

ROYAL COLLEGE OF OBSTETRICIANS AND GYNAECOLOGISTS
Minutes of a Meeting of Council held at the RCOG and virtually on
13 September 2024

PRESENT

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

ELECTED FELLOWS

Mr Sherif Abdel-Fattah
Dr Jyotsna Acharya
Professor Dilly Anumba
Professor Alastair Campbell
Professor Justin Clark
Professor Peter von Dadelszen
Professor Stergios Doumouchtsis
Professor Colin Duncan
Mr Sujeewa Fernando
Mr Joseph Iskaros
Professor Swati Jha
Mr Andrew Leather
Dr Hans Nagar
Mr Andrew Pickersgill
Mr Dudley Robinson
Mr Philip Rolland
Miss Melanie Tipples

ELECTED MEMBERS

Dr Jenny Barber
Dr Helen Goodall
Dr Peter Harris
Dr Chimwemwe Kalumbi
Dr Aditi Miskin
Dr Hannah Mistry
Dr Javaid Muglu
Dr Diane Nzelu
Dr William Parry-Smith
Dr Ganga Verma
Dr Alison Wiggans

MEMBERS

Dr Janet Barter FRCOG, FSRH President
Dr Kat Barton MRCOG, Trainees' Committee Chair
Ms Emma Crookes, Women's Network Vice Chair
Dr Abigail Hyland MRCOG, Trainees' Committee Vice Chair for Strategy
Ms Jane Plumb FRCOG, Women's Voices Lead
Dr Eman Toeima FRCOG, Specialty and Associate Specialist and Locally Employed Doctors Lead

IN ATTENDANCE

Chief Executive	Ms Kate Lancaster
Executive Director, Education and Quality	Ms Carly Edwards
Executive Director, Global, Membership & Governance	Ms Kristen Morgan
Executive Director, Finance & Commercial	Ms Ashley Wang
Executive Director, External Affairs	Mr Ben Butler
Head of Corporate Governance and Risk	Mr Christopher Smith
Business Administrator	Ms Natasha Sullivan

1	Welcome The President welcomed all to the meeting.
2	Apologies for absence Apologies for absence were received from: Mausumi Das FRCOG William Dudill MRCOG Fatima Husain FRCOG Hanan Mustafa MRCOG Suzanne O’Sullivan FRCOG
3	RCOG Confidentiality Agreement and Declaration of Interest and Good Standing The RCOG Confidentiality Agreement and Declaration of Interest and Good Standing had been circulated in advance of the meeting. Council was asked to complete and return the form if they had not done so within the last year.
4	Minutes and Matters Arising
4.1	Minutes from the last meeting The minutes from the meeting held on 5 July 2024 were approved as an accurate record of the meeting with one amendment relating to the publication of the report on gynaecological waiting lists which would be shared with Council members in November not July.
4.2	Actions record The actions from the 5 July 2024 meeting of Council were noted.
5.1	Obituaries Resolved: That the sympathy of Council be extended to the relatives of the following: Dr Bruce Maxwell Castle – Member of England Professor David Stewart Sowden – Fellow of England Professor Stuart Lawrence Richard Stanton – Fellow of Israel Professor Christopher Willard George Redman – Fellow of England Dr Elizabeth Frances Holt – Member of England Action: Ensure member obituaries are uploaded to the relevant part of the RCOG website.
5.2	The Vice-President, Academia and Strategy gave the tribute to Professor Christopher Redman FRCOG.
6	Introduction from new Council members
7	President
7.1	President’s Report The President updated Council on progress towards the delivery of the Presidential Priorities. The President informed Council that the College had provided a response to the Independent Investigation of the National Health Service in England by Lord Darzi and was pleased that maternity and women’s health was highlighted in the report.

Improving Surgical Training in Obstetrics and Gynaecology

Council noted that a Surgical Training Webinar took place on 8 August, which explored the findings from the recent April Summit and questionnaire and set out the next steps for the project. It was highlighted that the programmes two Clinical Fellows have met with stakeholder including BSGE, BSUG, GIRFT and RCOG workforce team to further gather information, and that additional meetings with other stakeholders are being organised. The Phase I report will be published at the end of 2024 and will be presented at Council.

Action: Paper on Phase I of the Improving Surgical Training in Obstetrics and Gynaecology Presidential Priority to be brought to the February 2025 meeting.

Levelling the playing field: Race equity in the O&G workforce in the UK

Council was informed that Phase I of the RCOG's race equity work had nearly concluded. The programme team presented the findings of the first phase at a Race Equity project expert advisory group meeting in June. The College aims to publish the key messages and highlights of the report by the end of September.

Driving the College's response to climate change and the need for improved environmental sustainability in the O&G profession

Council was made aware that the College's work in this area is primarily being delivered as part of a project funded by Small Business Research Initiative Healthcare. The programme team has worked closely with the Women's Network to ensure that lived experience is adequately considered in research activities. A policy position on poverty, deprivation and women's health has been published, alongside a supporting guest blog published by the RCP's Inequalities in Health Alliance.

Maternity Safety

Council members were encouraged to provide input maternity safety through the College's 'Have your say' platform.

Council noted the President's Report.

7.2

Tommy's Centre Pathway

The Tommy's decision-pathway support tool was the subject of a confidential discussion.

Action: Papers on Tommy's Centre Pathway on incident management to be brought to the next Council meeting.

8

Education

8.1

Report on Education and Exams Activities

The Vice President for Education presented the Report on Education and Exams Activities.

Council was informed that the Curriculum 2024 successfully launched on 7 August 2024. The Vice-President for Education reiterated that the launch of the Curriculum 2024 was a huge achievement following four years of work and placed on record his thanks to the Education Team.

Council discussed the College's accreditation training programmes with a particular focus on the lessons learned from the College's experience at Aster MedCity, Kerala. Two trainees undertook their ARCPs in July 2024 and three more in September 2024. Following the one-year review, mentors and buddies have been introduced into the programme to keep upskilling the faculty and trainees on the curriculum and ePortfolio.

Council enquired about the extent to which accreditation programmes can be tailored to local contexts. The Vice-President for Education indicated that there is limited flexibility to tailor programmes if the requirement is that these are GMC equivalent.

	<p>Council enquired about the promotion of the MRCOG exams. The Chief Executive reiterated that, although there has been some de-recognition of the MRCOG as the principal qualification in certain countries, the MRCOG remains internationally recognised as the gold standard. The accreditation programmes are helping to further promote the MRCOG globally.</p> <p>Council was updated on progress on MRCOG Part 1, Part 2 and Part 3 Exams. It was indicated that pass rates for Part 1 and 2 had improved and were increasingly consistent between UK and international candidates. Conversely, pass rates for Part 3 have fallen, however this was expected as pass rates were previously high.</p> <p>Council noted the Report on Education and Exams Activities.</p>
9	Global Health
9.1	<p>Report on Global Health Activities</p> <p>The Senior Vice President for Global Health presented the Report on Global Health Activities.</p> <p>Council noted that the Centre for Women’s Global Health had received funding to implement the Gynaecological Health Matters (GHM) programme in Kano and Abuja in Nigeria from the UK Department of Health and Social Care, through the Tropical Health and Education Trust. From the 21st to the 23rd of July, the Nigerian faculty and GHM UK Clinical Lead conducted training for 20 expert trainers, 10 from Abuja and 10 from Kano. The College is exploring opportunities to adapt the programme for other regions and Council members were encouraged to share ideas on further areas of focus for training.</p> <p>With regards to the College’s work to remove the medicalisation of FGM globally, Council noted that a webinar is scheduled for 3 October 2024 with healthcare professionals who have participated in RCOG’s FGM/C training sessions held in Cairo, Upper Egypt, and Alexandria. The College is further developing its ‘Training the Trainer’ course and is working towards another workshop on 10 December 2024.</p> <p>It was confirmed that the College was considering how best to utilise its recently gained ECOSOC Consultative Status and that feedback would be provided at a future Council meeting.</p> <p>Action: Paper on ECOSOC NGO consultative status to be brought to a future Council meeting.</p> <p>An update in advance of the World Congress in Oman was provided. Council was informed that it is expected that there will be more than 2,000 participants from across 80 countries.</p> <p>Council confidentially discussed the outcome of the College’s events and course review project, which has considered all 47 RCOG courses. It was confirmed that following approval of the recommendations, course convenors will be contacted regarding the outcome.</p> <p>Council noted the Report on Global Health Activities.</p>
10	Clinical Quality
10.1	<p>Report on Clinical Quality Activities</p> <p>The Vice President for Clinical Quality presented the Report on Clinical Quality Activities.</p> <p>Council was informed that the College published several pieces of clinical guidance including an updated Green Top Guideline on Best Practice in Outpatient Hysteroscopy had been published on 17 July 2024. In addition, a new Good Practice Paper on Prevention and Treatment of Work-Related Post-Traumatic Stress Symptoms in the Maternity and Gynaecology Workforce had been published, as well as updates to Chickenpox in Pregnancy and Abortion Care Guidance.</p>

Council noted the forward look of clinical quality activities including the anticipated publication of the Caesarean birth animation which in September 2024.

With regards to the ABC 3 Programme, Council was informed that, following engagement with NHS England, Patient Safety Collaboratives for the Train the Trainer pilots for both Impacted Fetal Head and Detection and Response to Fetal Deterioration had been confirmed as South London and Yorkshire and Humber. Six pilot sites in Merseyside and Greater Manchester have now been confirmed and will participate in the Impacted Fetal Head T3 Training on 7 October at Union Street. The sites were selected using the Chappell criteria.

Council was reminded that the College had been part of a successful bid, led by the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine (LSHTM) for National Institute for Health and Care Research (NIHR) Patient Reported Experience Measure (PREMS). LSHTM are now able to progress with contracting with the NIHR having agreed a position relating to the IP of the proposed output (Maternity PREMS). The work was expected to begin on 1 November 2024.

Council noted the publication of the report 'Evaluating hospital and crisis care for perinatal mental health' on 11 July 2024. A 'state of the nation' for the National Maternity and Perinatal Audit is expected in April 2025.

Council noted that the Guidance team has been undertaking a review of Green-top Guidelines to better understand the delays to their development and how they can be addressed. The review data and proposed action plan will be presented to Council at the 29 November meeting.

Action: Paper summarising the guideline development review outcomes to be brought to a future Council meeting.

Council noted the Report on Clinical Quality Activities.

11 Membership and Workforce

11.1 Report on Membership and Workforce Activities

The Vice President for Membership and Workforce presented the Report on Membership and Workforce Activities.

The positive feedback from the College's virtual Careers Day, held on Saturday 22 June and aimed at medical students and foundation stage doctors, was shared. Council noted that almost 400 delegates registered for the event, which was hosted with the British Undergraduate Society of Obstetrics and Gynaecology and the National Trainee Committee.

An update on the College's Membership Survey was provided, which achieved a response rate of over 20%. Feedback is currently being analysed and an update will be brought to Council in due course.

Council noted the positive impact of the College's elevation to Fellowship work, with over 200 applications received following the College's promotional activity. The College also continues to actively promote Associate status internationally at events in South Africa, Jordan, Nepal and the forthcoming AICC Conference in Kolkata. It was noted that 95 new Fellows and Members will be attending the Admission ceremony in Oman on 14 October.

Council enquired whether the College would be commenting on recent events in Kolkata. It was confirmed that the President will be mentioning it in their speech at the AICC.

Council queried whether resources were available to support Council members to run membership engagement events. It was confirmed that the RCOG team is available to support Council members in this regard.

	<p>Council enquired as to when the 2025 membership ceremonies would be circulated. The Vice President for Membership and Workforce confirmed that these would be shared in advance of the next Council meeting.</p> <p>Action: Circulate dates for 2025 membership ceremonies.</p> <p>Council noted the Report on Membership and Workforce Activities.</p>
11.2	<p>Honorary Fellowships and Distinguished Service Medal Awards 2024</p> <p>Council noted that 37 applications were considered for honorary fellowships at Officers and that 17 are being recommended to Council. In addition, it was noted that Officers may also choose to confer a Distinguished Service Medal (DSM) to individuals who have made an outstanding contribution in a specific area of women’s health and that, this year, two individuals have been chosen.</p> <p>Council ratified the proposal to admit six Fellows ad eundem and eleven Fellows honoris causa, as well as to confer two DSM awards.</p>
11.3	<p>Devolved Nations Committees Terms of Reference</p> <p>Council approved the terms of reference for the RCOG’s three devolved nations committees.</p>
12	<p>Academia and Strategy</p>
12.1	<p>Report on Academia and Strategy Activities</p> <p>The Vice President for Academia and Strategy presented the Report on Academia and Strategy Activities.</p> <p>Council was informed that the finalised contract for the RCOG Maternity Safety Research Centre has now been signed by both RCOG and the University of Birmingham and support is being provided to engage and facilitate an external stakeholder group.</p> <p>Work on a research proposal with the James Lind Alliance is ongoing. It was suggested that the area of focus will be narrowed from women’s health to maternity safety.</p> <p>Council noted the appointment of Victoria Parker as the new Academic Trainees’ Representative and Katie Morris as the ex-officio National Specialty Lead on the Academic Board. The current SAS/LED Representative has resigned their role, with the post being advertised at present.</p> <p>Council noted the appointment of Abi Merriel as the new RCOG Research Priority Domain lead.</p> <p>An academic engagement workshop is currently being developed. This will review the top three priorities identified at a similar event in 2018 and update these for the next three years.</p> <p>Council noted the Report on Academia and Strategy Activities.</p>
12.2	<p>Awards, Prizes and Bursaries 2024</p> <p>Council noted that, in 2024, the College hosted 18 different academic awards including travel awards, manuscripts, case histories, guest lectures and research fellowships. The total number of applications received was 224 applications, an increase from 208 in 2023.</p> <p>Council ratified the awarding of College awards, prizes and grants.</p>
13	<p>CEO</p>
13.1	<p>CEO Report</p> <p>The Chief Executive presented the report on the latest activity across the College.</p>

	<p>Council was informed that the College welcomed the Twins Trust as a new tenant in July and are also in active conversations with the British Pregnancy Advisory Services.</p> <p>Council was updated on the College’s progress with regards to transitioning to a new CRM. Following approval of the investment case by the Board of Trustees and the signing of the contract with ASI (the service provider), the CRM Migration Project has been established to oversee the transition. The project will be run in line with the College Project Management approach and will include weekly updates to the Executive Committee and quarterly updates to the Finance and General Purposes Committee and the Board of Trustees.</p> <p>Council noted that the College has begun work to develop the strategy for the next five-year period (2025-2029). At its meeting in September, the Board of Trustees approved the strategy development plan. On 29 November 2024, the College will be hosting a joint workshop with Council and the Board of Trustees immediately prior to the Council meeting.</p> <p>Action: Confirm arrangements for joint Board and Council strategy workshop including pre-reading.</p> <p>Council noted the CEO’s report.</p>
<p>13.2</p>	<p>Faculty of Sexual and Reproductive Healthcare (FSRH) name change and reciprocal arrangements with RCOG</p> <p>The Chief Executive introduced this paper which provided an update on the FSRH’s consultation to change its name to the College of Sexual and Reproductive Healthcare.</p> <p>It was noted that, under the proposal, the current arrangement whereby the FSRH and the College hold reciprocal places on each other’s Council for presidents would be retained, but the reciprocal voting rights afforded to each would be removed in recognition of the separate legal identities of each party.</p> <p>Council noted the process underway for the FSRH to change its name and approved the proposal that FSRH and College retain the current arrangement of reciprocal seats on respective Councils but that the right to vote is removed in recognition of the separate legal identities of each organisation.</p> <p>In addition, Council discussed and agreed that there would be merit in conducting a review of representation from outside bodies on the Council.</p> <p>Action: A review of representation from outside bodies on RCOG Council will be conducted within the next 12 months.</p>
<p>14</p>	<p>Report from FSRH President</p> <p>The FSRH President presented their report on the activities of the Faculty of Sexual and Reproductive Healthcare.</p> <p>Council noted that a decision on the potential FSRH name change will be made by the membership via a special resolution to be voted on at the FSRH Annual General Meeting on 7 November 2024.</p> <p>The FSRH President highlighted that the FSRH will be running a second round of training in the provision of post pregnancy contraception aimed at the O&G workforce. It was noted that there continue to be concerns around funding, with the flagship service are Imperial being likely to lose funding imminently.</p> <p>Council noted the FSRH report.</p>
<p>15</p>	<p>Report from Trainees’ Committee Chair</p> <p>The National Trainees’ Committee (NTC) Chair provided a verbal update on the committee’s recent activities. It was confirmed that the formal report would be circulated following the Council meeting.</p>

	<p>Action: Circulate National Trainees Committee report following Council meeting.</p> <p>Council noted that the NTC had recently completed a survey exploring issues regarding gynaecological surgical training. As a next step, the NTC looking to develop a simulation course for acute gynaecological emergencies. The NTC has been collating resources from all deaneries and is keen to engage the College in this process.</p> <p>Council noted that there had been some discontent amongst trainees from the Academy Trainee Doctors' Committee relating to training workstreams. This had resulted in a letter being sent to all presidents of all Royal Colleges. The Chair of the National Trainees Committee reiterated the positive relationship it has with the College and noted the representation across all College Committees.</p> <p>Council noted that the NTC has been working to review its terms of reference, which had not been updated for several years. An updated document will be presented at the next Council meeting for approval.</p> <p>Action: National Trainees Committee Terms of Reference to be brought to the next Council meeting for review.</p> <p>Council noted the report from the National Trainee's Committee Chair.</p>
16	<p>Report from SAS/LED Lead</p> <p>The SAS/LED Lead presented their report, which highlighted the breadth of work that the SAS/LED Committee had undertaken since the last meeting.</p> <p>Council noted that the SAS/LED Lead had attended an NHSE engagement session on 19 July 2024, with Professor Geeta Menon to brief the AoMRC SAS committee on the SAS Excellence in Development Recognition Award (SEiD). The SEiD launched on 5 September 2024.</p> <p>Council noted that NHS Employers SAS Awareness Week is taking place between 14-18 October 2024. Council members were asked to acknowledge the event and engage with SAS colleagues to promote RCOG Associate membership to doctors working in the UK in obstetrics and gynaecology and who are not currently part of RCOG membership.</p> <p>Council noted that the SAS/LED Committee is recruiting new regional representatives in London, the West Midlands and Thames Valley. Council members were asked to share the vacancy details across their networks and to encourage applications.</p> <p>Council noted the Report from the SAS/LED Lead.</p>
17	<p>Board of Trustees Report</p> <p>The Council appointed Trustee presented the Board of Trustees Report which provided an overview of the activities of the RCOG Board of Trustees meeting on 6 September 2024.</p> <p>Council noted the Board of Trustees report.</p>
18	<p>Report from Women's Voices Lead</p> <p>The Women's Voices Lead noted the written update on recent activities of the Women's Network and Voices Panel.</p> <p>Council noted that the Women's Network is currently recruiting new lay members. Council members were asked to promote the vacancies with more information to be found on the RCOG website and on the College's social media channels.</p>

	<p>Council was informed that Emma Crookes, the lay vice-chair of the Women’s Network, will be co-chairing a webinar in November aimed at GPs regarding the 6-8 week post-natal maternal consultation with Paula Cowan, Medical Director for Primary Care NHS England North West Region, National Primary Care Medical Directorate lead for Women’s Programme, National Primary Care Medical Directorate lead for Prevention Programme and GP Partner.</p> <p>The Women’s Voices Lead confirmed that she will be presenting at RCOG World Congress in October. Their session “From Womb to World: Amplifying Women’s and Service Users’ Voices in Obstetrics & Gynaecology” will focus on the impact of patient and public involvement.</p> <p>Council noted the report from the Women’s Voices Lead.</p>
19	<p>Disciplinary, Removals and Reinstatement Committee Report</p> <p>The DRRC Chair presented the Disciplinary, Removals and Reinstatement Committee Report, which provided an update on the removals, reinstatements and sanctions conferred by the Committee.</p> <p>Council noted the Disciplinary, Removals and Reinstatement Committee Report.</p>
20	<p>Council Membership</p>
21.1	<p>Committee and Honorary Appointments and Extensions</p> <p>11 new appointments were ratified.</p>
21.2	<p>Council representatives on Boards and Committees</p> <p>Expressions of interest for the Members’ Representative positions on the RCOG Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Committee were requested and Aditi Miskin MRCOG was appointed as the Members’ Representative.</p>
22	<p>Reports/minutes</p> <p>Council noted the following minutes:</p> <p>Item 22.1 Global Health Board 18 July 2024 minutes</p> <p>Item 22.2 Clinical Quality Board 12 July 2024 minutes</p> <p>Item 22.3 Academic Board 19 July 2024 minutes</p> <p>Item 22.4 Workforce Board 12 July 2024 minutes</p>
23	<p>Any other business</p> <p>Council was reminded that the RCOG Annual Dinner will be taking place on 29 November 2024 following the Council meeting.</p> <p>Council was informed that the College will be running a free joint webinar focusing on perinatal pathology with the Royal College of Pathologists. The webinar will take place on 25 September 2024 and Council members were encouraged to share across their networks.</p> <p>Council noted that the King’s Funds Royal College of Physicians Independent Learning Review report was published on 3 September 2024.</p>