

## **Role Description - Ethics Committee Chair for the Royal College of Anaesthetists**

Applications are invited for the unremunerated voluntary position of Chair of the RCoA Ethics Committee. The post is for an initial term of 3 years, extended if appropriate for a further 3 years.

### **Description of the post**

Medicolegal and ethical dilemmas in clinical practice are increasingly common. Sitting as a link between the RCoA and the wider profession, the Chair, in conjunction with the Ethics Committee will identify and provide independent critical analysis to the College on matters of ethics of particular concern to anaesthetists and pain specialists and the public they serve.

In addition to clinical and patient representation, the Ethics Committee membership includes a legal expert and clinical ethicist.

### **Specific duties**

To be responsible for responding to requests from members and public bodies for guidance on general ethical issues in anaesthesia and pain.

To support the College in providing speakers, education and educational resources on ethics-related issues.

To generate regular Bulletin articles, and blogs on ethical issues and contribute to the development of webpages on ethical issues within the RCoA website.

Maintain regular electronic communication with the College to address more pressing issues as they arise as well as outcomes from the face-to-face meetings.

From time to time, the Chair will need to liaise with internal College groups to address the ethical impact of their work.

### **External Representation and Liaison**

The role entails liaison with other organisations and individuals to support the work of the Committee including:

- The Association of Anaesthetists
- Faculty of Intensive Care Medicine
- Faculty of Pain Medicine
- Academy of Medical Royal Colleges
- Other medical Royal Colleges
- General Medical Council
- British Medical Association

## Line of reporting

The Chair will report to the Chair of the Clinical Quality & Research Board (CQ&RB), currently Dr Claire Shannon. The staff contact for this role will be Ms Sharon Drake, RCoA Deputy CEO/Director of Clinical Quality & Research.

The committee will report to the CQ&RB on a half-yearly basis. The report will include details of responses to ethical issues raised by members of the College or the public.

The Clinical Quality team support the work of the Ethics Committee

## Resources and budget

- The Ethics Committee meets twice a year; one face-to-face meeting and one virtual. Travel and subsistence will be covered for face-to-face meetings including attendance at RCoA Council or CQ&R Board if required.
- The College holds a restricted Ethics and Law trust which on request can be used to support ethics and law activities within the College.

## Person specification

Essential:

- Registered licenced medical practitioner
- A member in good standing of the College or its Faculties
- Demonstrable expertise and experience of medical ethics
- Excellent oral and written communication skills
- Strong influencing skills but able to balance issues and remain diplomatic throughout
- Strong leadership skills and ability to work constructively with senior staff
- A track record of quality improvement work or campaign work in the field of medical ethics

Desirable:

- Formal qualification in Law or Ethics
- Experience of communicating with the media

## Application process

If you believe that you are the right person for this role, please submit an abbreviated focused CV (maximum 2 pages) and a 650-word statement which addresses the person specification. At the beginning of your statement please state your name, College Reference Number and current membership category at the College. Please send your CV and statement to Liz Jackson at [ClinicalQuality@rcoa.ac.uk](mailto:ClinicalQuality@rcoa.ac.uk) **by 5pm on Friday 29<sup>th</sup> September 2023.**

Interviews will take place on either the afternoon of Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> October or the afternoon of Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> October. The incoming chair will take the post up in 2024, but as part of succession planning will be expected to attend the Ethics Committee meeting with the current chair on Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> November 2023 14.00-16.00.