

# Chair of PatientsVoices@RCoA

## Information pack for applicants

March 2023



PatientsVoices@RCoA is a group of diverse people who support, advise and influence the College by providing patients' perspectives on its activities.

## Message from the President

With two-thirds of hospital in-patients interacting with an anaesthetist, anaesthesia remains the UK's largest single secondary care specialty. The scope of practice of the modern anaesthetist often goes way beyond their clinical responsibilities – we are educators, communicators and medical leaders. To put it simply we are the glue which so often holds many areas of healthcare together.

Anaesthetists and intensive care doctors have played a vital role working at the front line of the UK's response to the COVID-19 pandemic. This is a very important time to get involved in the work of the College to ensure that the patient voice is clearly heard as the NHS continues on its journey to recovery.

Thank you for your interest in this role. If you would like to contribute to the future of a Royal College with ambitious aims for patient and public involvement, we would be delighted to hear from you.

**Dr Fiona Donald**  
President



## About the Royal College of Anaesthetists

The [Royal College of Anaesthetists](#) is the professional body responsible for the specialty throughout the UK.

We are the third largest medical royal college in the UK by membership. With a combined membership of more than 24,000 Fellows and Members, we ensure the quality of patient care by safeguarding standards in the three specialties of anaesthesia, intensive care and pain medicine.

## What the role offers

Through the work of PatientsVoices@RCoA, the role offers you the opportunity to influence the College's work focusing on improving patients' care and their experience of anaesthesia, intensive care and pain medicine.

You will have the opportunity to work alongside senior doctors, other health care professionals, other patient representatives and College staff to make sure the voice of patients is heard throughout the work of the College.

PatientsVoices@RCoA published their [new strategy](#) at the start of the year. The successful candidate will have the opportunity to work with a diverse group of volunteers to help us deliver on the vision and aims of the strategy and encourage the group to work and behave in line with the values contained in it.

You will be joining the College at a time when it is strengthening [its commitment to Patient and Public Involvement](#) and to achieving more impactful patient engagement to 'promote healthier outcomes for all', as per its own [strategy 2022–27](#).

The role is voluntary and unpaid but reasonable expenses will be paid in line with College policy.

## About the role

As Chair of PatientsVoices@RCoA you will:

- Champion the work of the group, raising the profile of the patient voice across relevant work strands of the College and its events
- Working with the Vice-Chair, encourage participation and engagement within the group
- Be an ambassador with external partners and stakeholder organisations
- Work with the Patient and Public Involvement team and the Vice-Chair to design effective approaches for impactful patient engagement
- Chair the meetings of PatientsVoices@RCoA three times a year and the away day once a year
- Be a co-opted member of [College Council](#) and report to Council on behalf of PatientsVoices@RCoA
- Attend and report to the Clinical Quality and Research Board on behalf of PatientsVoices@RCoA
- Represent PatientsVoices@RCoA at the Academy of Medical Royal Colleges' Patient Liaison Group

## About you

The Chair of PatientsVoices@RCoA will:

- have experience of leading a group and working with a diverse range of people and views
- have experience of chairing a committee and leading discussions
- have strong leadership, interpersonal and organisational skills
- have excellent communication skills (verbal and written)
- have the ability to use basic IT systems (e.g. email, Word, Teams etc.)
- be able to commit to strengthening the patient voice in the work of the College
- be able to commit an average of four days per month to the role
- be flexible and responsive to a varied workload and schedule

You cannot join PatientsVoices@RCoA if you hold an anaesthetic qualification or if you are currently working, practising or managing services (including policy making) in health care. Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) check may be required for some College activities.

If you would like to talk to someone about this role please contact [patientsvoices@rcoa.ac.uk](mailto:patientsvoices@rcoa.ac.uk).

## Our commitment to Equality, Diversity and Inclusion

PatientsVoices@RCoA support the [Joint Statement](#) by the College President and Deans of the Faculties of Intensive Care Medicine and Pain Medicine which condemns racism and discrimination in any shape or form. Read our statement on equality, diversity and inclusion [here](#).



# PatientsVoices@RCoA Strategy 2023–2027

## Our purpose and vision

PatientsVoices@RCoA helps the College improve the delivery of safe, more effective, patient-centred care to enhance patients' experience of anaesthesia and perioperative care.

## Supporting the College's Strategic Plan

The [College's strategy for 2022-2027](#) recognises the vital role of patient and public involvement in ensuring it achieves its ambitious aims.

We share the College's commitment and interpret it in our own context by aligning our visions, values and aims within our own strategy.

## Our values

- **Caring and supportive:** we will actively support the College in promoting caring and compassionate patient care
- **Just and fair:** we will promote fair and consistent standards throughout the patient's pathway.
- **Innovative and progressive:** we will seek out opportunities to promote high standards and improvements in patient-centred care.
- **Open and responsive:** listening carefully and responding positively to challenges will enable us to support service providers and healthcare professionals improve the quality of patient care.

## The three strands of our strategic plan

We will achieve our purpose and vision by focusing on our three strategic pillars:

### 1 Strengthening our voice

PatientsVoices@RCoA will:

- establish ourselves as the voice of patients for anaesthesia and perioperative care
- improve our knowledge of healthcare services (especially anaesthesia and perioperative care) and the challenges members face so we can contribute authoritatively and effectively to College activities
- improve the breadth and depth of our influence by continuing to build a diverse team and champion equality, diversity and inclusion in everything we do and say.

### 2 Improving how we communicate the views of patients internally and externally

PatientsVoices@RCoA will:

- be visible and audible advocates for the College and PatientsVoices@RCoA by utilising opportunities to raise our profile and promote meaningful patient engagement
- engage with stakeholders in a constructive and supportive way when representing the voice of patients
- explore ways of extending our reach by improving our understanding of a broader range of patients' and the public's views and priorities.

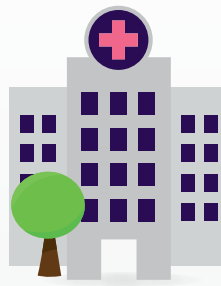


### 3 Increasing our impact by developing effective ways of working

PatientsVoices@RCoA will:

- develop and use a variety of approaches to ensure patients' voices positively impact on the College's activities and recommendations about patient care
- evolve into an influential team whose members work effectively and efficiently whilst enjoying and valuing their individual roles with the College
- ensure we use our resources wisely to realise our potential contribution to the College whilst minimising our impact on the environment





## ANAESTHESIA

is the largest single hospital specialty in the UK

# 25,921

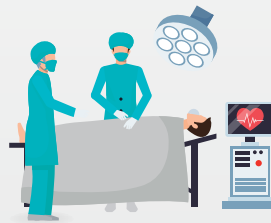
**fellows and members**

The College, with our Faculties, is the third largest Medical Royal College by UK membership



## A 24/7 SERVICE

is delivered by our members in anaesthesia, critical care and pain medicine



## 2 IN 3 PATIENTS

in hospital are cared for by an anaesthetist



## 99% OF PATIENTS

would recommend their hospital's anaesthesia service to family and friends

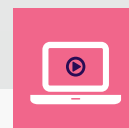


### As at June 2022

76% of anaesthetic departments in the NHS are signed up to our **Anaesthesia Clinical Services Accreditation (ACSA)** scheme



Since its inception in 2008, the **National Institute of Academic Anaesthesia (NIAA)** has awarded over £12.3m in grant funding



There are **2,800 active users** on our web-based learning resource e-Learning Anaesthesia each month

The Royal College of Anaesthetists is the professional body responsible for the specialty throughout the UK.

Working with our members, we ensure the quality of patient care through the maintenance of standards in anaesthesia, critical care and pain medicine.

[rcoa.ac.uk](http://rcoa.ac.uk)  

June 2022

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College **Perioperative Local Leads** are based in hospitals across the UK



**Royal College of Anaesthetists**

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**Information correct as at March 2023**

