

MEETING OF COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting held on 19 April 2023

Members attending:

Dr Russell Perkins, Vice President
Dr Helgi Johannsson, Vice President
Professor Mike Grocott
Dr Chris Carey
Dr Claire Shannon
Dr Claire Mallinson
Dr Felicity Platt
Dr Sarah Ramsay
Dr Mike Swart
Dr Sri Gummaraju
Professor Jonathan Thompson
Dr Ashwini Keshkamat
Dr Ramai Santhirapala
Dr Toni Brunning
Dr Elisa Bertoja
Dr Satya Francis
Dr Sarah Thornton

Professor Andrew Smith
Dr Sunil Kumar
Dr Rashmi Rebello
Dr Chris Taylor
Dr Catherine Bernard
Dr Lorraine De Gray
Dr Daniele Bryden
Dr Matthew Davies
Professor Dave Lambert
Dr Simon Maguire
Dr Matthew Tuck
Dr Giovanna Kossakowska
Dr Dave Selwyn
Dr Daphne Varveris
Dr Simon Ford
Dr Roger Sharpe
Dr Sandeep Lakhani

In attendance: Mr Jonathan Brūn, Ms Sharon Drake, Mr Mark Blaney, Mr Graham Blair, Mr Russell Ampofo, Ms Judith Tidnam Mr Jonathan Whale, and Dr David Bogod for the item on Assisted Dying

Apologies for absence:

Dr Fiona Donald, Dr Ros Bacon, Dr Marie Nixon, Mrs Pauline Elliott, Colonel James Ralph, Dr William Donaldson.

New Council Members

The recently elected Council members: Dr Chris Taylor, Consultant member and Dr Catherine Bernard, Anaesthetist in Training (AiT) both signed the book of declaration to Council.

Presentation to Council on Elective Surgical Hubs – Dr Mary Stocker

Dr Stocker provided a presentation to Council to highlight the importance of the work that NHS England (NHSE) and Getting it Right First Time (GIRFT) are putting into surgical hubs as one of the key elements in trying to maximise efficiency and delivery of elective surgery. Dr Stocker noted that:

- Three types of hub exist: the stand-alone hub, the integrated hub and the ring fenced hub. All hubs exclusively perform planned surgery and have ring-fenced facilities and staff who are not used to supporting operational pressures elsewhere and are working towards the High Volume Low Complexity (HVLC) principles of 6-day operating, 48 weeks per year, 2.5 session days and 85% theatre utilisation.
- The NHSE, GIRFT accreditation scheme provide trusts with a clear framework of standards needed to deliver effective elective hubs at pace. It also provides a visible marker of high standards that could be communicated to patients and staff enabling better take up of hub treatment offers, represents an important improvement tool and recognises rewards and excellence.
- Hubs are encouraged to own the accreditation process as part of their improvement journey, to set realistic expectations and standards which reflect local challenges such as on workforce availability. There is a comprehensive focus on health inequalities and how hubs can help to address these.
- Eight sites were successfully awarded accreditation by the National Panel on 7 March 2023, the accreditation programme is co-badged by the The Royal College of Surgeons England (RCSE).

Following the pilot accreditation, 35 sites expressed interest to be in cohort one, of which nine were needed.

- A Consultant anaesthetist is part of each team which visits a hub site seeking accreditation, and work continues with the College to ensure alignment with ACSA.

Council noted its support. Dr Dave Selwyn encouraged a stronger focus on the perioperative pathway. There were further questions on whether there would be future opportunities for trainees within the hub and the challenges in obtaining workforce, especially nursing staff.

1. Regional Adviser Anaesthesia (RAA)

Dr Sue Walwyn – Mid Yorkshire NHS Trust

Dr Walwyn presented an update on Anaesthetic training in West Yorkshire (Leeds hub) and noted that Yorkshire is composed of three hubs, three tertiary centres providing neuro and cardiac and two centres providing tertiary paediatric experience, along with two large District General Hospitals. Core trainee numbers remain small, with an increase in Acute Care Common Stem (ACCS) trainees, there are currently 95 ST trainees, with 69 who are anaesthetic only, with the remainder being dual trainees. Recruitment and interviews remain competitive with Core and ACCS interviews taking place twice a year, challenges for interviewers also remain difficult.

Overall trainees' note good trainer support and opportunities for career development, however, there have been difficulties in obtaining study leave for personal development, particularly for those in Less Than Full Time (LTFT) Training, which has resulted in a decrease in pay due to time allocation. There remain alternative training pathways for trainees if required and support is provided by Leeds Training Hospitals NHS Trust. The Medical Training Initiative (MTI) and Anaesthesia Associates are currently involved in various hospitals within Leeds at present. Overall trainee education and wellbeing remains high priority within the school.

2. Council Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 8 March were circulated:

MOTION Agreed: Council approved the minutes of the 8 March as a true and accurate record with the following corrections.

Members attendance: Dr Rashmi Rebello was marked as absent and was in attendance, therefore there was a request to update the list.

Page 3, Logsdaile Case, Dr Perkins requested that the following sentence:

'The National Audit Project 7 (NAP 7) will shortly highlight cases, as causes of cardiac arrest and it is likely further cases will come to light in the future'. in paragraph two be changed to read:

'The National Audit Project 7 (NAP 7) will shortly highlight further cases, as causes of cardiac arrest and it is possible more will come to light in the future'.

Actions from the previous meeting

Patient Safety

Ms Sharon Drake noted that a joint meeting with the Association, Patient Safety committee and the Safe Anaesthesia Liaison Group (SALG) is being organised with the Patient Safety Officer to discuss the current work on patient safety.

National Honours Committee (NH)

Mr Bruun met recently with Chair of the NH Committee, Dr Judith Hulf, to discuss approval of the committee's Terms of Reference (ToR). The committee agreed to work towards the EDI recommendations as outlined by Council.

3. President's Update

The following deaths were reported:

Dr Ralph Stephens Vaughan, Dr Brian Swales and Dr John Beddard. Council held a minute's silence.

The Vice President highlighted the most recent work of the President to note that:

- The Spring budget had brought welcome news of the reform to pension taxation.
- The internal review of the FRCA exams and the external review of all exams of the College and Faculties have now been published and a "Let's Talk" event for candidates and trainers took place in March.
- Work [continues to advocate for the government to address the concerns of junior doctors](#), and to highlight the risks to patient care if the working lives of junior doctors, including the financial pressures they are under, are not improved. The College continues to signpost sources of support.

- [The Perioperative Allergy Network have issued a statement](#) in response to the withdrawal of over-the-counter medications containing pholcodine as a precautionary measure.
- Dr Marie Nixon's term as Clinical Quality Advisor ends in July 2023. The role has been advertised; the closing date is Tuesday 9th May 2023.

4. CEO Update

Elected Council Member Trustee Elections

The first election of Elected Council Members to the Board of Trustees had taken place. Professor Mike Grocott, Dr Ros Bacon, Professor Jonathan Thompson, Dr Toni Brunning and Dr Claire Mallinson had all been elected. Mr Bruun thanked all the candidates who had stood for election.

Timetable for the Election of President and Vice Presidents 2023

Council reviewed a paper setting out the proposed timetable for the election of the President and Vice-Presidents. Self-nominations for President open at 9am on Friday 19th May and close at 5pm the same day. Depending on the number of nominations the final closing date will be 26th May 2023.

Motion Approved: Council discussed and approved the timetable for the election of the President and Vice Presidents.

Proposed Changes to Churchill House Reception area

Mr. Bruun raised with Council an option to update the College reception area, to ensure it is more inviting and inclusive to all members and visitors. Changes proposed included removing the photographs of Council members and Executive staff from the reception area and replacing with a number of screens to show images, providing welcoming messages and information related to the College in a multi-media style presentation. Overall, the Council were not in favour of removing photographs and agreed that the visibility of Council is important. Council also agreed that the photographs should be less formal and be more diverse and friendly.

ACTION: JB agreed to take the comments away for further discussion.

5. Update from the Faculties

Dr Bryden, Dean of the Faculty of Intensive Care Medicine (FICM), provided a verbal update to note that:

- The next Faculty Board meeting will take place on 26th April.
- Recent face to face examinations ran from 20th to 23rd March, Dr Bryden thanked David Rowland and the team for their efforts in running a successful examination.
- Dr Roger Sharpe observed the recent examinations and met with Dr Vickie Robson and other examiners to discuss the Examinations Development and Assurance Group (EDAG).
- Early engagement with EDAG remains positive, and several events are planned for examiners to discuss areas of importance for the FICM examination in the future.

Dr Lorraine De Gray, Dean of the Faculty of Pain Medicine (FPM), provided a verbal update to note that:

- FPM has not yet reached an agreement with the General Medical Council (GMC) on credentialing and how the pathway is going to work. Whilst the GMC have updated their proposed document, they are still abrogating ownership to the statutory educational bodies and notifying them that it does not need to be the same across the four nations. Further meetings will take place shortly to reach agreement.

6. Other Updates

Assisted Dying

The Ethics Committee had been asked by Council to advise on whether the College's current 'no stance' position on assisted dying should be updated. In order to inform this decision the Committee suggested that a survey of members should be carried out. Similar surveys have been undertaken by several bodies including the BMA. Council agreed that a non-binding, advisory survey should be undertaken, and set up a short-term Working Party to consider what questions should be included, chaired by Dr David Bogod, the Chair of the Ethics Committee. One meeting has been held, and the draft survey was presented to Council for their consideration. The Royal College of Surgeons England (RCSEng) recently launched its own survey, the findings of which are still due to be published. Dr Bogod encouraged the College to think about its future position, particularly in light of forthcoming assisted dying legislation and our ability to inform the national debate.

Council discussed the draft survey and agreed that it would be difficult for the College to make a decision without asking members for their opinions. There was a discussion around the need to ensure anonymity by removing member categories, versus the importance of ensuring the views of all membership groups are represented. The Short Life Working Group (SLWG) should review this. There was support for using an external specialist body to conduct the survey and analyse the responses. Consideration should also be given to the timing of the survey, and it was suggested that it was advantageous to wait for the feedback and data from the RCSEng survey before proceeding. There was a further requirement to look at how we would survey members in collaboration with the Association of Anaesthetists (AoA), to understand whether responders are members of the College, Association or both. It was noted that an identifying question about membership of the Faculty of Intensive Care Medicine (FICM) should be removed, as FICM have not yet had the opportunity to discuss this with their own Executive and Board. There is good reason to identify location with respect to jurisdiction, Scotland, Northern Ireland, England and Wales.

There is also the possibility of running a short focus group via the membership panel or via listening events in advance of the survey. Dr Bogod thanked Council for the points raised and agreed to discuss them at the next SLWG and bring a modified proposal to a future Council meeting.

ACTION: Dr Bogod to discuss the points raised with the Short Life Working Group (SLWG) and bring a modified proposal to Council shortly.

Training and Recruitment update

Dr Chris Carey provided an update to note that:

- 350 candidates were not successful in the recent ST4 recruitment round, despite extra posts being funded. Regional Advisers (RAs) and Heads of Schools (HoS) will discuss and investigate the issues at the next College Tutors meeting.
- Further discussions with schools will take place to outline the challenges, following their preference to recruit more core trainees than higher trainees.

Examinations update

Dr Roger Sharpe provided an update to note that:

- The GMC have accepted a recent action plan for the delivery of the examinations review outcomes and will require regular updates, on a three-monthly basis following the recommendation made.
- The preliminary group that will become EDAG held their third meeting recently, to date all discussions on the recommendations have been positive.
- The appointment for a Chair of EDAG is now being advertised and will be an independent appointment. There will also be an advert shortly for an external educational expert.
- The prioritisation policy will be implemented to accommodate oversubscription of the May primary examination. There will be further discussions going forward on how to address capacity going forward.
- Two education fellows have been appointed from the Northwest deanery and will be seconded for 1.5 days a week to contribute to the research projects proposed in the external review. A Kent, Surrey and Sussex (KSS) trainee will also be appointed later in 2023.

Equivalence Strategy – Preparing for the Future of Certificate of Eligibility for Specialist Registration (CESR)

Council reviewed a paper to highlight the work being undertaken by the Equivalence committee to mitigate the risks and deal with the increasing workload to support CESR. CESR applications continue to increase and show no signs of abating. Members of the Equivalence Committee and ET&E Board met recently to discuss ways in which the College can work proactively to support assessors and the CESR process in the College. There was also a recent Regional Advisor survey to understand how many CESR programmes have been established at local level in the UK, with results indicating 50% of regions now have an established programme and this is likely to increase over time. Work will include:

- Increasing the number of available assessors and reviewing the governance of the Equivalence committee, to establish ways in which work can be distributed effectively. This will include project work aligned to the new Postgraduate Medical Education and Training Board (PMETB).
- A proposal to hold in-person training activities and events to support team working, collaboration and improve engagement with assessors in their roles. The aim will be to hold an educational CPD day to improve the network.
- The recommendation for a potential awards scheme for assessors, the committee would like to encourage Council and members of the ET&E Board to consider College awards that would be appropriate for individual awards.

- Developing a network of CESR advisors to support the increase of CESR applicants.

Mr Ampofo noted that there is an expectation of increased costs in the next academic year to provide continued support. It is proposed to bring another paper to Council and a business case to the Finance and Resources (F&RB) shortly.

Council supported the ongoing work of the Equivalence committee.

Role of the FRCA examination in Diplomates Day

Dr Chris Carey presented a paper to propose that some FRCA examiners are invited to Diplomates Day, to replace the previous end of exam day ceremony in the Final FRCA for passing candidates eligible for fellowship. Changes in the examinations have resulted in the loss of this event that was important to examiner morale and motivation. This is due to a change to the format of the exam and the standard setting method from the 2015 examination review, which came into force in 2018, and following the introduction of more robust data checking and moderation processes from 2020.

Council approved the update of the role of FRCA examiners at Diplomates Day.

Stress and Performance in the RCoA Primary OSCE

A group of members approached the College to consider a research proposal to better understand the stress and performance in the FRCA Examinations. This study takes forward previous work in this area following work undertaken during the Covid pandemic. An initial meeting took place with members of the research group including Dr Danny Wong, Professor Kevin Fong, Dr Neil Greenberg, Dr Roopa McCrossan, Dr Chris Carey, Mr Jon Davies, and Mr Russell Ampofo. There was a positive reaction to the study, and how this had the potential to benefit the College's understanding of stress and performance, as well as developing the examinations.

Dr Carey and Ms Sharon Drake noted that this research would be the responsibility of the Clinical Quality and Research Board (CQRB) and must meet the proper formal process. There is a request to involve Professor Iain Moppett for oversight and to determine how the research should be conducted.

Faculty of Anaesthesia Associates (AAs) Development Project

Dr Clare Shannon gave an update to note that:

- The GMC plan to publish the Anaesthesia Associate Registration Assessment (AARA) content map in May 2023, to describe ongoing work on the assessment process.
- Council recently reviewed the draft AARA order document, which sets a framework on how the GMC will regulate doctors in the future. A response will be drafted shortly.
- Dr Tom Gale was recently appointed as Chair of the AARA working group.
- Adverts have been sent to recruit panel members to support work on the examination and workplace-based assessments (WPBA).
- Dr Shannon recently presented on AAs at the Health Education England (HEE) stakeholder event in Exeter which was well received.
- The AA financial model will be discussed at the Finance and Resources Board on 25th April.
- Faculty development continues and this will come on board for the first cohort of the regulated professionals in 2025.

Dr Shannon noted that a paper will be presented to Council and the BoT in the next few months to outline the position on AAs, the focus will highlight concerns on perception and focus on the best options going forward. Work will also focus on specific communication for trainee doctors, which will aim to clarify any concerns raised to date.

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

Dr Mike Swart, GIRFT perioperative medicine clinical lead, provided papers to highlight the communications bulletin from the GIRFT Anaesthesia and Perioperative Medicine (APOM) team, which detailed a list of current developments and ongoing work streams. Dr Swart highlighted that:

- GIRFT national and regional clinical leads are current clinical working consultants and are fully aware of trainees and their current needs at this stage.
- An update on how to perform day case hip and knee surgery will be available shortly, which will be provided to Dr Dave Selwyn for upload onto the CPOC web pages.

7. Report from the Association

Dr Matthew Davies provided a written report to highlight key areas of work. Following the recent advocacy document on regulation for AAs, there have been meetings with the Medical Defence Unit (MDU) who have raised concerns with the GMC and government to include:

- Concern of the removal of the Health on Fitness to Practice investigation, which will now fall under misconduct or lack of competence.
- The five year rule being scrapped, therefore events which took place five years or longer will be allowed to appear under fitness to practice.
- Talks continue around AA regulation and the blueprint for doctors' regulation. Work will focus on regulation rather than workforce.

8. Boards and Reports

Membership, Media and Development (MMD) Board

The Chair's summary and minutes of a meeting held on 9 March were circulated, Dr Ramai Santhirapala provided an update noting that:

- The Board reviewed a paper on MMD objectives for the College financial year July 2023 to June 2024. 17 overarching objectives were presented and the top four which will go to the next Board of Trustees for approval will include: increasing membership experience, growing international membership (whilst continuing work on retaining UK membership), building on production process for digital content and reviewing enhanced publications.
- Anaesthesia 2023 currently has 936 registrants of which 504 will be online and 372 will be face to face, which reflects 93% of the projected income for Anaesthesia 2023 to date. Dr Santhirapala thanked the team; Ms Jodie Philipps, Dr Claire Mallinson and Dr Toni Brunning for their support.
- Dr Santhirapala thanked participation at the Let's Talk event on 18 April, attended by 55 participants, which included discussion on ST4 recruitment, AAs, CESR and examinations.
- The April digital bulletin focused on 'Anaesthetists in Training' and the directorate noted that a dip in initial viewing figures could be due to bandwidth.
- The July digital Bulletin will contain a short free text box for brief membership comments and feedback - the idea being to proactively capture membership experience ahead of October when the Bulletin will be released in a completely digital format. Professor Edward Mariano, an anaesthesiologist from Stanford University (USA), has kindly accepted a commission for the Guest Editorial for the October 2023 Bulletin.
- Notable media outputs include Dr Helgi Johannsson's piece on 'Covering our Striking Junior Doctors is there no end in sight' for the Sunday Times, which was very well received on various social media platforms. Current engagement figures are, 500 (Facebook), 144 (Twitter) and 121 (LinkedIn). Dr Santhirapala noted that Twitter is often discussed as the main social media platform for the College, but we should be mindful different content appeals to each College social media platforms differently.
- A blog on Ramadan was released on Monday 17th April which is doing well and reflects the membership's interest in topics around diversity.

Devolved Nations

Scottish Board

Dr Daphne Varveris updated Council to note that:

- Dr Michael Matheson was recently appointed as Scottish Cabinet Secretary for Health and Social Care.
- The Board plan to meet with the Chief Medical Officer in the future.
- The Scottish Academy were involved in a joint survey, organised by NHS Scotland Employers, the British Medical Association, (BMA) and Scottish Academy of Medical Royal Colleges, to review data and information on senior hospital doctors' intention to retire in the NHS in Scotland, the findings will be published on 26th April.

Welsh Board

Dr Ford thanked Dr Abrie Theron as outgoing chair and noted that the new Board took place on 29th March, highlights noted that:

- The Board were unable to meet with the Chief Medical Officer (CMO) at the March meeting, plans will be made to hold a meeting in October.
- Health Education and Improvement Wales (HEIW) continue to engage to support the current CESR process, to include rotations, managing and maintaining training perspective, allowing pinch points to be easily negotiated and in allowing opportunities for growing CESR applicants.
- There was continued support for AAs.
- There had been an increase of six higher training numbers.

- Work continues with other Health Boards in removing the license for Desflurane which runs out in January 2024.
- Dr Ford thanked Dr Sarah Harries who is stepping down from the Board in the Welsh School.

Centre for Perioperative Care (CPOC) Board

The Chair's summary and minutes of a meeting held on 19 January were circulated, Dr Dave Selwyn provided an update noting that:

- The Board propose to present the Chair's findings from the Board member 1:1's at the CPOC Board in April. This includes a proposal to move to a partner subscription model.
- Dr Samantha Moore was appointed as the new CPOC Fellow to start on 2nd August 2023.
- Dr Fran Pitt and Dr Bob Evans were successfully appointed as new patient representatives, Mrs Christine Waters was appointed as the new lay representatives to work with CPOC.
- The Centre for Perioperative Care Perioperative Leads Event will run on Monday 24th April. The President will provide a talk on the future of CPOC.
- CPOC is finalising the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Australian and New Zealand College of Anaesthetists (ANZCA) to formalise shared learning of perioperative frameworks.

Professor Mike Grocott highlighted the requirement for further discussion with Council on CPOC's strategic position, whether the College would like it as a free institution or whether it should continue to remain as part of the College in the future. Council agreed to discuss this further.

ACTION: Dr Russell Perkins agreed to update the President about the discussion on the future of CPOC, and the possibility of further discussion at a future Council.

BJA & RCoA Liaison Group meeting

Professor Dave Lambert provided a verbal update to note that:

The recent BJA Liaison meeting took place on 4th April, the group discussed reviewing ways to strengthen the relationship with the RCoA and work as partners rather than providers. Current work streams and outcomes included:

- Tailoring educational outputs to personalised member analytics.
- Being more pro-active with BJA and RCoA in relation to meetings.
- Defining areas of common interest in charitable aims, for example grants with perioperative care flavour and liaison in publication and co-publication of guidelines.
- Re-working of the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU).

Clinical Leaders in Anaesthesia Network (CLAN)

Dr Lakhani provided an update to note that:

- A huge amount of CD's work at present is preparing for the forthcoming industrial action.
- Following a recent resignation from the CLAN Executive Committee, the existing post will be advertised in the next four to six weeks.
- A joint webinar took place at the Regional Advisers Network in March 2023, feedback will be shared shortly.
- The next CLAN meeting is due to take place on 20th June.
- The Association of Anaesthesia Clinical Directors in the USA recently approached Dr Lakhani to discuss collaborative working and cooperation in the future. Dr Lakhani agreed to discuss the opportunities further with the CQRB.

Lead Regional Adviser Anaesthesia (RAA) for the RCoA

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

- A positive joint RAA and CLAN meeting took place in March.
- The network is waiting further information on management leadership research following discussion with the RAAs group.
- The group continue to discuss the current information on CESR.

PatientsVoices@RCoA Update to Council

Council reviewed a written report on the current work of PatientsVoices@RCoA by Chair Dr Pauline Elliott.

9. Other business

New Associate Fellows, Members and Associate Members

Council received a list of new members to Council for March 2023.

ACTION: Following a request from Dr Dave Selwyn, Mr Graham Blair agreed to review the possibility of providing further descriptive membership numbers, to highlight increases and trajectory of numbers.

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 February and March 2023.

Current College Consultations

Council reviewed the list of current consultations.

END OF MEETING

DRAFT