

## MEETING OF COUNCIL

### Minutes of the Meeting held on 11 September 2024

#### Members present:

##### Elected members:

Dr Claire Shannon, President  
Dr Toni Brunning, Vice President  
Dr Chris Carey, Vice President  
Dr Jonathan Chambers  
Dr Fiona Donald  
Dr Satya Francis  
Professor Mike Grocott  
Dr Sri Gummaraju\*  
Dr Sophie Jackman  
Dr Helgi Johannsson  
Dr Ashwini Keshkamat  
Dr Sunil Kumar  
Dr Felicity Plaat  
Dr Sarah Ramsay\*  
Dr Ramai Santhirapala  
Professor Andrew Smith

Dr Paul Southall  
Dr Michael Swart  
Dr Chris Taylor  
Dr Sarah Thornton  
Dr Matthew Tuck

##### Co-opted members:

Dr Daniele Bryden  
Dr Matthew Davies\*  
Dr Lorraine De Gray  
Dr Simon Howell  
Dr David Urwin  
Dr Daphne Varveris  
Dr Nirmala Soundararajan\*  
Dr David Selwyn  
Dr Roger Sharpe  
Ms Jenny Westaway

#### In attendance:

Mr Jonathan Brüün, Ms Sharon Drake, Mr Russell Ampofo, Mr Graham Blair, Mr Mark Blaney, Ms Judith Tidnam\*, Mr Aaron Woods, Ms Rose Murphy\*, Mr Shaun Lee.

#### Apologies for absence:

Dr Rosalind Bacon, Dr Catherine Bernard, Professor Jonathan Thompson, Dr Elisa Bertoja, Dr Rashmi Rebello, Dr William Donaldson, Dr Simon Ford, Colonel Giles Nordmann, Dr Sandeep Lakhani.

#### Observers:

Ms Frances Bright\*, Mr Peter Kunzmann, Ms Karen Sikka\*, Ms Nicola Morriss\*, Legal Director, Charities, Birketts LLP, Mr Chris Willis-Pickup, Partner, Mishcon de Reya LLP.

*\*Attended the meeting online via Microsoft Teams*

#### Council Ceremonial

A formal ceremonial took place for Council to admit Dr Claire Shannon as President, Dr Toni Brunning and Dr Chris Carey as Vice Presidents for the year 2024 – 2025. Special thanks were given to Dr Fiona Donald and Dr Helgi Johannsson as they demitted from the roles of President and Vice President respectively.

#### 1. Welcome and apologies

The Chair welcomed all members to the Council meeting.

Dr Nirmala (Nimmi) Soundararajan attended her first Council meeting as the Lead Regional Advisor Anaesthesia, replacing Simon Maguire. Council thanked Dr Matthew Davies as this was his final Council meeting as the President of the Association of Anaesthetists. Dr Tim Meek would be joining from 27 September.

## 1.2 Overview of Major Stakeholder Engagement College

The President highlighted the paper circulated in the pack, which provided an overview of major stakeholder engagement since the July meeting.

## 1.3 Deceased members

Council noted the deaths of the following College members, of which the College had been notified since the last Council meeting, and held a minute's silence:

- Dr Mary Newton of Islington, London
- Professor Felicity Reynolds of Petersfield, Hampshire
- Dr Robert Stabler of Ashburton, South Devon
- Dr Alison Budd of Hereford, Herefordshire
- Dr Brian Wilkey of Cambridge, Cambridgeshire
- Dr Mettha Wimalasundera of Surrey, England

## 2. Usual business

### 2.1 Council minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 3 July 2024 were circulated. Council approved the minutes of the 13 March as a true and accurate record with the following corrections:

- Agenda item 6a RCoA Position statement on AAs: A typo to be corrected and a paragraph outlining two points, to be split into two separate paragraphs.
- Agenda item 5 - Faculty of Intensive Care Medicine (FICM) Update: Updates to the text were supplied by the Faculty of Intensive Care Medicine Dean for accuracy.

Council noted that the minutes from the additional Council meeting held on 29 August would be ratified at the next Council meeting on 6 November 2024.

### 2.2 Matters Arising/Actions

Council noted that most of the actions were complete or included on the agenda at the meeting.

## 3. CEO's Update

### 3.1 Proposed changes to the Regulations & Ordinances

*Nicola Morriss joined the meeting online for this item.*

Council received a report setting out a number of updates to the College's Regulations and minor updates to the College's Ordinances, designed to reflect and align with changes to the College's governance since 2022. Changes to Regulations could be made by the Board of Trustees following review by Council. Changes to the Ordinances would have to be further approved by the College's membership at AGM.

**Council unanimously approved the proposed changes to the governing documents and recommended them to the Board of Trustees for approval at their next meeting on 16 October.**

### 3.2 Estates update

The CEO presented an update on the sale of the College estate. The Board of Trustees had approved the approach to dispose of Churchill House. Consultation with the membership and staff regarding the future home for the College would commence in due course, based on a series of 'principles' which had been circulated to Council and Trustees for review and input over the summer. Alternative options of venues for exams would be considered.

## 4. Faculties Updates

### 4.1 Faculty of Intensive Care Medicine

Council received a verbal update from Dr Daniele Bryden from the Faculty of Intensive Care Medicine (FICM).

Mr Bruun, Dr Donald and Dr Shannon had met with the FICM Board on 4 September to discuss the history of the College's governance changes. FICM Board found the discussions and the background paper informative but remained concerned that FICM and its members were not appropriately recognised at the Board of Trustees. Dr Bryden would be sharing a letter with the College's Board of Trustees in due course.

The following matters were discussed:

GPICS Version 3 update: The Guidelines for the Provision of Intensive Care Services (GPICs) version 3 project was in its final stages before going out for another round of consultation, which was expected to happen by the end of the year.

EDI Lead: An Equality, Diversity, and Inclusion (EDI) lead had been appointed. This person would initially work within the Careers Recruitment and Workforce Committee and would eventually extend their role across various work streams. They had contributed to a statement released on 15 August which outlined the efforts being made to ensure that FICM was a safe and supportive space for all its members.

Subcommittee Structure: There had been changes to the roles of two subcommittees outside the major committee structure over the past year.

- Smaller & Specialist Unite Advisory Group (SSUAG): SSUAG was chaired by the Vice Dean and reported directly to FICM Board. SSUAG addressed issues faced by smaller and specialist units in meeting training requirements for ICM trainees. Smaller units often struggled to meet training requirements for various reasons, such as not meeting Guidelines for the Provision of Intensive Care Services (GPIC) standards for ICM consultant staffing or not integrating trainees from different backgrounds. This had led to staffing issues that needed to be addressed to break the cycle. To improve communication, members of SSUAG were now included in all major committees, including the Careers, Recruitment & Workforce Committee (CRW) and Training, Assessment & Quality Committee (TAQ). This aimed to facilitate better back-and-forth communication and allow SSUAG to contribute more directly to solutions.
- IIT Subcommittee: The Intensivists in Training (IIT) Subcommittee had been adjusted to reflect the diverse backgrounds of ICM trainees. It was also informally linked to the system of regional ICM representatives who sat on regional specialty training committees. The faculty had opened committee roles to the best-qualified applicants, allowing IITs to join as trainees and continue as consultants. An example was the AI lead who started as an IIT and would complete their term as a consultant. In October, the first national IIT conference was scheduled to take place. This hybrid event, developed by IITs, aimed to become a traveling educational and networking event.

## 4.2 Faculty of Pain Medicine

Council received a verbal update from Dr Lorraine de Gray, Dean of the Faculty of Pain Medicine (FPM).

Professor Andrew Rice, a fellow of both the College and the FPM, had been appointed as the President of the International Association for the Study of Pain. Congratulations had been extended to him for this significant achievement.

On the topic of accreditation, the FPM had been working with the Anaesthesia Clinical Services Accreditation (ACSA) team over the past year to integrate into the anaesthetic accreditation system. Unfortunately, due to certain constraints, inpatient non-operative pain and outpatient pain did not fit into the current ACSA arrangements. Moving forward, the faculty was considering running an accreditation system in parallel with GIRFT. NHS England had indicated that there might be a budget available from April 2025 to support the development of this system. This initiative aimed to ensure that the guidance and standards set by the faculty were effectively implemented in practice, which was currently not feasible.

## 5. General Updates and Presentations

### 5.1 Anaesthesia Associate (AA) Scope of Practice - confidential

*Chris Willis-Pickup from Mishcon de Reya LLP to join for this item.*

Following concerns about the initial draft of the AA Scope of Practice (SoP) document, Council had requested a second draft in July 2024. The final draft presented at this meeting had been developed following engagement with stakeholders, conducting three additional writing days, and holding a Clinical Reference Group meeting. Further feedback from stakeholders had also been received, including the Association of Anaesthetists, Patient Voices Group and the Clinical Leaders Network.

The following matters were discussed:

Consultation plan: Council noted an included draft consultation plan for the SoP. The consultation process was highlighted as crucial, with the next steps involving reviewing feedback to finalise the document. Council noted the collaborative effort to align the document with current educational standards and attempt to address diverse and often competing stakeholder concerns.

Member briefing for AA SoP Consultation: Council noted a member briefing included in the pack. Council supported the briefing but suggested a more succinct executive summary was added. **Dr Jonathan Chambers agreed to write an executive summary for the member briefing.**

Legal implications and risks: Council received advice from Chris Willis-Pickup from Mishcon de Reya LLP associated with the College's position on AAs and draft Scope of Practice. Mr Willis-Pickup highlighted the importance for the RCoA to continue to take decisions about its position on AAs carefully and strictly in line with the charitable purposes in its Royal Charter, in particular: education, instruction and training for the purpose of maintaining the highest possible standards in the practice of anaesthesia for the protection and benefit of the public.

AA Evaluation and Decision Group - Terms of Reference: Russell Ampofo presented an AA Evaluation and Decision Group - Terms of Reference. **Council approved the term of reference for the AA Evaluation and Decision Group.** The following Terms of Reference were also shared for information:

- AA Committee - Terms of Reference
- Clinical Reference Group - Terms of Reference
- Core writing Group - Terms of Reference

Following further discussion, **Council unanimously approved the draft AA Scope of Practice.**

### 5.2 Update on post-EGM activity: Recruitment

Russell Ampofo presented an update on recruitment as an output from the EGM. A working group had been established post-EGM to liaise with various stakeholders, including Academy of Medical Royal Colleges (AoMRC) and NHS England. Throughout the process various amendments have been scoped for the recruitment process that improve recruitment and retain principles of fairness, flexibility and choice. Proposals that would make recruitment more personalised have been scoped and will be compiled within a report for Council. The scoping work included meetings and/ or focus groups with Anaesthetists in Training, the proposer of the EGM motion and AoMRC.

Several improvements were discussed including:

The council noted the importance of visible and accountable leadership in the recruitment process was identified as important, which would require having more Anaesthetics National Recruitment Office (ANRO) staff at various levels to manage and deliver recruitment operations, ensuring responsive communication, and providing better guidance on the recruitment system. These changes aimed to improve the overall experience for applicants and make the process more efficient and transparent.

### 5.3 Centre for Research and Improvement (CR&I) position on desflurane

Council received a report regarding CR&I's position on desflurane. NHS England had made a commitment to stop using desflurane by early 2024. This position was endorsed in a joint statement from the College and the Association of Anaesthetists, issued at the time of the decommissioning announcement in January 2023.

Council reaffirmed its view that desflurane was not required or essential in clinical practice. **Council delegated to the College's Environmental Group to take forward a response with a final sign off by Council.**

### 5.4 Assisted dying update - confidential

In July 2024, the College commissioned independent research agency Research by Design (RbD) to conduct research on understanding the views of the entire RCoA membership on assisted dying/assisted suicide. The consultation had closed, and data was being assessed. An update would be brought to Council at the November meeting.

## 6. College Boards Minutes and Updates

### 6.1 Education, Training and Examinations Board

Council received an update on the work of the Education, Training and Examinations Board, including the minutes from a meeting held on 3 July 2024.

The following achievements were highlighted:

- Work had begun to benchmark the College organisation against the Science Council Diversity & Inclusion Framework.
- The first meeting of the new CESR Executive Committee had been held in April 2024.
- 105 anaesthetists in training had been recruited to undertake question writing for recruitment.
- The following policies had recently been ratified:
  - examiner performance and
  - reasonable adjustments policy
- 25 new examiners and 23 affiliate examiners had been appointed – the affiliate examiners attended training at the end of May 2024.

### 6.2 Membership, Media and Development Board

Council received an update on Membership, Media and Development Board activity. The following matters were discussed:

Sponsorship related to the recruitment of NHS employees for positions overseas: This was discussed at MMD as the College was increasingly being approached in relation to providing expo space for recruitment agencies, however there was a strong vote in favour that these requests were declined as they were incompatible with the College's role in the current context of a workforce crisis within the NHS.

Backfill with the ELA clinical leads from designated funds: The process had been reviewed and would be sent back to F&RB. One place had been confirmed and a second was in the process of confirming.

Professional conduct process: Council noted that the professional conduct process was being reviewed, including a code of conduct. This matter would come back to Council in due course. As part of this discussion, Council queried the time between member convictions and cases subsequently being brought to Council meetings. The College was currently relying on the GMC to bring cases forward. However, further work was being undertaken to identify a more rapid process.

#### 6.2.1 Membership matter case

Council noted that it had responsibility for membership matters in relation to termination. College Ordinance 3 sets the reasons for termination of membership and rescission of diplomas for the

Royal College of Anaesthetists. The Council shall have power to terminate the membership of any member:

- a) if they are convicted of any criminal offence.
- b) if they have their name erased from the Medical Register by the General Medical Council under section 36 of the Medical Act 1983 (or any statutory re-enactment or modification thereof).
- c) if a Receiving Order is made against them or they make any composition with their creditors.
- d) if at any time the Council, after due enquiry in accordance with the disciplinary proceedings set out in Ordinance 4, shall resolve that the interests of the College so require.

The case presented to Council did not require the instigation of disciplinary proceedings under Ordinance '3d' above.

### **Membership case**

**Council approved the recommendation to terminate the Dr's College membership. No further action was required.**

## **6.3 RCoA Devolved Boards**

There were no updates from the RCoA Welsh Board or RCoA Northern Irish Board.

### RCoA Scottish Board

Dr Daphne Varveris provided a verbal update.

## **7. Co-Opted Member Reports**

### **7.1 Association of Anaesthetists Report**

Matthew Davies provided a verbal update from Association of Anaesthetists.

### **7.2 Centre for Perioperative Care Board (CPOC)**

Council received an update from CPOC. Matters noted included:

Curriculum project: There had been delays to the project as NHSE had asked to review the drafts prior to being sent out to CPOC Board. This had significantly impacted the project timeline, and the completion date will now be the end of 2024. The CPOC team had met with the RCoA Training team, including Dr Chris Carey, to discuss how the medical perioperative curriculum could be implemented. The medical draft was currently out for consultation with RCoA Council, and the public consultation would go live 20 September.

Retained swabs following invasive procedures: CPOC had responded to 6 consultation requests, including ongoing discussions with HSSIB regarding their 'retained swabs following invasive procedures' report, where CPOC has significant concerns about their recommendation.

RCGP: CPOC recently met with the RCGP to explore improved collaboration between the two organisations. The RCGP were undertaking a 3-year workstream in preventative medicine, which linked with prehabilitation/CPOC work.

New perioperative tobacco cessation guide: CPOC had published a new perioperative tobacco cessation guide and dedicated web resource, including an infographic.

#bikeweek: CPOC executed social media presence for #bikeweek in June by launching a new webpage on exercise. Future resources in the pipeline were nutrition and alcohol consumption.

Dr Dave Selwyn's article on 'A blueprint for NHS efficiency' Dr Dave Selwyn's article on 'A blueprint for NHS efficiency' was published in the HSJ in June 2024. The article was shared with Council following the meeting.

### 7.3 Report from the BJA Liaison Group

Council received an update from BJA Liaison Group.

## 8. Matters for Information

### 8.1 New Associate Fellows, Members and Associate Members

Council noted the update and approved the new Associate Fellows, Members and Associate Members as set out in the report .

### 8.2 CCTs for Council

Council noted the recommendations made to the GMC for approval, that CCTs be awarded to those set out in the report, who had satisfactorily completed the full period of higher specialist training in Anaesthesia, or Anaesthesia with Intensive Care Medicine or Pre-Hospital Emergency Medicine where highlighted.

### 8.3 Current Consultations- COPES update

Council noted the update and were invited to feedback via the COPES mechanism.

### 8.4 Regional Advisers Anaesthesia - Changes for September 2024 Council

Council approved following update to Council composition regarding regional advisers for anaesthesia:

North West

Dr Oliver Pratt in succession to Dr Simon Maguire

## 9. Any other business

None where raised.

### Council noted the following upcoming dates:

- Council Christmas Dinner: Tuesday 10 December 2024
- RCoA & Association of Anaesthetists' Joint Council Meeting: Friday 11 April 2025, from 14.00hrs to 17.00hrs followed by a drinks reception
- Annual Dinner (as part of *Anaesthesia 2025*): Wednesday 21 May 2025, Belfast

### Future Meeting dates

#### 2024

Wednesday 6 November 2024 10:00am to 13:30 Online-only via MS Teams

Tuesday 10 December 2024 10:00am to 13:30 Churchill House

#### 2025

Wednesday 5 March 2025 9.30-13.00 Churchill House

Wednesday 14 May 2025 10.00 - 13.00 Online-only via MS Teams

Wednesday 2 July 2025 10:00am to 13:30 Churchill House

Wednesday 10 September 9.30-13.00 Churchill House

Wednesday 5 November 2025 10.00 - 13.00 Online-only via MS Teams

Tuesday 9 December 2025 10.00 - 13.00 Churchill House