Royal College of Anaesthetists
Scottish Board objectives 2018

Meeting three times each year in Edinburgh, the RCoA Scottish Board provides an important link between the College and RCoA fellows and members based in Scotland.

Office bearers and elected members of the Scottish Board are joined at the meetings by representatives from College Council, including either the president or vice presidents and members of the RCoA’s senior management team. The Board benefits from input from the Scottish Intercollegiate Guidelines Network and academic anaesthesia as it focuses on initiatives such as POM and health improvement work.

Needless to say, these are busy meetings that cover a lot of ground including quality and safety, professionalism and excellence, training and workforce planning, and links with Scottish Government work. They offer a chance to ‘link up’ activity in Scotland and provide an opportunity to highlight issues to the College Council at the RCoA.

The Board also runs an annual meeting with College Tutors and regional training leads which provides an opportunity to share work more widely and to gain valuable input from the wider anaesthetic, ICM and pain medicine communities in Scotland to inform our work.

Relationships with devolved structures
In promoting consistent and high standards of training and practice in anaesthesia, the RCoA Scottish Board maintains a cohesive and consistent approach to all aspects of College core business and the RCoA five-year strategy across the UK, while acknowledging and interacting with the increasingly divergent healthcare system in Scotland.

- Developing and strengthening links with devolved structures including the Scottish Government Health and Social Care Directorates, CMO and NHS Education Scotland through the Scottish Deanery structure and NES Specialty Training Board.
- Developing our relationship with the Scottish Academy, recognising its strength as a cohesive generic voice of the profession while retaining appropriate direct specialty specific input.
- Contributing by influence and representation to a wide range of groups relating to health care in Scotland.
- Endorsing the Scottish CMO’s ‘Realistic Medicine Report’ (2016) and follow-on report ‘Realising Realistic Medicine’ (2017) and the National Clinical Strategy (2016) and leading development of a specialty based response to align implementation of these strategies with College strategic objectives.

Delivery of training in Scotland
- Ensuring UK consistency of standards of training, particularly relating to entry criteria, appointments, curricula and assessment frameworks.
- Ensuring optimal delivery of training, particularly relating to the evolution of ACCS training.
- Supporting Scottish Regional Advisors in Anaesthesia, ICM and Pain Medicine in delivery of the curriculum.
- Supporting implementation of advanced training in remote and rural anaesthesia.
• Inputting into developments such as the new electronic lifelong learning platform and the curriculum rewrite to align with GMC requirements

**Workforce planning**
Our active engagement with the Scottish Government Health and Social Care Directorates and NHS Education Scotland on medical workforce continues to have significant influence. We continue to press for a sensible balanced solution to workforce pressures including expansion of CT1 posts, maintaining ST3 numbers and building an ICM training establishment that is not at the expense of anaesthesia. We ensure this work is linked to wider UK workforce planning though membership of RCoA Workforce Advisory Group.

The Board is active in promoting recruitment and retention across undergraduate and postgraduate arenas.

**Promoting the specialty and encouraging recruitment and retention**
- Working with the College to promote awareness of our specialty to medical students and foundation doctors.
- Working with NHS Education for Scotland’s ‘StART – Strategy for Attracting & Retaining Trainees’ programme.

**Consultants**
We continue to promote the added value of a trained doctor service delivered by consultants, noting the particular need for explicit mechanisms for career progression in front line acute specialties. We remain concerned about the ongoing threat to SPA time, continued issues around 9+1 contracts and ongoing suspension of the Scottish Distinction Awards system. We have highlighted to the Scottish Health Secretary the specific risks of these disincentives at a key time where widespread senior medical engagement is required in the implementation of the Government’s National Clinical Strategy and CMO’s work on Realising Realistic Medicine and in building resilience of front line services in the current financial climate.

**Quality and patient safety**
The Board recognises the value of Scottish Patient Safety and Quality Improvement work and is developing a range of initiatives to contribute to the delivery of the Government’s Scottish Patient Safety Programme and the Quality Strategy. In partnership with the AAGBI Scottish Standing Committee, the Board has founded the Scottish Anaesthesia Quality and Safety Group which aims to share good practice and learning across the specialty. The Board is supporting delivery of QI Training in Scottish Anaesthesia.

**Standards – Anaesthesia Clinical Service Accreditation**
We are actively promoting uptake of ACSA both by individual anaesthetic departments at hospital level and in partnership work with Health Improvement Scotland through their developing Quality of Care Review program.

**Supporting trainees and promoting professionalism**
The Board is supporting implementation of the Scottish CMO/Scottish Academy work on Professionalism and Excellence in Scottish Medicine. This includes leadership development, hosting a national Scottish Clinical Leadership Fellow, promoting structured leadership development in delivery of anaesthetic training and, in partnership with Scottish Government Health Workforce, systematically assessing and improving trainee working patterns through the use of Professional Compliance Analysis Tool (PCAT).

**Supporting academic anaesthesia**
The Board has promoted and encouraged development of undergraduate specialty related intercalated science degrees and recognises the absolute value of maintaining and
developing academic anaesthesia through training. The Board is fully supportive of the need to maintain career posts in academic anaesthesia, to support University Departments of Anaesthesia and to ensure senior academic posts are included in our workforce planning influence. We look forward to working with the academic community in delivering the upcoming RCoA Undergraduate Educational Framework.

Supporting non-medical roles in anaesthesia and critical care
The Board supports the work of SMAAD in raising standards and developing consistency of recognition and practice across the professions providing assistance for the anaesthetist and is contributing to further work on non-medical role development through the ACCP and PA-A work of the College and NHS Scotland.

Promoting the RCoA perioperative medicine initiative in Scotland
The Board is supporting an active input to the College engagement and implementation strategy in Scotland and has set up a Scottish Perioperative Medicine leads group.

Promoting public health and health improvement
The Board is fully supportive of the Scottish Academy commitments on cross-specialty action on health improvement and in playing an active part in the profession’s responsibility to address societal and behavioural issues associated with ill health including smoking, obesity and physical inactivity.

Supporting anaesthesia education
Scottish FRCA preparation continues to be supported by successful Final, Primary and Mock OSCE courses run on behalf of the Board by an enthusiastic consultant group.

The Board works with other professional organisations in Scotland including Scottish Society of Anaesthetists, AAGBI Scottish Standing Committee and Scottish Intensive Care Society to deliver a collaborative, co-ordinated, accessible programme of high quality meetings and events throughout the year.

Communication with College members and fellows in Scotland

- Improving engagement with the profession in Scotland, including a commitment to participate in College activities in Scotland.
- A three-monthly e-newsletter to Scottish members with updates from across our workstreams
- Supporting the ongoing dynamic development of the Scottish RCoA Trainee Forum.

Dr Sarah Ramsay
Chair, RCoA Board for Scotland