



**ROYAL COLLEGE OF OBSTETRICIANS AND GYNAECOLOGISTS**  
**Minutes of a Meeting of Council held at the RCOG and virtually on**  
**Friday, 30 June 2023**

**PRESENT**

President	Miss Raneer Thakar (Chair)
Senior Vice President, Global Health	Professor Hassan Shehata
Vice President, Clinical Quality	Mrs Geeta Kumar (present to item 10)
Vice President, Membership and Workforce	Dr Laura Hipple
Vice President, Academia and Strategy	Professor Asma Khalil
Vice President, Education	Mr Ian Scudamore (present to item 9)

**ELECTED FELLOWS**

Dr Jyotsna Acharya  
Professor Dilly Anumba  
Dr Alastair Campbell  
Dr Mausumi Das  
Professor Stergios Doumouchtsis  
Professor Colin Duncan  
Mr Sujeewa Fernando  
Miss Fatima Husain  
Mr Andrew Leather  
Dr Hans Nagar  
Dr Suzanne O’Sullivan  
Mr Andrew Pickersgill  
Mr Andrew Sizer  
Professor Basky Thilaganathan

**ELECTED MEMBERS**

Dr George Attilakos  
Dr Jenny Barber  
Dr Hlupekile Chipeta  
Dr William Dudill  
Dr Chimwemwe Kalumbi  
Dr Vanitha Kumar  
Mr Alastair McKelvey  
Dr Javaid Muglu  
Dr Hanan Mustafa  
Dr Claire Thompson  
Dr William Parry-Smith

**MEMBERS**

Dr Janet Barter, FSRH President  
Dr Kat Barton MRCOG, Trainees’ Committee Vice Chair  
Ms Jane Plumb, Women’s Voices Lead  
Dr Heidi Stelling MRCOG, Trainees’ Committee Chair  
Dr Eman Toeima, RCOG Specialty and Associate Specialist and Locally Employed Doctors Lead

**IN ATTENDANCE**

Chief Executive	Ms Kate Lancaster
Executive Director, External Affairs	Mr Ben Butler
Executive Director, Education and Quality	Ms Carly Edwards

## **1 Welcome**

The President welcomed all to the meeting.

## **2 Apologies for absence**

Apologies for absence were received from:

Sherif Abdel-Fattah FRCOG

Adam Balen FRCOG

Emma Crosbie FRCOG

Peter von Dadelszen FRCOG

Jonathan Frost MRCOG

Joseph Iskaros FRCOG

Angharad Jones MRCOG

Philip Rolland FRCOG

Melanie Tipples FRCOG

## **3 Procedure for Business**

**3.1** RCOG Confidentiality Agreement and Declaration of Interest and Good Standing had been circulated. Council were asked to complete and return the form if they had not done so within the last year.

## **4 Minutes and Matters Arising**

### **4.1 Resolved:**

THAT the minutes of the Council meeting held on 28 April 2023 (A1091) and 8 June 2023 (A1092) were approved.

### **4.2 Actions Record**

The actions from the April meeting were noted. All actions had been closed.

An update was noted from an action from the February meeting that a rota for Council attending ceremonies will be created this year to be implemented for 2024. Council members are required to attend at least two ceremonies in a year, but encouraged to attend more.

Saturday ceremonies, which were suggested to trial, are not a viable option due to additional resources required.

## **5 Obituaries**

### **5.1 Resolved:**

THAT the sympathy of Council be extended to the relatives of the following:

Mr Yusuf Abrahams – Fellow of England

Dr Theodore Komla Agble – Fellow of Ghana

Professor Nimi Dimkpa Briggs – Fellow of Nigeria

Mr James Douglas Ellis – Fellow of England

Professor Christopher James Gabert Sutton – Fellow of England

Dr Nicola Gail Mitchell-Jones – Member of England

Professor Edwin Saviour Grech – Fellow of Malta

Mr Stephen Derek Quinn – Fellow of England

Mr Robert Glyndwr Walker - Fellow of England

Dr Hassan Abdellatif Hassan Youssef – Fellow of Egypt

### **5.2 Tribute to Professor Christopher Sutton**

The tribute was given by the Fellows' representative for North West.

## **6 President**

### **6.1 President report**

The President shared a report of her recent activities, and highlighted that the RCOG's annual World Congress and India Day jointly with FOGSI were hosted at the College in June and both were a great success. The President thanked the Congress organising team for their hard work to deliver the Congress.

The President noted sincere congratulations to the Immediate Past President, Mr Edward Morris, for receiving the award of Commander of the Order of the British Empire (CBE) in the King's Birthday Honours list.

It was noted that the President would be attending the European Four Countries meeting in September hosted by the Netherlands which has a focus on training; a request will be shared inviting trainees to apply, with two trainees being awarded with funding to attend.

The President shared with Council that the Sims Black Award for 2023 had been awarded to Professor Dilly Anumba who will be travelling to Ghana, and Professor Peter von Dadelszen who will be travelling to Malaysia.

The President presented updates on her three Priorities: To present recommendations and oversee delivery of RCOG activity in relation to improved gynaecology surgery training; to reshape the College's inequalities work to focus on addressing racism and bias in the O&G profession and supporting members and fellows in the delivery of care and; to drive the College's response to climate change and the need for improved environmental sustainability in the O&G profession. A virtual workshop on sustainability and climate change at the RCOG would be held in July which members and other stakeholders are invited to attend. Further updates would be shared with Council and the President welcomed any thoughts to be sent to her.

The President will be meeting with the Academy for Medical Royal Colleges to discuss the recently announced 48 hour strike by senior doctors due to take place in July. A Council member queried if the College had been asked for a statement on the consultant strikes and whether they would be sharing guidance for members who are not members of the BMA; the President responded that the Academy for Medical Royal Colleges released a statement on behalf of the Colleges regarding the junior doctor strikes, there hadn't been a statement planned as yet for the consultant strikes as they had just been announced but further discussions would take place and the President would keep Council updated.

A Council member thanked the President for sharing the mitigation letter signed by the RCOG along with other organisations to a judge on a case regarding telemedicine abortion where a woman was sentenced to 28 months in prison after pleading guilty to procuring drugs to induce an abortion after the legal limit. The judge subsequently made comments that the letter was 'inappropriate'. The Council member felt that the letter was well intentioned but was concerned with the advisability of the College taking this action.

The President responded that the following Council's vote in 2017 to support the removal of criminal sanctions associated with abortion, work has been undertaken by the College with other organisations to support a change in the law. The particular case referenced was particularly sad and difficult, and it was felt it was in the public interest to act, jointly with the other organisations who signed the letter. The President is proud of the College for taking this action to support women, and that the judge commented that the letter improved their understanding of telemedicine abortion.

A Council member commented that this case shows that the College has an important role to act bravely in difficult and challenging cases.

The President noted that the Government's Long-term Workforce Plan was announced during the meeting with the Government confirming £2.4billion of funding for the workforce. A summary will be shared with Council.

## **7 Introduction from new Council members**

The following new members of Council introduced themselves:

Dr Eman Toeima, SAS/LED Lead

Dr Kat Barton, Trainees Committee Vice Chair

## **8 Women's Network**

The Women's Voices Lead noted the circulated written update on recent activities of the Network and Women's Voices Panel.

It was noted that two new co-Vice Chairs have been appointed to the Women's Network, Ms Emma Crookes and Ms Freya El-Baz, and four new members have been appointed to the committee. The biographies of the members were shared with Council. It is planned to commence recruitment for a new clinical member for the Network soon.

The Senior Vice President thanked the Women's Voices Lead for the Network's contributions to the Congress. It was queried whether the Network would consider reporting to a future Council meeting on the plight of refugee women; the Women's Voices Lead responded that they'd welcome further discussion on this. The Network are also forming a plan to host webinars, which will be discussed at the next Council meeting.

## **9 Education**

### **9.1 Report on Education and Exam activities**

The Vice President for Education presented an analysis of candidate performances from the January 2023 MRCOG Part 1 and 2 and May 2023 Part 3 exams.

The Part 3 exam in May was held both as face-to-face and remote exam. All Part 3 international centres have been re-established following the pandemic with the exception of Hong Kong. As part of the MRCOG global expansion plans, a new Part 3 examination centre in Malaysian was successfully launched in May, with plans for a Mumbai centre to open in November this year taking the total to nine international centres. Further expansion is planned for the future.

The pass rate for the May diet is lower than previous diets which may change as the post-Covid back log is addressed and clinical training reinstated, and may also reflect the exam being more difficult. It is important that appropriate standard setting is in place to ensure consistency between days and diets; the University of Plymouth are assisting with trialling the Angoff method of standard setting.

It is proposed to continue to hold face to face exams for the Part 3 going forward, with the remote exam as a back-up option; a proposal will formally be taken to Education Board and Council.

A Council member raised that trainees prefer the virtual exam, however it may improve performance. The Vice President responded that when the exams are held concurrently face-to-face and remotely, there has not been found a significant difference in outcome. The Exams and Assessment Committee will be analysing the data for discussion and consideration at Education Board, before it is brought back to Council.

A Council member raised that it is important to consider the benefits of the virtual exam before taking a decision, particularly for certain regions of the World where membership rates are low.

A Council member queried what the cost difference is for the College and candidates between the face-to-face and remote exam; the Executive Director for Education and Quality responded that the Part 3 does not generate income and the costs to candidates reflect the costs of delivering the exam, the virtual exam is more expensive for candidates, and that the fees for candidates depends on their location as there is country banding which is aligned with the World Bank. It was noted that the expansion of Part 3 centres will also assist international candidates with their travel costs.

A Council member queried why exam fees are higher for International than UK candidates; it was responded that the country banding model was set and approved in 2020, this is currently being reviewed and an update will be shared in future with Council.

Work is also taking place to review and tidy the examiner database, communication with examiners will follow shortly.

A Council member queried whether there is a shortage of examiners for the Part 3 and whether Council can help encourage colleagues to come forward; the Vice President responded that there is not a shortage for the face-to-face exam but there are difficulties recruiting examiners for the remote exam.

The Advanced Training Review is moving forwards as planned, with some meetings impacted by the industrial strikes, and is on track for GMC submission at the end of the summer. The consultation process received positive engagement; with supportive feedback for the proposed changes to the curricula and structure of advanced training, as well as supportive challenges and ideas for improvements. A consistent and strong message from stakeholders, supported a later implementation date of August 2024. This will allow concerns to be addressed regarding the timeline for implementing the required changes to Training Programmes and the dissemination of transition information to all stakeholders. Subject to approval, supporting materials will be made available in February 2024 with the implementation planned for August 2024.

The Learning Management System Project (LMS), RCOG Learning, has now completed with almost 9000 registered users, and work transferring to the Education team to continue to develop and maintain the RCOG Learning site as part of core business.

It was noted that the proposal to uncouple the specialty training programme into basic and higher training, following discussion at the April Council meeting which did not give strong support for the proposal with concern about the timing with the Advanced Training Review, will be revisited in autumn 2024 following the implementation of the Advanced Training Review which is the Education teams' priority for the next 12 months. Council members supported revisiting this proposal in the future.

The Trainees Committee Chair asked how long derogation of the curriculum will last; it was responded that this is a decision for HEE.

## **10 Clinical Quality**

### **10.1 Report on Clinical Quality Activities**

The Vice President for Clinical Quality reported that the Scientific Impact Paper No. 73 Management of Impacted Fetal Head at Caesarean Birth was published in June timed to coincide with the lead developer, Dr Katie Cornthwaite's oral presentation at the annual Congress. A key publication related to fetal pillow was retracted shortly after the publication and the resulting necessary revisions to the guidance are in progress, and a related statement has been published to accompany the SIP.

A Council member highlighted there was much social media activity following the withdrawal of the fetal pillow paper, and that it is important to review messaging in the guidance following this retraction.

The OASIS2 Study results launch was held at Union Street in May with over 100 attendees, featuring presentations on trial outcomes and a panel discussion focused on broader efforts to reduce perineal trauma. The sustainability activities following the conclusion of the programme have been completed.

The Clinical Quality Team is preparing a bid for the third phase of the Avoiding Brain Injury in Childbirth (ABC) project to DHSC, due to be submitted in July.

A Council member queried the process of involvement in work related to genomics and cancer, and expressed an interest for future work on this topic. It was responded that this will be looked into and message conveyed to chair of Genomics committee. An update will be shared with the member.

## **11 Global Health**

### **11.1 Report on Global Health Activities**

The Senior Vice President for Global Health reported that the College ran a successful hybrid Congress between 12-14 June 2023 delivering an extensive scientific programme. There were 550 delegates in-person at Union Street and 2,000 online; reaching delegates in 92 countries around the world. More than fifteen British O&G specialist societies were represented at the meeting, and there were many meetings were held with the College's International Representative Committee Chairs.

A Council member congratulated on the hosting of a successful Congress, and that they felt the programme was good with diverse topics, relevant to both UK and international attendees.

A Council member commented that they felt the hybrid format worked effectively, and that it would be important to review feedback from delegates to extract ideas for the future. The Vice President responded that the feedback data was being analysed and themes collated. The interactive mobile application, food and AV have also received positive feedback.

The President noted that workshops are also popular and will be considered for next time. The President also noted the Trainees reception which was important to hold, and thanked Council members who attended this event.

A Council member suggested that social events are popular and suggested that more could be offered next time; the Vice President responded that this will be considered for next time and that they are important but also need to balance with the cost and resource to arrange.

The inaugural pilot of the Advocacy training module for health workers on combating female genital mutilation (FGM) was held in Egypt in May in partnership with the University of Alexandria and Doctors Against FGM. The module has been in development since 2019, and incurred delays due to the Covid pandemic. The module aims to raise healthcare workers' awareness and better equip them with updated knowledge, understanding, skills, competencies and attitudes to combat the medicalisation of FGM and help reduce this harmful practice globally. The course was delivered using didactic interactive lectures, documentary film, and smaller group work using case-based learning and role play. The lectures were delivered by a multidisciplinary team consisting of a medical professional, a lawyer, and a Religious Imam. A report is being produced which will be shared with Council. It is hoped that further funding can be secured to run the course in other countries.

A Council member queried whether the College could advocate for women in other countries where FGM is not medicalised; the Vice President responded that there are many NGOs working in this area with specialist experience, the College's role is the training and education of healthcare professionals which is where we need to focus.

The RCOG's Gynaecological Health Matters (GHM) Programme in Bangladesh is making significant progress implementing its two year plan to improve the skills and knowledge of non-specialist health providers providing SRH services to women and girls to prevent and treat gynaecological disease. The government of Bangladesh have recently announced that they have included the RCOG's Gynaecological Health Matters (GHM) Programme training in their 2024 National Health Plan, which will be rolled out across 20 districts of Bangladesh. Securing buy-in for a programme which focuses solely on gynaecological health is a first in Bangladesh.

A Council member queried whether the GHM programme could be utilised in Sub-Saharan Africa where it could be effective and also help increase membership numbers in this area; the Vice President responded that Nigeria is being considered as a possible country and that the Making Abortion Safe Programme is also being held in Sub-Saharan Africa.

A Council member queried if funding for the programme is a limiting factor; it was responded that donors have limits on how their funding can be spent and the Centre would like to explore funders to help support projects but need to make sure to find the correct match. The President noted that there is less funding available for gynaecology compared to maternity programmes.

The RCOG is delivering a two-year SRHR UK Overseas Development Assistance Advocacy Project to influence the UK Government to ensure that Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR) sit at the heart of its overseas development strategy. A key deliverable for the project is the development of a briefing paper laying out a call for action on the need for investment in sexual and reproductive health rights around the world. The 'Getting back on track: The case for reinvestment in global SRHR' report will be launched in UK parliament on 4th July hosted by Sarah Champion MP Chair of the International Development Select Committee. A range of crossbench parliamentarians have been invited as well as civil servants working in the FCDO and colleagues in the sector, including from our donors at the Children's Investment Fund Foundation.

The President will be attending the Women Deliver 2023 Conference in Kigali, Rwanda in July, along with members of the RCOG's Centre for Women's Global Health team. As one of the largest multi-sectoral convening to advance gender equality, WD2023 will convene 6,000 people in Kigali and 200,000+ people online through the virtual Conference and six-month Global Dialogue leading up to the Conference. The RCOG team will host a side event with donors and sector stakeholders to highlight the need for greater attention on tackling stigma across a range of women's health issues and showcase the work of the Centre.

The Making Abortion Safe programme toolkit was launched at Congress this year and is available online. It is hoped that the programme will secure a no-cost extension this year.

The College's application for consultative status with the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) of the UN has now been formally ratified. This will enable us to advocate for women and girls to a greater extent by increasing our opportunity to access and influence the work of the UN and NGOs.

## **11.2 Global Health Board Terms of Reference**

The revised Terms of Reference were approved. This includes the addition of Global Health Advisors to help improve the College's Global Health presence internationally.

## **12 Membership and Workforce**

### **12.1 Report on Membership and Workforce activities**

The Vice President for Membership and Workforce thanked Council members and members of staff who supported the membership ceremonies which ran successfully on 29th June.

A Council member queried whether there is a backlog of members waiting to attend a ceremony; the Vice President responded that the backlog has largely been caught up on now and that mapping is taking place for 2024 as less ceremonies may be needed.

It was reported that as an outcome of the February Council workshop on membership engagement, a refresh of the member benefits section of the RCOG website has been completed to provide a clearer and more compelling summary of the key benefits and services available to members, and Council have been provided with presentation slides they can use to advocate for the benefits of membership of the RCOG to external audiences.

Council were encouraged to link in with their regional SAS/ LED committee representative and regional job plan assessors, to offer mutual support.

Associate status is being promoted to MRCOG Part 1 and 2 candidates, and to Congress delegates both at the meeting and post Congress via communication to delegates who are eligible. Council were encouraged to promote Associate status to their SAS/LED colleagues.

A Council member queried whether there is consideration to remove the benefit of no membership fees for retired members, as they feel this is an important benefit to recognise and thank members who have been part of the College a long time. The Vice President responded that a review is ongoing including review of retired members' benefits, the College is currently an outlier not to charge retired members.

Since the start of the year, the College has approved 69 job plans. There are currently 22 active cases, up from 16 in April but still significantly less than the peak of 43 in February.

A Council member raised that a member in their region has asked if the College is doing enough to protect the gynaecological surgical skills that new consultants need; the Vice President responded that there are limits to the College's power in this area as Foundation and Scottish Trusts do not have to send their job plans to the College for review, there is a minimum criteria for lists but the College only sees example job plans and does not have power to enforce once someone starts their position. The President noted that this is a problem in other specialties and recognition is needed that early consultants may need additional support.

A Council member highlighted that a buddy system is in place at their Trust for new consultants and that it would be helpful if the College can promote this, and that is frustrating that Foundation Trusts do not have to consult on their job plans.

The Chief Executive noted that RCOG approved job plans are more attractive to candidates and this needs to be promoted to Trusts. There is potential to lobby NHS England on the review of Foundation Trust job plans, but additional resource would be needed as the service is not funded.

The President would talk to the Academy of Medical Royal Colleges to understand other College's position on this issue and update at the next Council meeting.

A Council member raised that there is a wide variation in job plans of how much emergency gynaecology is included and asked what can be approved. The Vice President responded that it is difficult to be prescriptive but the Trust must plan how to keep the skills of staff members up-to-date, and that individual cases can be escalated to the Vice President as needed for decision. It was noted that it would be beneficial to hold a workshop on job planning with Council in the near future.

A Council member emphasised that members look to the College for support and that they believe the College needs to have a role if approved job plans are not being followed; the Vice President responded that a review of existing job plans could be considered and welcomed any additional thoughts be shared with her.

A Council member raised that Clinical Directors need more support from the College and more inclusive relationships could be built. The Vice President responded that a Clinical Directors Forum meeting is being held at the College in November to support this. There is also work being led by other bodies including NHSE, which the RCOG is contributing to, on leadership roles and producing guidance.

### **12.2 Membership Board Terms of Reference**

The revised Terms of Reference were approved.

## **13 Strategy and Academia**

### **13.1 Report on Strategy and Academia activities**

The Vice President for Strategy and Academia reported that the College's work to develop a maternity safety ambition continues. An analysis of all College work in this area has been completed and ten recent reports from various organisations on maternity safety have been analysed with common themes identified. A workshop to engage with Council members would be held following the meeting to ask for views and where there are opportunities for further work; a similar engagement session would be held with women and families.

The future focus of the College's Supporting our Doctors offering will be on prevention; this will ensure the College can offer the tools and measures to help the membership cope with the demands and pressures of their work. An appointment has been made to the position of Workplace Behaviour Advisor.

The RCOG 2023 awards cycle has now closed. 187 submissions have been received across the portfolio of awards which includes case studies, travel electives, research fellowships and guest lectures. The submissions will now be reviewed and scored by representatives of the RCOG Academic Board, and the winners will come for approval by Council in September.

A business case is being developed to fund a James Lind Alliance Priority Setting Partnership in Obstetrics and Gynaecology. This internationally recognised approach will bring together Women and Families, Clinicians and the Charity Sector to help define the College's research priorities. It is planned to take the proposal to the Academic Board in July and then seek to identify suitable restricted funds to support this new activity.

It was noted that the second Fetal Monitoring webinar would be held on 12th July. The first webinar had a very high level of attendance and excellent feedback. It is planned to hold a Fetal Monitoring workshop jointly with the RCM in the near future, in line with the ABC programme.

A Council member was pleased to hear of the proposal for a dedicated training programme for Point of Care Ultrasound for Fetal presentation. This will be delivered via RCOG Learning and be aimed at midwives and obstetricians aiming to achieve competency in ultrasound fetal presentation.

It was queried whether this would be free training; the Vice President responded that it will be free and it is a priority to make sure adequate training is in place as this is becoming more widely available.

The Trainees Committee Chair welcomed this development, and queried whether it would become part of the training curriculum; the Vice President responded this needs further discussion with the Vice President for Education and at Education Board.

A Council member queried how the practical element will be made available; it was responded that it will be an online learning module and work-based assessment signed off locally. The possibility of an in person course will be considered.

A Council member enquired if the College has liaised with the radiographers on the proposal; it was responded that this hasn't taken place as yet and there is a need to identify a representative to work with.

## **14 CEO**

### **14.1 CEO Update**

The Chief Executive's circulated report on the work of the College across a range of activity, constructed around the four goals of the RCOG strategy, was noted.

The College continues to be an active contributor to the COVID 19 public inquiry which has required considerable resource. A response was submitted to Rule 9 request for module two in December 2022 and a further request for evidence was received for module three in June 2023. Module four was also launched in June and is focused on vaccination and therapeutics. After careful consideration the College will not be applying for Core Participation status for this module. Focused staff resource has been dedicated to collating information and evidence about the College's work during the pandemic and vaccine roll out. Council will be kept updated on this activity.

## **15 FSRH**

The President of FSRH reported that the inaugural meeting of the FSRH Hatfield Vision Taskforce was held in June. The group is chaired by the FSRH President, and the Vice Chairs are the RCOG President and RCGP

Honorary Secretary. The attendees discussed how best the Vision's goals to improve women's health in the community can be realised, including building consensus on initial priority areas. A key focus will be postnatal contraception, including the development of guidance for commissioners.

A Council member queried if post-natal could be widened to post-pregnancy; it was confirmed it will be post-pregnancy.

A Council member queried whether Women's Health Hubs will help with this issue; the FSRH President responded that Women's Health Hubs will look different around the country but the principles should be the same and should enable the upskilling of the workforce, it will be important for commissioners to communicate with each other.

The Council representative for Wales highlighted that postnatal contraception is being rolled out through Wales as they do not have split commissioning.

The Faculty's Annual Scientific Meeting, 'Visions for the Future', took place in Glasgow in June. The research focussed conference was open to healthcare professionals and scientists from the UK and internationally. The conference programme has been aligned to the Hatfield Vision goals.

The FSRH Annual Conference 2023 has been confirmed to take place at the Union Street building on 8<sup>th</sup> December.

FSRH and RCOG Officers met in June to discuss a variety of matters pertinent to the work of both organisations. This included a discussion regarding how to implement postnatal contraception training for O&G trainees. Suggestions about how to provide learning opportunities were discussed and this work will be taken forward by the relevant committees.

A Council member noted the recent TV documentaries on the menopause and the oral contraceptive, and that they have highlighted these topics and encouraged discussion, and asked for the Faculty's thoughts. The FSRH President responded that they feel they have been useful and generated a lot of conversation especially in primary care, and that the side effects of hormonal contraception and pain experienced by some women during fitting of IUDs need to be discussed and further guidance and training developed. It is detailed in the Hatfield Vision that all women should be able to access menopause care in their local area at no cost; it will be important to upskill primary care practitioners to deliver care in this area, but it is difficult to secure time for training. It was noted that the Menopause APPG chaired by Professor Janice Rymer are bringing together the work on both the primary care and specialist menopause workforce.

It was also noted that the RCOG and Faculty are working together on referrals for postpartum bleeding.

## **16 Board of Trustees**

### **16.1 Report from 9 June 2023 meeting**

The President highlighted key points from the Board of Trustees meeting held on 9<sup>th</sup> June. The Board approved a number of papers on the recommendation of the Finance and General Purposes Committee, including the six month Budget July to December 2023 which has been prepared following the change to the financial year end approved by Trustees which now aligns with the calendar year. The pensions buyout was also approved.

The College's Investment Performance, and Endowment and Restricted Funds were reviewed. An application will be made to the Charity Commission to release a number of outdated funds and use them for other purposes.

## **17 Trainees**

### **17.1 Report from Trainees' Committee Chair**

The Trainees' Committee Chair thanked the Congress organisers for giving trainees a voice at the Congress through the Trainees stream and holding the Trainees reception evening, which were both well attended.

A 'green' networking event has been arranged for trainees to share local initiatives and an opportunity to network. External funding is being sought for a Trainees Conference event to be held in 2024 potentially in the North East or Kent, Surrey, Sussex regions.

A number of new members have recently been elected to the Committee, and a new Vice Chair and Global Health representative had been recently appointed.

The Trainees' Chair asked Council to identify and engage with and support the RCOG Trainees Committee regional representative in their area.

The President thanked the Trainees' Chair for agreeing to extend their term until December 2023.

## **18 SAS/LED**

### **18.1 Report from SAS/LED Lead**

The SAS/LED Lead thanked the President for the letter of support, which was sent to SAS doctors in response to a recent media article undermining SAS doctors.

It was noted that the SAS-LED community is the fastest growing in the workforce and will be significantly effected by the planned changes to the ATSMs, which is the main development pathway for SAS/LED Doctors. It was noted that there have been no Specialist posts in O&G advertised, despite a high number of posts in other specialties.

The SAS/LED Committee is leading preparations for the SAS Awareness Week in October, including sharing the career story of the Vice President for Membership and Workforce, and case studies from other SAS/LED practitioners within O&G.

A "Get involved" advert is being prepared to attract applications from SAS-LED in UK to become members of the committee, particularly from underrepresented areas of the country, through a planned selection process. Council were asked to help encourage colleagues to apply.

## **19 Disciplinary, Removal and Reinstatement Committee**

19.1 There were no removals from Regulatory Registers to report

## **20 Council Membership**

### **20.1 Council Elections 2023 results**

The Chief Executive acting as Returning Officer presented the results from the 2023 Council election. The following members were elected:

Justin Clark - Fellows' representative for the West Midlands

Peter Harris - Members' representative for the East of England

Swati Jha - Fellows' representative for Northern/Yorkshire/Humber

Dudley Robinson - Fellows' representative for London South

Alison Wiggans- Members' representative for the South West

Stergios Doumouchtsis – re-elected for a second term as International representative for Europe

No eligible nominations were received for the Members' representative for London: North, Central, East, North West, and this post will remain vacant.

A Council member queried the region of Northern/Yorkshire/Humber which is very large for one region; it was responded that the boundaries are laid out as set-out in the RCOG Regulations which are reviewed periodically and this will be considered at the next review, and Council will be asked to contribute to this process.

A Council member queried the level of member engagement in standing for election and taking part in the voting; the Returning Officer responded that apart from the London: North, Central, East, North West post as noted, there were elections in all regions and a satisfactory level of voter turnout.

It is a general challenge for the College that clinical pressures are impacting how much time members have to volunteer for College roles.

A Council member raised that in the past members would be able to contribute to College activities without it being in their job plan but this may no longer be possible, and that the College needs to acknowledge how members are feeling.

This issue is included on the College's risk register which the Board of Trustees review. The President encouraged Council members to advocate for these College roles and help to raise engagement.

### **20.2 Committee and Honorary Appointments**

The three new appointments to RCOG Committee posts were ratified.

### **20.3 Council reps on Boards and Committees**

Council members were asked to express interest in the following vacant positions on RCOG Boards and Committees:

EDI Committee: Member or Fellow

Clinical Quality Board: Member

The following Council representatives on Boards and Committees were approved:

Audit and Risk Committee: Mausumi Das FRCOG

EDI Committee: Fatima Husain FRCOG

### **20.4 Council and Board meeting dates 2024**

The meeting dates for 2024 were noted.

## **21 Reports/minutes**

The following minutes were circulated to note:

21.1 Workforce Board 21 April 2023 meeting minutes (unapproved)

21.2 Global Health Board 16 March 2023 meeting minutes

21.3 Membership Board 24 March 2023 meeting minutes

21.4 Membership Board 1 June 2023 meeting minutes (unapproved)

21.5 Academic Board Report

## **22 Any other business**

A Council member raised an item on the RCOG new consultants course that a constituent had raised concern that this course is being proposed to be held virtually in the future, and that it is an important course to hold in person in order to allow networking, development of soft skills, and is an opportunity for the College to engage members at the start of their careers.

The Vice President for Membership and Workforce responded that the College would like to support the new consultants group and have considered how best to do that, whilst considering the wider College position. It was noted that in the past, the number of attendees for this course had been declining, and proposed that an initial virtual webinar and/or survey be undertaken to understand the level of engagement and what would be most beneficial for the group. The Senior Vice President noted that how a decision is taken to hold an event either virtually or in person would be considered as part of the events review, and is a complex area across all courses.

## **23 Thank you to retiring members of Council**

The President thanked the following retiring members of Council

Basky Thilaganathan

Adam Balen

George Attilakos

Alastair McKelvey

Jonathan Frost

Andrew Sizer