

**Vacancy:**

**Project Board Chair for the National Emergency Laparotomy Audit**

The National Emergency Laparotomy Audit (NELA) is seeking to appoint a Project Board Chair to oversee a high-profile national audit. NELA is part of the National Clinical Audit and Patient Outcomes Programme (NCAPOP), overseen by the Healthcare Quality Improvement Partnership (HQIP) and funded by NHS England and the Welsh Government.

The successful candidate will be expected to provide overall leadership to the NELA Project Board. The post will commence as soon as possible, but no later than 30 April 2025.

The aim of NELA is to enable the improvement of the quality of care for patients undergoing, or considered for, emergency laparotomy through the provision of high-quality comparative data from all providers of emergency laparotomy. The Royal College of Anaesthetist’s Centre for Research and Improvement is delivering NELA. NELA is a collaboration between anaesthetic, surgical and other key stakeholders.

**Role**

The postholder’s responsibilities will include providing oversight and governance to NELA in line with overall responsibilities of the Project Board. The postholder will be expected to chair twice-annual meetings of the Project Board, as well as help recruit members to the Project Board when needed.

There is no direct payment available for this role, however all reasonable expenses will be covered by the RCoA.

The role of Chair is a 3-year fixed term contract and is renewable for a further 3-year period, upon successful continued funding of NELA. NELA is currently funded until 30 November 2025, with scope currently for extension until November 2027.

**Person Specification**

This post is open to a holder of a substantive consultant post in a NELA-related discipline, including anaesthesia, surgery, intensive care, emergency medicine, or radiology. Successful applicants will have previous experience chairing boards or committees, risk management, and project governance.

A full job description can be found here: <https://www.rcoa.ac.uk/about-us/current-vacancies>

**For further information regarding the role please contact:**

* Ms Christine Taylor – NELA Project Manager ([ctaylor@rcoa.ac.uk](mailto:ctaylor@rcoa.ac.uk))

**How to apply:**

If you are interested in this post, **please send a CV with contact details for two referees and a covering letter** to the following email address:

[ctaylor@rcoa.ac.uk](mailto:ctaylor@rcoa.ac.uk)

**Closing date for applications: 5pm, Friday 14th March 2025**

**Interview date: TBC**