

**Meeting of the Royal College of Anaesthetists Scottish Board held on Tuesday 1st February 2022 by WebEx.**

<b>Present</b>	Dr Daphne Varveris	Chair
	Dr Jon McGhie	Vice Chair (Elected Member)
	Dr Kate Carey	Elected Member
	Dr Ross Junkin	Elected Member
	Dr Gary Rodgers	Elected Trainee Representative
<b>Ex Officio &amp; Co-opted</b>	Dr Monika Beatty	Lead RA in Intensive Care Medicine
	Professor Lesley Colvin	SIGN
	Dr Paul Fettes	Scottish Society of Anaesthetists
	Dr Nicola Hogan	Co-opted Trainee Member
	Dr Alastair McDiarmid	RA-A North East Scotland
	Dr Sonya McKinlay	Elected Member
	Dr Neil O'Donnell	Workforce Lead
	Dr Ann Shearer	Lay Representative
	Dr John Wilson	RA-A South East Scotland
<b>In Attendance</b>	Dr Fiona Donald	President, RCoA
	Jono Bruun	representing SMT, RCoA
<b>Apologies</b>	Dr Paul Bourke	Chair AAGBI Scottish Standing Committee
	Dr Pete Paisley	Joint Lead RA, Pain Medicine
	Dr Laura McGarrity	Representing Perioperative Medicine
	Dr Sarah Ramsay	Elected Member
	Dr Alastair Thomson	Clinical Director
	Dr Malcolm Sim	Academic Anaesthesia Representative
	Dr Malcolm Smith	RA, West of Scotland
	Dr Cameron Weir	RA-A, East of Scotland

**1 Welcome, Introductions and Apologies**

Daphne Varveris welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Steve Cole, Vice Chair, had stepped down from the Board and Monika Beatty was attending her last meeting. Both will be missed and were thanked for their work on behalf of the Board.

It was hoped that a representative from paediatrics and child health would join the Board.

An approach would be made to the Association of Paediatric Anaesthetists to ask if they can recommend someone who can represent the paediatric viewpoint.

Daphne Varveris thanked members for their support during the last elections.

**2 Approval of the Minute of the Meeting held on 5 October 2021**

The minute of the meeting held on 5 October was approved.

### **Actions:**

- The redeployment issue in NHS Tayside been resolved/is being resolved. The Trust had agreed to fund an additional clinical fellow post.
- Lindsay Cole was the new eastern representative for SALG.
- College Tutors Webinar – good programme. Some feedback that Malcolm and John might be interested in. Not enough time to discuss some issues. Meeting on 23 February dedicated to the new curriculum.

## **3 Education, Training, Recruitment and Exams**

### **3.1 Training Recovery, Redeployment and New Curriculum**

- Issues regarding the new curriculum.
- Trying to maintain training that has been lost (from the west).
- Specific point on the new curriculum – multi trainer – been technical issues. MTR form is long and some sections not relevant to specific levels of halo training. Issue has been raised along with others. RCoA aware there are problems and these are being looked at. MTR – technical aspect with the website. Unsure if questions are 100% relevant in its current format. **Action: Fiona Donald and Jono Bruun will take back to RCoA and speak to the assessment group and technical people.**
- Temporary redeployment noted.
- LLP – the main interface which trainees interact with the College. Not good if not working properly. One of the key messages from anaesthetists in training.

### **3.2 Recruitment and Retention (Anaesthesia for the Future) [Jon McGhie]**

Main points summarised in the circulated report. Core recruitment in March for 4 days (4-8<sup>th</sup>), online interviews with 2 examiners. Ranking still done by online assessments. Raised by CMO possible deficit in foundation years. Oversubscribed last couple of years, always recruited 100%. Will keep a watching brief.

### **3.3 Workforce Planning [Neil O'Donnell]**

- Additional trainee numbers, approval from Scottish Government to increase recruitment numbers from August 2022. Approval for new ICM funded post that was requested. Continuing on path to establish a proper ICM training cohort. Thanks to Monika Beatty for getting this done.
- Consensus opinion is for Scotland to join the rest of the UK and run February 2023 recruitment if reasonable numbers of NTN salaries released after August 2022 ICM recruitment.
- Agreement from Scottish Government to fund up to 12 CT3 top up posts for August 2022 if they are required. Will only come online once LAT posts have been filled and only for trainees who require a CT3 top up.
- If continue with current modelling likely to have a deficit. Next submission around CT recruitment for August 2023 will look to make an argument for an increase in CT4 posts.
- It was noted that RCoA is currently undertaking another workforce survey and has linked up with Neil O'Donnell. Action: Daphne Varveris to establish if the CfSD has a workstream and to link Neil O'Donnell with the appropriate team.
- Allowance for elective treatment centres are always included in submissions.

### **Training Issues**

- ST4 recruitment – issue raised by trainee representative in the eastern deanery. In 2024 only one job available and then following there were many posts available.

Asked if this could be evened out? 2023/24 – numbers predicted are sufficient – should be enough posts in the eastern deanery, seemed to be a breakdown in communication. Sufficient numbers across the country. Only one CCT post this year, year after 10, then year after 3 or 4.

- LLP – small bugs and some bigger issues with the main College interface. Trainees experienced problems.
- Education development - now being rolled out. College tutors should remind trainees to complete the forms.
- Temporary redeployment – been greatly reduced. Some specific issues in east of Scotland deanery.
- NES Scottish trainees' survey closes today.
- Looking at national simulation strategy over the next few months.
- Exams – technical issues been resolved. RCoA had instigated an external review of exams, governance approach being taken.
- RCoA keen to increase trainee representation on Council.
- Trainees like to work where they train. Split of jobs across Scotland is determined by NES. Scottish trainees have always been quite parochial. Determined by market forces.
- No issue with fluctuations in posts – difficult to predict what is going to happen. Fluctuations are inevitable and cannot be controlled.

### 3.4 RA(As) Update – Including ICM and Pain *[Monika Beatty]*

- Awarded the 16 expansion posts that they had requested.
- Interest in specialty remains high.
- Expectation high proportion of trainees will be dual training – if unfilled in one region and over filled in another will have a look to see if need to move a post.
- Still a lag and a lot of consultant vacancies across Scotland. Pandemic has taken its toll. CCT output still does not fill demand.
- New curricula – required a lot of dialogue and work.
- Waiting to hear outcome of discussions of examiners group.
- Unvaccinated patients proving difficult and challenging.
- Number of consultants off on long term sick and managing rotas remain challenging and morale remains low.

It was noted that Radha Sundaram has taken over as lead from April. Monika thanked the Board.

**Report on Pain** – generally situation is positive. Chronic pain remains under pressure, especially in the west. Need to revisit and via the Scottish Board. Funding needs to be protected to ensure no cuts in community funding.

### 3.5 Scottish Multi-Professional Anaesthetics Assistants Development Group

- Direction from the College is unclear. Is this a good time for SMAAD to be moved?
- Course is up and running – have list of competencies that need to be achieved – sense of urgency – Scottish Government want course to be finalised with first intake at the beginning of May. Big push to get standardised course. Still looking at significant input from the College. Course competencies will need to be reviewed very soon. How does the College want to support it? 1.5 hours need to be given every other week.
- Noted that RCoA would be unhappy with a course being developed in that period.

- A meeting with Fiona Donald is being set up for March and it was hoped that all could manage to attend.

### 3.6 Anaesthesia Associates

- A difficult area as there are only 22 AAs in Scotland.
- Move to significantly increase that number. GMC has plans to regulate, been delayed until 2023. College is working to produce a curriculum.
- Need to be aware that the role of AAs is not always understood.
- Supervision is made clear.
- A few problems to be overcome before AAs become part of the workforce.
- The curriculum is looking very good.
- Confusion between associates and assistants.

## 4 RCoA President's and Senior Management Team Report

- 7 new and one re-elected Council members who will take up post in March.
- External review of exams had been commissioned and it is hoped that this will be available within 6 months. The recent internal review of exams had concluded and it was hoped to share results soon.
- No trace, wrong place campaign. Regulation 28 served to the College in response to a death following undetected oesophageal intubation.
- Launched new 5-year strategic plan. Encourage all to look at it. Includes a new mission statement and new values. Will shape the College's direction in the next 5 years. Throughout the plan commitments to becoming a responsive/listening organisation that listens to all.
- New governance – reduction in size of trustees, being presented at the Extraordinary General Meeting on 10 February 2022.

## 5 Clinical Quality and Research

### 5.1 Perioperative Medicine (CPOC)

- Laura McGarrity and Sonya McKinlay are the liaisons.
- Not being included in some of the workstreams.
- Groups meeting February and March.
- Scheduled to speak with David MacDonald when in spring hopefully will have more information. **Action: David MacDonald to be invited to speak at next meeting.**
- Important to get anaesthetic representation and to get involved at this stage.
- Noted that there are many issues specific to Scotland that RCoA Scottish Board is not being involved in.
- Discussion about National Treatment Centres.

### 5.2 Academic Anaesthesia/National Audit [*Malcolm Sim/Sarah Ramsay*]

Support for national audit in Scotland.

### 5.3 SIGN Update [*Lesley Colvin*]

- Guideline production slowed down by covid.
- Letter circulated by CMO to all HBs that SIGN guidelines would take precedence over NICE guidelines.
- Couple of SIGN working groups being developed on:
  - Widening the Reach of SIGN, including the role of the Colleges;
  - Involving Early Career Professionals in the work of SIGN.
- National audits – SNAP3 – encourage all to engage.

**Note:** Gary Rodgers had worked with Sharon Drake to improve access for Scottish trainees to the Associate PI Scheme. Gary can assist people through the process.

#### 5.4 **ACSA**

- College has new online website.
- Keen to promote to devolved nations.
- Congratulations to St Johns in Livingstone, first accredited hospital in Scotland.

#### 5.5 **Safe Anaesthesia Liaison Group** *[Daphne Varveris]*

- No recent meeting but new website.
- Full complement of representatives.
- Due to be a patient update.
- Prep, stop, block been launched.

### 6 **Communication and External Affairs**

#### 6.1 **Scottish Academy** *[Daphne Varveris]*

Scottish Academy had been holding regular update meetings in-between their regular meetings.

##### **External Advisers**

- A Health Board had received a complaint about an External Adviser and governance of this type of issue was being looked at.
- Sharon Drake had looked at support for training for EAs. In England there is a module. Option that some Scottish Assessors might like to try it but potential fee and licence required.
- Looking at getting some advisers onto a training course in 2022.
- Job plans are approved at multiple levels in England and there is no process where a recommendation can be made to Foundation Trusts what job plans should be.
- Noted that these issues had become very complicated. Unsure who to share with in the College.

**Action: Fiona Donald to speak to Sharon Drake about these issues.**

#### 6.2 **CMO: Meeting held on 27 January 2022** *[Daphne Varveris]*

- Had discussed how the CMO's office could improve the lot of trainees.
- Moving forward with national simulation strategy.
- Current study budget not fit for purpose. Capped at £500 in Scotland. Trainees expected to pay for ALS, should not be part of the study budget as required for training/the course. Providing more local training embedded in the curriculum might help.
- Welcomed the provision of mental health support. At the moment difficult to feel valued. Facilities – been measured by the GMC national training survey. Asked for a commitment to provide adequate facilities, to set standards and audit all facilities.

#### 6.3 **Scottish Newsletter/Media Engagement** *[Daphne Varveris]*

- Newsletter had been issued.
- Spoke about media development in Scotland.
- Some discussion about promoting points specific to Scotland.
- Spoke to Peter about getting a more regular newsletter.
- Gary and Nicola working on the next one, appreciate ideas and contributions.

## **7 Reports from Committees and Other Groups**

### **7.1 Obesity Alliance Scotland** *[Daphne Varveris]*

- Asking for continuing support.
- Presented at Scottish Academy – resources available for teaching.

### **7.2 SHAAP** *[Daphne Varveris]*

- Pushing MUP.
- New Bill pushed by Conservatives about right to recovery.

### **7.3 Scottish Health Technologies Group** *[Jon McGhie]*

- Good website.
- Good information on MESH.

### **7.4 Lay Committee**

A number of lay representatives had been appointed and are meeting later this month.

## **8 Dates of Meetings 2022**

- Tuesday 7 June at RCPE, 10:30 – 3pm with lunch
- Tuesday 4 October