

Meeting of the Royal College of Anaesthetists Scottish Board held on Tuesday 7 June 2022

Present	Dr Daphne Varveris Dr Kate Carey Dr Ross Junkin Dr Sarah Ramsay Dr Gary Rodgers	Chair Elected Member Elected Member Elected Member Elected Trainee Representative
Ex Officio & Co-opted	Dr Paul Bourke Professor Lesley Colvin Dr Paul Fettes Dr Nicola Hogan Dr Alastair McDiarmid Dr Laura McGarrity Dr Neil O'Donnell Dr Colin Rae Dr Malcolm Sim Dr Radha Sundaram Dr Cameron Weir Dr John Wilson	Chair AAGBI Scottish Standing Committee Vice Chair, SIGN Scottish Society of Anaesthetists Co-opted Trainee Member RA-A North East Scotland Representing Perioperative Medicine Workforce Lead SIGN Representative Academic Anaesthesia Representative Lead RA in Intensive Care Medicine RA-A, East of Scotland RA-A South East Scotland
In Attendance	Prof Will Harrop-Griffiths Mr Mark Blaney Dr David MacDonald Dr Ben Shelley Ms Lianne Smith	Vice President, RCoA Director of Finance and Resources, RCoA (item 6) (item 7) Policy Officer, RCoA
Apologies	Dr Pete Paisley Dr Jon McGhie Dr Sonya McKinlay Dr Alastair Thomson Dr Ann Shearer Dr Malcolm Smith	Joint Lead RA, Pain Medicine (Elected Member) Elected Member Clinical Director Lay Representative RA, West of Scotland

1 Welcome, Introductions and Apologies

- Congratulations to new VPs who had been re-elected.
- Paediatric representation – Daphne had received no reply to her communication. She will follow up and it was suggested she contact Russell Perkins.
- Membership – still missing an elected member and SAS member. Daphne to email Will Harrop-Griffiths who will follow up.

2 Approval of the Minute of the Meeting held on 1st February 2022

Minutes approved with amendments.

3 Education, Training, Recruitment and Exams

3.1 Recruitment, Workforce Planning and Impact of New Curriculum *[Neil O'Donnell]*

Anaesthesia

A report had been circulated.

Full recruitment of CT and ACCS programmes for August 2022. ICM recruitment has freed 10 anaesthesia NTN's which will allow Scottish participation in national February 2023 ST4 recruitment.

ICM

Full recruitment to Scottish ICM posts. Freed up 10 anaesthesia NTN's (see above).

Workforce Planning

- In a reasonably healthy position north of the border.
- The increase in LTFT working was highlighted resulting in a 14.5 whole time equivalent posts in Scotland remaining unfilled. Noted that of the 221 posts, 56 are LTFT.
- Scottish Academy work on wellbeing is presently looking at retention both at senior consultant and junior doctor level.
- Concerns over providing sufficient clinical training and the ongoing issues with the Lifelong Learning Platform (LLP). Noted that RCoA is in the process of scoping what work needs to be undertaken and how it will be managed.

3.2 Trainee Update *[Gary Rodgers]*

- LLP – see above – a short-life working group had been set up, with good trainee representation, in order to improve the programme and resolve the issues.
- Educational Development Time (EDT) – draft guidance had been issued but had been implemented in some areas more quickly than in others. Needs to be monitored to ensure that it is working for trainers and trainees. Issue with clinical time remains challenging.
- Paul – LLP – been a problem for a long time. EDT – in Grampian, significant effort required to retain a balance between clinical time and implementing EDT.
- Trainees welcomed the recruitment round in February 2023.
- Study budget – discussion amongst trainees in Scotland and amongst SATDG. Trainees in Scotland frequently need to use their study budget to fund a mandatory course (eg ALS), this does not apply across the rest of the UK. Trainees in Scotland pay out of pocket to receive the same training as those elsewhere. Noted that there will be a 20% uplift in the study budget.
- National simulation strategy – positive developments which were welcomed. Access to simulation raised with STB
- Simulation – noted that interviews for Associate Postgraduate Deans for simulation in Anaesthesia, ACCS & ICM and EM in progress. Will be held in the next couple of weeks and that there are candidates for both sets of posts.

3.3 RA(As) Update – Including ICM and Pain *[Radha Sundaram]*

- ICM – recruitment successful with 18 offers accepted in Scotland which continues to be very competitive.
- FICM – improved signposting of resources for examination preparation on website.
- ARCPs in May/June using LLP.
- Changes to training committees:
 - Dr Neil Young, RA for South East

- Dr Lorna Young, Deputy RA for West
- Dr Ben Slater, TBD for South East

Dr Monika Beatty was thanked for her sterling contribution in expanding and supporting training in Scotland. She joins the FICM Board.

Pain issues:

- Advanced pain trainee in post.
- Still workforce issues – no specific figures
- No improvement in pain training numbers.

3.4 **Scottish Multi-Professional Anaesthetics Assistants Development Group** [*Daphne Varveris*]

Daphne Varveris explained the background.

- There had been a meeting with the College, Association, NES and the simulation lead in Forth Valley (Dr Money Penny) to try to address the issues of governance following SMAAD being disbanded and to establish a plan to move forward
- Governance remained the major issue although it was felt strongly that NES should be responsible for training. However, at present it was unclear if progress had been made. Health Boards provide governance, however standardisation of the training remains important
- It was noted that the curriculum had been written in 2020 and was due for review in 2024. The curriculum had been developed with significant anaesthetic input. Future thoughts were for a short-life working group to be tasked to update the curriculum.
- NES expressed their desire to increase ODP numbers and the need for the accelerated anaesthetic assistant programmes to support increase in workload through the national treatment centres. Important to update on present state of accelerated course and governance.

3.5 **Anaesthesia Associates**

- A meeting had been held with Phil Korsah, the new National Associate Clinical Director for the Centre for Sustainable Delivery, to look at delivery and diversity in anaesthesia.
- Require representation from the SB on new AA Faculty.
- Ross Junkin is on the curriculum group and good progress is being made.
- The Faculty would be regulated by the GMC.
- Kate asking why RCoA think it's a good idea. Considered to be part of the solution to recruitment issues. Will noted the importance of RCoA involvement in development of the role.

3.6 **MAPs Stakeholder Group –**

A lot of interest in developing numbers across Scotland. No major outcomes but another meeting on 24 August. Request for participation on the group on a regular basis but a big undertaking.

4 **RCoA President's and Senior Management Team Report** [*Will Harrop-Griffiths*]

An extensive report had been circulated.

RCoA was trying to promote a 2nd Beveridge Report with AoMRC.

5 **Clinical Quality and Research**

5.1 **Perioperative Medicine (CPOC)** [*Laura McGarrity*]

The circulated reports were noted.

5.2 **SIGN Update** [*Lesley Colvin*]

- Lesley Colvin is now Vice Chair of SIGN Council.
- A letter from the CMO re the importance of SIGN and encouraging clinicians to undertake the work of SIGN had been sent out.
- Chronic pain guideline is being updated.

5.3 **ACSA**

Nothing to report

5.4 **Safe Anaesthesia Liaison Group** [*Daphne Varveris*]

- The last meeting had been postponed.
Scottish Anaesthetic Quality and Safety Group (SAQSG)– Group supported by AoA and RCOA Scottish Board to support the development of a national learning system for learning from adverse events.
Pre-covid – a decision had been taken that a public privacy panel for health and social care was the way forward and that a safe haven database was required. Gary Rodgers and taken this forward.
- Post-covid – a safe haven database is required to take this forward. Daphne had spoken to Sharon Drake to explore RCOA/SALG supporting this data however data is not held by the RCOA.
- SAQSG Meetings had not been resumed post-covid.
- Daphne has raised the issue of a adverse events learning system with previous Scottish CMO. No appetite within Scottish Government to have Scottish data included in UK audits.
- Noted that certain HBs have safe havens (Lothian, Glasgow and Tayside for example).
- Suggested that the Scottish National Audit Programme might take it on.
Action: Daphne Varveris will explore this. Gary Rodgers will seek to identify where data will be stored.

6 **Presentation: Scottish Government MPPP, National Treatment Centres and Digital Pre-Op: Dr David McDonald MBE – Centre for Sustainable Delivery**

Section of meeting recording to be made available for this item.

7 **Presentation: Academic Anaesthesia & NHS Research Scotland: Dr Ben Shelley CSO, NHS Research Scotland Speciality Lead for Anaesthesia, Perioperative Medicine and Critical Care and Dr Malcolm Sim**

- Annual Meeting in Stirling, 11-12 October 2022
- Contact: Benjamin.shelley@glasgow.ac.uk

Action: Ben Shelley to be invited to attend the meeting annually to give an update.

8 **Communication and External Affairs**

8.1 **Scottish Academy Update** [*Daphne Varveris*]

- UK Health Alliance Response to SG NHS Scotland Climate Emergency and Sustainability Strategy 2022 – 2026: Draft: Consultation - noted
- Joint Statement: Reducing the Environmental Impact of Prescribing - noted

There was discussion on badging statements from the Scottish Board and it was agreed that the SB should not always have to go through the approval process and that it should

be able to endorse its own documents. **Action: Daphne Varveris to take forward and should apply to all devolved nations.**

8.2 CMO/SA [Daphne Varveris]

Meetings held monthly – a good working relationship.

8.3 Scottish Newsletter/Media Engagement [Daphne Varveris]

Nicola Hogan had been working on this. Hoped to get a timeline from communications group at the College.

9 Reports from Committees and Other Groups

9.1 Maternity Care Issues [Ross Junkin]

- Scottish trainee appointed to trainees representative role in AOE
- Scottish obstetric study days returning to face-to-face.

9.2 Obesity Alliance Scotland [Daphne Varveris]

Circulated papers noted.

9.3 SHAAP: Updated SHAAP Guidance for Heavy Drinkers to Remove Reference to COVID-19 and Related Service Issues (Attached for Interest) [Daphne Varveris]

Circulated papers noted.

10 For Information

10.1 Assisted Dying/Ethics Committee

- Kenneth McKinlay represented the board and had presented at Anaesthesia 2022.
- BMA moved from 'no' to 'neutral' position.
- RCoA in similar position. Current college position is there is no position and likely to move to 'neutral'.

10.2 Desflurane

- Raised by Ken Barker. Contract due to end in April 2023. Gradual decline in usage. Board felt should engage the membership. Majority reasonably supportive. Problems with putting out the survey.
- Gary – 2 surveys. Wider one still to go out. Being scheduled for issuing.

10.3 Appropriate Release of Medical Colleagues for the Purposes of Carrying out Work for the Wider Health System

SA planning to look at it from Scottish perspective.

10.4 SG Global Citizenship Programme

[Click here for information.](#)

Looking for replacement on global health committee.

11 Date of Next Meeting: Tuesday 4 October 2022, 10:30 at RCPE