

Meeting of the Royal College of Anaesthetists Scottish Board held on Tuesday 04 June 2024

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| Present | Dr Daphne Varveris | Chair |
| | Dr Jon McGhie | Elected Member & Vice Chair |
| | Dr Susie Chapman | Elected Member |
| | Dr Simon Heaney | Elected Member |
| | Dr Nafees Jafry | SAS Member |
| | Dr Angela Jenkins | Elected Member |
| | Dr Sonya McKinlay | Elected Member & Perioperative Medicine |
| | Dr Sarah Ramsay | Elected Member |
| Ex Officio & Co-opted | Dr Kirsteen Brown | deputising for Dr Linzi Peacock |
| | Professor Lesley Colvin | Vice Chair, SIGN |
| | Dr Murray Geddes | Representing Clinical Directors |
| | Dr Andrea Harvey | Chair AAGBI Scottish Standing Committee |
| | Dr Anoop Kumar | RA-A North East Scotland |
| | Dr Zuzanna Kusnirikova | Scottish Paediatric Anaesthetic Network |
| | Dr Katie Lake | Scottish Society of Anaesthetists |
| | Dr Colin Rae | SIGN Representative |
| | Dr Malcolm Sim | Academic Anaesthesia Representative |
| | Dr Malcolm Smith | RA, West of Scotland |
| | Dr Cameron Weir | RA, East of Scotland |
| | Dr Neil Young | Lead RA in Intensive Care Medicine |
| In Attendance | Dr Fiona Donald | President, RCoA |
| | Ms Sharon Drake | Deputy CEO and Director of Quality & Research, RCoA |
| | Mr Peter Kunzmann | Head of Policy & Public Affairs, RCoA |
| Apologies | Dr Ed Mellanby | Scottish Simulation |
| | Dr Pete Paisley | Joint Lead RA, Pain Medicine |
| | Dr Linzi Peacock | RA-A, South East of Scotland |
| | Dr Gary Rodgers | Elected Trainee Member |
| | Dr Ann Shearer | Lay Representative |

1 Welcome, Introductions and Apologies

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting. All were reminded that if they needed support to attend meetings that there was a letter available.

Noted that Fiona Donald was attending her last meeting and the Board expressed its thanks.

2 Approval of the Minute of the Meeting held on 6 February 2024

Approved.

Actions:

- **Maternity liaison** – Angela Jenkins to follow up with Daphne Varveris
- **SAS** – Some progress had been made re linking up. **Action: All requested to ask their SAS colleagues to contact Nafees Jafry.**
- **Clinical Trials and No Access to PQUIP** – Malcolm Sim still to meet with Ben Shelley.
- **Scottish Cabinet Secretary** – a letter had been sent to the Scottish Cabinet Secretary and Board representatives were meeting with Neil Gray.

- **MAPs** – Fiona Donald had checked with Wales re representation on the MAP Programme Board and their position is the same as Scotland; representation on the Advisory Board but not the Programme Board. Noted that there was a different system in Wales. Sharon Drake reported that Russell Ampofo was close to achieving Scottish representation of the MAPs Programme Board but nothing had been communicated.

Action: Check with Russell Ampofo

- **Clinical Directors Network** – a network of around 14 CDs had been set up and all were positive about the forum; the format was being discussed. Requested that the minutes were made available before the next Board meeting.

3 **Health Minister Meeting: 5 June 2024**

Meeting with Neil Gray was taking place tomorrow (5 June) and the agenda would focus on workforce issues, CPOC/Prehabilitation and perioperative care. E

4 **Education, Training, Recruitment and Exams**

4.1 **Training and Impact of New Curriculum/Training Curriculum and Assessment Committee**

- Concerns about staffing shortages and the impact on district general hospitals were raised.
- The need for an increase in training numbers was emphasised.
- No recent issues with the new curriculum were reported.
- The capacity for examinations was becoming an issue with 603 applications for 380 spots. The Examinations Committee was urgently looking for ways to manage the capacity issues, including recruiting more examiners and finding venues with greater capacity.

4.2 **AI – Recent Presentation from Fellows**

Following a presentation at a recent meeting, there was interest in exploring opportunities for AI fellowships and promoting them to trainees in Scotland.

Information has been sent out in the President’s newsletter for technology representatives to develop a technology strategy. Sharon Drake was happy to connect people to this group.

Actions:

- **Discuss with Anoop Kumar linking up with Sharon Drake to gather more information about AI opportunities.**
- **Advertised the ‘Let’s Talk event on 25 June through networks.**
- **Explore linking with colleagues in Scotland who have an interest in AI and digital technology innovation.**
- **Ask if Gary Rodgers can link in with trainees to determine if any are already linking with AI.**

4.3 **Recruitment Report [Angela Jenkins]**

- Scottish national recruitment round took place in February and March. There had been some issues with interview slots in England & Wales and a substantial amount of work had been undertaken with the NES team and Scotland was able to offer additional slots.
- CTs interviews were challenging due to industrial action. All slots had been filled in Scotland.
- Trained 20 new interviewers.
- Online platform worked well.
- Issues with accessing Teams.

4.4 **Workforce Report** *[Jon McGhie]*

- Census coming out later this year.
- College meetings with Hong Kong and Australia about the international workforce.
Action: Will feedback at next meeting.
- Larger influx of IMTs – were they taking up slots for medical students?
- From the last census all departments have slots that they are unable to recruit to so there were no shortage of places available. At the moment there was no real competition as there were so many slots that need filling.
- Scottish Deans not in favour of CESR programmes.

Less than Full Time Working

In Edinburgh, 50% of training programme was LTFT and this was causing problems for rotas and for those working full time. Requests can now be made citing wellbeing and those working full time were now considering their options. Deanery reluctant to become involved. The chair of the STB had acknowledged the letter that had been sent and had asked if this was the case. Noted that there is a disconnect between NES and budgets for LTFT.

Action: Daphne Varveris to write to Steve Turner, chair of Scottish Academy to outline the impact in the regions.

4.5 **Trainee Update** *[Gary Rodgers - apologies]*

ANRO – what assurances if not delivered? Noted that mechanisms in place to make it more stable.

LLP – intermittently problematic.

Succession Planning – trainee representation on the Board.

4.6 **SAS Update** *[Nafees Jafry]*

- Engagement across Scotland continued to be challenging.
- NJ had attended a bullying, undermining and harassment workshop. The label 'SAS' introduced an element of bias and opinion in some grades, bearing in mind this grade had high representation from minorities.
- Dissatisfaction around the new contract.

4.7 **RA(As) Updates – Including ICM and Pain**

Neil Young (Lead ICM RA) – only filled 10 of 16 posts in Scotland, pattern across the UK. LTFT not such a big issue.

Kirsteen Brown (SE Scotland) – No new consultant posts because of funding and trainees very concerned. LTFT issue.

Cameron Weir (East of Scotland) – same issues, highlight LTFT issue again. Longterm sickness and maternity leave having a disproportionate impact in a smaller centre.

Noted that posts available but people reluctant to move.

Malcolm Smith (West of Scotland) – Scottish College Tutors meeting, Friday 24 January 2025. A joint meeting at RCSPG – no virtual capability. Please attend.

Peter Paisley (Pain Medicine) – had sent an update. Credentialing – GMC approved it for pain medicine. Approach from allied health professions for dual.

4.8 **Anaesthetic Assistants** *[Daphne Varveris]*

College and Association involved in writing SMAD guidelines. Plan was to organise a working group but this had not happened.

Board asked for its view on how frequently the guidelines should be updated for Anaesthetic Practitioners. This had been handed over to NES and there had been very little feedback.

Action: Agreed that the Board should not be involved.

4.9 **MAPs** Papers had been circulated for information.

4.10 **Anaesthesia Associates and Practitioners** [Simon Heaney]

Simon Heaney gave a presentation.

The meeting discussed the role of anaesthetic associates and practitioners. There were concerns raised about the lack of a clear scope of practice for the different specialities. It was noted that the UK Academy had issued a statement. A membership survey had indicated negativity towards anaesthetic associates with concerns about patient safety and the impact on training. Colleges asking for a pause until scope of practice had been agreed.

Actions:

- **Meetings on 25 July and 20 August – Daphne Varveris to send link to Simon Heaney.**
- **Advocate for representation of MAPs Programme Board**
- **Await scope of practice before proceeding.**

5 **RCoA President's and Senior Management Team Report**

The circulated report was noted.

- Dr Claire Shannon had been elected as the College's next President and Dr Chris Carey and Dr Toni Brunning had been elected as Vice Presidents. Terms of office for both President and Vice President would begin in September 2024.
- Clinical Quality & Research - recruiting for next NAP lead
- CPOC developing a medical and non-medical curriculum.
- Published CPOC manifesto and RCoA manifesto
- Producing the *UK State of the Nation 2024* report post-election.
- 10 April published the results of the AA survey.
- Continuing to engage with Covid19 Inquiry. Formal hearings September-November.
- Engagement – meeting scheduled with Neil Gray. Meeting with Robin Swann had been cancelled.

Members noted that there were difficulties in opening newsletters on hospital computers, which made accessing information challenging.

Action: FICMs plans – a session to be included at a future Board meeting. Sharon Drake to speak with Jono Bruun re timing.

5.1 **RCGP (Scotland) Primary-Secondary Care Cross College Interface Group: Minute of Meeting held on 31 August 2023**

Noted.

6 **Clinical Quality and Research**

6.1 **Perioperative Medicine (CPOC)** [Sonya McKinlay]

- A vast amount of work had been undertaken in establishing a Scottish perioperative society. An Executive Committee had been assembled and an education meeting would be held in September/October. NIHR funding bids had been submitted.
- RCGP was looking for a representative on the Scottish Primary/Secondary Interface Group. Noted that Laura McGarrity sits on this group.

Action: Sharon Drake to speak with Laura McGarrity and would update Sonya McKinlay.

6.2 SIGN Update [*Colin Rae*]

- Noted that the deputy position is vacant.
- Drive to encourage clinicians to be involved in the work of SIGN and in guideline development.
- Ongoing drive to engage patients and the public.
- Major financial pressures in HIS – all SIGN guidelines were being cancelled, including the chronic pain guideline. Had been no discussion. Been kickback from the SIGN Guideline Development Group and Scottish Government and it had been reinstated. Staff were not being replaced which was a worrying development.

Actions:

- **Susie Chapman to deputise for Colin Rae.**
- **Daphne Varveris to consider writing a letter of support for SIGN to HIS.**

6.3 Safe Anaesthesia Liaison Group [*Daphne Varveris*]

An update had just been published.

- NHS England safety alerts go out and do not always come north of the border.
- There was some discussion about sharing improving data sharing and adverse incident reporting in Scotland, including reaching out to relevant bodies for support.
- Electronic prescribing – issues with the use of different systems.

Action: Identify Jason Leitch's replacement and contact them re adverse event reporting.

6.4 Scottish Quality and Safety Group [*Daphne Varveris*]

Circulated papers noted.

7 Academic Anaesthesia [*Malcolm Sim*]

- Research funded if via commercial channels.
- Disconnect between what clinicians think and CFRS think.
- Recruiting patients into studies was difficult.
- Trainees – 6 months series of online modules. Uptick into trainees enquiring.

Action: Lesley Colvin to send pain studies portfolio to see if any eligible studies for anaesthetics.

8 Communication and External Affairs

8.1 Scottish Academy Update [*Daphne Varveris*]

Scottish Academy next meets on 12 June. Susie Chapman would check to see if she was able to deputise for Daphne Varveris.

Action: Susie Chapman

8.2 Scottish Newsletter/Media Engagement [*Susan Chapman*]

- No submissions or contacts since the last meeting.

Suggestions:

- Maybe a piece from the regions re PQUIP.
- Clinical and Anaesthesia Accreditation – perspectives on this would be good.
- Susie needs help with ideas.
- AI and anaesthesia.
- Remote & rural.

Action: Please forward ideas to Susie Chapman.

9 Reports from Committees and Other Groups

9.1 **CD Network** [*Murray Geddes*]

See item 2.

9.2 **Maternity Care Issues**

Workload continues to increase, a difficult place to work at the moment.

9.3 **Obesity Alliance Scotland** [*Daphne Varveris*]

Scotland is focusing on addressing child obesity, reducing diet-related health inequalities and promoting the idea of healthy weight instead of using the term “obesity”. Scottish Government is pursuing legislations and population-wide measures at a national and local level.

9.4 **SHAAP** [*Daphne Varveris*]

- RoCA had been a signatory to a joint letter advocating MUP.
- There had been a drop in drug and alcohol treatment centres in Scotland.

9.5 **Scottish Paediatric Anaesthetic Network** [*Zuzana Kusnirikova*]

- Meeting in March 2024 had been well attended.
- Workforce – Aberdeen had been steadily improving its situation and had recruited new consultants. Still a hybrid out of hours rota. This would continue until March 2025.
- Training fellowships were being organised with centres in Glasgow – a 6 month advanced training programme for local trainees interested in a career in anaesthesia.

9.6 **Scottish Society of Anaesthetists** [*Katie Lake*]

- Successful spring meeting, thanks to Fiona Donald for her support.
- Joint meeting with the Association on 28/29 November in Inverness and booking is open.
- Supporting trainees with grants.

Noted that it is difficult to maintain a calendar of events being held across Scotland. SSA is supporting some awards.

9.7 **Association of Anaesthetists Scottish Standing Committee** [*Andrea Harvey*]

Not met since 14 March.

- Last meeting was in February.
- Discussed a Dougal Quaich trainee prize and a poster or an oral presentation on improving perioperative care for patients in Scotland. Not discussed yet with SSA but could maybe do it as joint venture in the future.
- Had spoken with Murray Geddes re the Scottish Governments enforced health roster. All medics were having to change over to this in September.
- Lothian had started to introduce the 9/1 contract, noted that these contracts had been the norm in the west of Scotland for years. In Glasgow they flex into 8/2. Scottish Academy had written to Neil Gray on 9/1 contracts.
- Had been invited to sit on Programme Board of Green Theatre.

9.8 **Scottish Health Technologies Group** [*Jon McGhie*]

- Regulation of devices had now been delayed.
- SG placenta growth – have in English hospitals but not Scotland, raised in discussion at Scottish Government. Identification of pre-eclampsia.

10 **Sustainability** [*Simon Heaney*]

There was an extended discussion following Simon Heaney's presentation which suggested that the current sustainability policy was flawed and not based on sound science. It emphasised the need for a better understanding of climate science. Any change in RCoA's position would have to go before its Council and Trustees and the Sustainability Group.

Action: Fiona Donald

11 **NRFIT** [*Katie Lake*]

- Was a fundamental issue. Been acknowledged and changing the adaptors, compliant by January 2025.

Action: Katie Lake to follow up with Dr Baxter for information and tools related to the NHS England alerts and to write a Scottish update for the newsletter.

12 **AOB**

- **COPES process** – please respond if asked. Replies go to RCoA who prepare a Scottish response.
- **Trainee representation** – no trainee member.
- **Jon McGhie** continuing as a member of the Board.

13 **Dates of Next Meeting, Tuesday 1st October 2024, 10:30 – 15:00 at RCPE**