perioperative Care (CPOC) Board

The Chair's summary and minutes of a meeting held on 13 October 2022 were circulated, Dr Dave Selwyn provided an update noting that:

- The Perioperative Care Curriculum Project has been confirmed with Health Education England (HEE). CPOC has begun recruiting for an Education Lead to oversee this project for 12-18 months. Once the lead is in place CPOC will begin contacting stakeholders to be involved in the curriculum drafting group.
- CPOC will be recruiting for a Clinical Lead for the joint Diabetes QI Project in collaboration with the Royal College of Surgeons of England. The project will follow in the steps of the Chole-QulC and HandsFirst QI projects led by the RCSEng. This project will provide CPOC with an opportunity to implement the already published [Diabetes Guideline](#). The next step will be to begin recruiting sites to take part in the project.
- CPOC have reappointed the 2 deputy directors (Professor Scarlett McNally and Dr Jugdeep Dhesi) for a second term.
- CPOC thanked Ms Alice Simpson, CPOC Co-ordinator who will be leaving her post shortly.
- There have been recent meetings with the Northern Ireland Anaesthetic Board, Professor Mark Taylor from RCS and Chief Pharmaceutical officer in NI, to discuss and improve opportunities in Perioperative Care.

Nominations Committee

The Chair's summary and minutes of a meeting held on 20 September were circulated, Dr Claire Shannon provided an update, noting that:

- The Presentation of Fellows ad eundem awards should take place at Diplomates Day and not at Ceremonial Council.
- It is recommended that Council should all wear Fellows, scarlet, gowns at ceremonial events and Council for reasons of inclusivity.

Motions Approved:

Council approved the following Motions:

- Approval for Professor Jaideep Pandit to be awarded the Gold Medal for his outstanding work over the years.
- Approval that Dr Neil McGuire be awarded the College Medal for his tireless work for SALG.
- Approval that Mr Pete Phillips be awarded the President's Commendation for his work around safety.
- Approval that Dr David Selwyn be awarded the Webb Johnson Oration and his name be put forward to the Royal College of Surgeons
- For Council approval for Dr Venkatraman Hariharan to be awarded the Fellowship ad eundem.

BJA & RCoA Liaison Group meeting

The Chair's summary of a meeting held on 10 October was circulated. Prof. Dave Lambert updated Council to note that:

- The liaison group had discussed the need to resolve current financial issues in advance of the recent Board of Trustees (BoT) meeting in October. BJA had provided an outline of further ways in which to control the costs of College access to the journal. Since that discussion conversations between the BJA and the College were ongoing.

Clinical Leaders in Anaesthesia Network (CLAN)

Dr Sandeep Lakhani provided an update to note that:

- CLAN appointed two new members to the Executive: Dr Jaideep Pandit, Dr Thea De Beer
- The first Annual Meeting will be a face to face meeting on 28 November.
- The buddy scheme for new CDs will be launched at the Annual Meeting.

Lead Regional Adviser Anaesthesia (RAA) for the RCoA

Dr Simon McGuire provided an update on the current work of the group to highlight that:

- A face to face meeting will take place on Friday 18 November.
- A joint meeting with CLAN is planned to take place in March 2023
- Inductions for RAAs will commence at the December 2022 meeting.

7. Devolved Nations

Scottish Board

The Chair's summary of a meeting held on 4 October was circulated. Dr Daphne Varveris updated Council to note that:

- There are ongoing discussions and concerns raised on the number of trainees requesting less than full time training and the possible impact on training and workforce.
- Desflurane will be decommissioned in Scotland in 2023 and 2024 and there are ongoing discussions to look at options to manage a regulatory process to review suitability of drugs and equipment in the future.
- Work continues developing the COPES process for the devolved nations, a proposal has been circulated to the College for feedback so that this can be progressed in the future.
- There is agreement to discuss further the request from the UK Commission on supporting a Covid commemoration and the workforce.

ACTION: FD to circulate the email request to Council members, on supporting a Covid commemoration, for further discussion.

Welsh Board

The Chair's summary of a meeting held on 18 October was circulated. Dr Abrie Theron updated Council to note that:

- The Board agreed to write to Health Boards and Clinical Directors to highlight the workforce deficits and encourage consideration of the specialist contract.
- The Board proposed a bid for a further six higher specialist training (HST) posts in anaesthesia in 2023, it is likely they will know the outcome by the end of 2022.

- Efforts continue to formalise a three year CESR training programme in Wales.

Irish Board

The Chair's summary of a meeting held on 11 October was circulated. Dr William Donaldson updated Council to note that:

- Dr Donaldson is working with colleagues and engaging senior leaders to consider cross border working around perioperative medicine, there is the possibility of hosting a meeting with a perioperative theme in the future.
- The committee currently has no lay representation, Dr Donaldson is looking towards the NI School of Anaesthesia to provide some names.
- There is currently no SAS representation on the Board.

8. Other business

Co-option of Defence Consultant Advisor in Anaesthesia and Pain to RCoA Council

The President presented a paper to outline that whilst the military cadre are a small proportion of the membership it is important that Council is aware of the contribution and needs of this group as it will help with provision of targeted support. It is therefore proposed that the Defence Consultant Advisor is co-opted to attend two Council meetings per year.

Motion Approved: Council approved the motion that the Defence Consultant Advisor in Anaesthesia and Pain Medicine, Colonel James Ralph, be co-opted to attend two Council meetings per year.

New Associate Fellows, Members and Associate Members

Council received a list of new members to Council for September 2022.

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 in August and September 2022.

Current College Consultations

Council reviewed the list of current consultations.

END OF MEETING