

MEETING OF COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held on 13 December 2022

Members attending:

Dr Fiona Donald, President	Dr Sarah Thornton
Dr Russell Perkins, Vice President	Dr Elisa Bertoja
Dr Helgi Johannsson, Vice President	Dr Satya Francis
Professor William Harrop-Griffiths	Professor Andrew Smith
Professor Mike Grocott	Dr Sunil Kumar
Dr Chris Carey	Dr Lorraine De Gray
Dr Claire Shannon	Dr Daniele Bryden
Dr Claire Mallinson	Professor Dave Lambert
Dr Felicity Laat	Dr Simon Maguire
Dr Sarah Ramsay	Dr Matthew Tuck
Dr Mike Swart	Dr Giovanna Kossakowska
Dr Sri Gummaraju	Dr William Donaldson
Professor Jonathan Thompson	Dr Sandeep Lakhani
Dr Ashwini Keshkamat	Dr Dave Selwyn
Dr Ramai Santhirapala	Dr Daphne Varveris
Dr Sarah Muldoon	Mrs Pauline Elliott
Dr Toni Brunning	Dr Roger Sharpe
	Colonel James Ralph

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

Apologies for absence:

Dr Marie Nixon, Dr Abrie Theron, Dr Ros Bacon, Dr Matthew Davies, Dr Rashmi Rebello

The President welcomed to their first meeting:

- Colonel James Ralph as newly co-opted Defence Consultant Advisor in Anaesthesia and Pain Medicine.

Current Welfare Issues amongst the Military Cadre

Colonel James Ralph, Defence Consultant Advisor in Anaesthesia and Pain Medicine provided a presentation to outline his role, noting that:

- He is responsible to the Director General of the Defence Medical Services, the role provides support and advice on areas of recruitment, policy, assurance, equipment, training, media, answering ministerial questions and cover as Clinical Services Lead for all military anaesthetists.
- He is co-opted onto the Association of Anaesthetists (AoA) Council and Membership and Wellbeing committees.
- Along with his team he provides support for up to 79 trainees, ranging from CT1 to post CCT fellowship, placed into the defence postgraduate medical deaneries in various locations throughout the country.
- Following CCT, trainees go through an Armed Services Consultant Appointment Board (ASCAB) to appoint them to consultants to the Defence Medical Services, which is supported by a Civilian Consultant Adviser and College representative. They are then placed into NHS trusts where the primary function for consultants is to maintain their currency and competency for deployment.
- Recently there has been a review of wellbeing and resilience, following several sudden deaths within the military. Doctors in the military have multiple demands on their time because they have more than one employer and the review will focus on definition of what is required and how things could be adjusted to reduce the burden and to avoid duplication.

Dr Santhirapala invited Colonel Ralph to attend Council in March 2023 to hear feedback and updates from the recent report on the work from the wellbeing task and finish group. Colonel Ralph provided his contact details to Council should they have any further questions.

1. Council Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 9 November were circulated:

On Page 4, Point 3 - Logsdail Response – there was a correction to note that it was the PUMA group who have invited the RCoA to be part of the international implementation group and not Professor Tim Cook. The sentence will therefore read: *The PUMA group has invited the College to join an international implementation group for the guidelines and Council agreed that we should be engaged.*

MOTION Agreed: Council approved the minutes of the 9 November as a true and accurate record with this correction.

2. Items for Discussion

Membership and Examination Certificate change requests

Following Ms Emily Worth's presentation to November Council on the programme of work to modernise and make the production of certificates more efficient, there followed 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 as stated: '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.' It was noted that the College already use a digital version of the seal and College crest on various College verification documents, so it was agreed to check the current wording in the regulations and alter as appropriate as part of the ongoing revision of the charter, ordinances and regulations.

Motion Approved: Council were happy to use the digital seal and alter the wording in the regulations accordingly.

Widening Participation in Medicine Proposal: Anaesthesia (GasReach)

Dr Elisa Bertoja provided a presentation that recently came to the College's Equality Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) Committee, to outline a proposal to widen participation in medicine by introducing a mentoring scheme for under-represented groups. The aims and aspirations of this programme closely align to the aspirations of the EDI Committee and the recent UKMED study on recruitment into the anaesthesia specialty. The EDI committee are supportive and believe that this programme could help encourage diversity in the specialty by creating a pool of mentors, from within the membership of the College, to proactively engage with aspiring anaesthetists and encourage applications into the speciality. The current proposal outlines a small investment which will be used to train approximately 15 – 20 mentors and provide administrative support. It is agreed that this proposal will go to the Board of Trustees for approval of the necessary funding to support the project.

Council was keen to support the project and to review where it can be aligned with work already conducted by other organisations, to include mentorship training programmes.

Update on Examinations

Dr Roger Sharpe provided an update to note that:

- There was a recent presentation on the examinations review to the primary examiners who expressed anxiety regarding the impact of its publication on the College, examiners and examinations team.
- Discussions at ETE indicated that a phased, timetabled, publication of the examination reviews would address several of the concerns raised.
- Following publication of the external report there will be a focus on fine tuning and updating of educational processes and assessment theories.
- An extended publication timetable will allow the examinations team to collect and assess more feedback.
- Discussions have commenced between the FRCA examinations team and the faculties on sharing good practice across different aspects of the examinations, regular meetings will be developed through the Examinations Development and Assurance Group.
- Proposals will be discussed at the next Board of Trustees to include the financial plan and action planning to support the examinations team.
- An update meeting will take place with the GMC shortly to communicate details and next steps on the communication strategy.

Council agreed that both reviews have been delayed to some extent and should be published soon but agreed to the request for further review and engagement by the examiners and faculties. There was agreement to ensure members are told the reasons for the delays and for the staged publication.

Update on Training and Recruitment

Dr Chris Carey provided an update to note that:

- Health Education England (HEE) has now recruited the 70 additional posts for February which were already allocated in the round three 2022 recruitment process. There was agreement to check on the additional posts due to be allocated in February 2023.
- The Treasury has now signed off funding for a further additional 70 posts for anaesthesia and 30 posts for Intensive Care Medicine (ICM) in August 2023. Further work continues to check where posts will be allocated and how they fit into the recruitment plans.
- Following feedback from several schools on the difficulties of fulfilling a requirement within the curriculum for anaesthetising children less than 3 years old with distant supervision, there was agreement to check with the GMC whether this can be changed to level 2b (supervisor within the hospital) to make delivery easier.
- Communications will shortly be sent to outline how to manage reflection on the LLP given that the documents are not legally privileged and can be accessed.
- Guidance will be sent shortly on rota frequency, reminding Anaesthetists in Training (AiTs) that they should be on a rota of 1 in 8 frequency or less.
- Work continues on producing guidance for managing CCT dates for those working less than full time.
- Work also continues to look at increasing flexibility within the training programme and in boosting access for those in core and higher training. There is the possibility for recruitment at ST6.

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 information:

- The ballots are open for voting for Council elections until the 15th December 2022.
- The Scottish and Welsh Board elections will open on 29 December 2022.
- The closing date for applications for the [environmental advisors](#) is 31 December 2022.
- [Dennis has an Anaesthetic](#) information leaflet is now published and being well received.

No deaths were reported at December Council.

Faculty of Anaesthesia Associates (AAs) Development Project

Dr Claire Shannon gave an update and noted that:

- Discussions continue with the General Medical Council (GMC) on Anaesthesia Associates and updating guidance for the introduction of AAs into departments.
- Discussions continue with Health Education England (HEE) on funding, following a request to ensure funding to support the faculty development for 2022/23 is used by 31 March 2023.
- The next Founding Board meeting will take place in January 2023.

Logsdail Response

Dr Russell Perkins circulated minutes of the final meeting of the short life working group and noted that:

- The Human Factors guidelines is a joint piece of work that has been commissioned by the Difficult Airway Society (DAS) and the Association of Anaesthetists. The RCoA have reviewed the draft version, provided feedback to Dr Fiona Kelly and agreed to support, they will be launched at the Winter Scientific meeting on 12 January 2023.
- The RCoA has reviewed the International preventing unrecognised oesophageal intubation PUMA guidelines and was unable to provide support or endorsement. Dr Felicity Platt will be the representative on the newly formed implementation working group.
- The group has now sent a letter sent to the coroner Dr Sean Cummings who issued the PFD report.
- There was a suggestion to send a copy of the letter to the Chief Coroner with a view to being informed of any further deaths due to unrecognised oesophageal intubation.

Getting it Right First Time (GIRFT) and NHSE Perioperative Care Plans

Dr Swart presented an update on the developments during the last two years which included:

- The development of 29 high volume, low complexity procedure best practice pathways, which were jointly written by surgical specialties, with support from Dr Chris Snowdon.
- 92 Elective Surgical Hubs have now been developed, of which there are three types:

- 39 standalone hubs – an elective surgical hub in a dedicated building fully separate from any acute provision.
- 35 integrated hubs – an elective surgical unit within an existing acute site, with all the facilities, physically segregated from acute areas.
- 18 ring fenced hubs – where elective surgical unit exists as dedicated areas within an existing acute site, with ring-fenced elective theatres within the main theatre complex and dedicated inpatient or recovery area.
- The £1.5 billion Targeted Investment Fund (TIF) was established to support NHS systems and providers to go further on elective recovery and to support the building of further hubs in 2023 and 2024.
- Community Diagnostic Centres (CDCs) and Elective Hubs will continue to be located throughout the UK.
- NHSE and GIRFT will be piloting an Elective Hub Accreditation Scheme in 2023 which will allow trusts to seek formal assessment of their hub sites and external recognition that they work to a defined set of clinical and operational standards. It is supported by the Royal College of Surgeons and other key clinical and patient groups. The RCoA is represented in this group.
- Model Health – APOM anaesthesia and perioperative medicine, gateway visits have now restarted, with access via an NHS email address to provide the relevant data required to support this.

Council was supportive of the work but were keen to understand more about staffing, workforce, and patient safety. Dr Swart assured Council that current training needs are continuing to be addressed and work continues reviewing staffing levels and in optimising existing staff.

There was further agreement to ensure the work is aligned with other bodies to alleviate the risk of duplication and Dr Swart agreed to collaborate with the Centre for Perioperative Care (CPOC).

Update from the Faculty of Pain Medicine (FPM)

Dr Lorraine De Gray provided an update to note that:

- The recent Board meeting took place on 2 December.
- The General Medical Council (GMC) have approved the curricula for pain specialist credentialing but has changed the way in which it would like this rolled out, demitting this to the statutory bodies, further information will be provided in 2023.
- FPM agreed to be involved with RCoA in continuing work on Assisted Dying.
- Following the recent Annual General Meeting (AGM) FPM are very happy to note that the College will be compliant with charity law and will improve the membership voice. However, FPM have raised concerns that they have no vote within the BoT or on Council and would like to have discussions about how to mitigate this.

4. CEO Update

RCoA Annual General Meeting (AGM) 2022 Update

Mr Bruun provided a report to Council to note the outcome of the Annual General Meeting held on 1 December 2022, which included a list of the results of the motions put forward to the membership. A discussion on the proposals going forward will be discussed at the Board of Trustees on 14 December. The President thanked Jonathan Bruun, Nicola Brown, Nicola Morris, Natalie Walker and the Executive Team for their support on this work.

An update on the RCoA National Honours Committee, Terms of Reference

Mr Bruun noted that he would report on the outcome of the Terms of Reference at the next Council meeting.

5. Report from the Association

Dr Matthew Davies was absent from the meeting, Council reviewed the report to highlight the current work of the Association.

Council requested to check with the Association when their guidance on consent is due for updating, as there would be an opportunity to review and work towards a national consensus for future consent in anaesthesia which has been raised as an issue with the advent of e records.

ACTION: SD to check with the Association when their guidance due to be updated.

6. Boards and Reports

Clinical Quality and Research Board (CQRB)

The Chair's summary and minutes of a meeting held on 9 November were circulated, Dr Claire Shannon provided an update to note that:

- The review of the organisation of research within the College is continuing.
- CQR propose to liaise with the MMD Board to assist with improving dissemination of research outputs to members.
- A one year pilot is due to commence to improve workforce data gathering via the Advisory Appointments Committee (AAC) process.
- The current Safe Anaesthesia Liaison Group (SALG) Harvard scholars are returning to the UK and will lead SALG safety projects.

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:

- Her first MMD Board as Chair will take place on 13 December 2022.
- The digital bulletin was launched in October and received 18K views, with 2K active users, 10% of the membership. As Chair Dr Santhirapala will edit the January edition.
- Dr Santhirapala thanked Dr Claire Mallinson for her support on Anaesthesia 2022 and Dr Toni Brunning and Dr Mallinson for their work on the forthcoming Anaesthesia 2023 event.
- Work continues with AAs on using the Lifelong Learning Platform (LLP) to record Continuing Professional Development (CPD) in an interim measure.
- The President recently appeared on Sky News talking about workforce challenges within the NHS and the impact on health and social care. Dr Helgi Johannsson was also featured discussing workforce numbers, elective surgery and the current backlog.
- The President recently spoke to the Mail Online about Tranexamic acid, in light of blood shortages.
- Dr Santhirapala thanked Dr Sam Black, Chair of the Patient Information Group and the team for their work in producing the "Dennis has an anaesthetic" paediatric patient information leaflet.
- There is currently a 44% increase in listeners to the RCoA podcasts this year. Dr Santhirapala thanked Ms Fiona Anderson for her work on podcasts. MMD are reviewing sponsorship opportunities for podcasts going forward.
- Dr Santhirapala thanked Dr Sarah Muldoon who will step down in her role as Vice Chair of MMD in 2023, the post is being advertised with a closing date in the New Year.

Centre for Perioperative Care (CPOC) Board

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

- The appointments of Professor McNally and Professor Dhesi as CPOC Deputy Directors has been extended for a second three year term starting January 2023.
- The CPOC Executive will be recruiting an additional patient representative to sit on the CPOC Board.
- The CPOC [National Safety Standards for Invasive Procedures \(NatSIPPs\)](#) has been approved by the CPOC Board and will be published in January 2023. CPOC is working with the RCoA and NHSE to draft a communications plan to promote the guideline in 2023.
- As part of the CPOC Fellowship recruitment round for 2023-2024, CPOC will be expanding the application criteria and expanding the fellowship to specifically include applicants from the SAS grade.
- Council was asked to approve the current updated refreshed CPOC Strategy for 2023-2026.

Motion Approved: Council approved the updated CPOC Strategy 2023-2026.

ACTION: Dr Dave Selwyn agreed to discuss further with Dr Daniele Bryden the opportunity for having a Faculty member as part of the CPOC Board.

PatientsVoices@RCoA

Mrs Pauline Elliott provided an update on the work of the group to note that:

- They are making progress with activities and achievements related to all three strategic pillars of their strategy. Plans are in place to launch the new name, strategy and refreshed webpages in early 2023.
- They have been allocated space at Anaesthesia 2023, on day 2, 17 May 2023, where they will be running sessions and discussions to review changes in pre-operative assessment after Covid and will focus on digital initiatives in preoperative assessment.
- A podcast was recently recorded to highlight the work of the group.

Lead Regional Adviser Anaesthesia (RAA) for the RCoA

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

- The recent RAA meeting took place on 18 November, which included a talk with Dr Adrian Brooke from Health Education England (HEE) on the distribution of postgraduate specialty training numbers and how this is proposed to change to support population health needs, particularly in more rural areas.
- Dr Sarah Thornton is leading a survey to RAAs looking at local CESR programmes, to review numbers and the differences in training within different regions, this will be brought back for discussion at a future Council meeting.

Dr Bryden put Dr Maguire in contact with Dr Andrew Sharma the Lead RA for ICM as this will support further discussions on training capacity and where posts are being placed.

7. Devolved Nations

Scottish Board

Dr Daphne Varveris updated Council to note that:

- The nominations are now open for the Scottish Board for two consultant elective posts and one SAS member.
- Dr Varveris will be in touch with Dr Sandeep Lakhani in relation to replacing their co-opted Clinical Director group member on the Board.
- The COPES process for the Devolved Nations is still under review and will be presented at a future Council meeting for information.

ACTION: SD agreed to discuss and review the COPES process with Dr Varveris.

- An updated anaesthetic assistant core competency framework has recently been published by the Perioperative Nursing and Midwifery Programme in Scotland by NES, which will support anaesthetic assistant courses in Scotland. Discussions continue to check and review the updated document.
- A small working group has been put together with SALG to establish input of safety data from Scotland.

8. Other business

New Associate Fellows, Members and Associate Members

Council received a list of new members to Council for November 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 October and November 2022.

Current College Consultations

Council reviewed the list of current consultations.

Regional Advisers Anaesthesia

The following changes were noted:

- **Kent, Surrey and Sussex** - Dr Visweswar Nataraj will succeed Dr Sandeep Sudan as Regional Adviser Anaesthesia for KSS.

Deputy Regional Advisers Anaesthesia

- **North Central London** - Dr Sarah Barnett to succeed Dr Sonia Brocklesby as Deputy Regional Adviser for North Central London.

END OF MEETING

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