

ROYAL COLLEGE OF OBSTETRICIANS AND GYNAECOLOGISTS
Minutes of a Meeting of Council held at the RCOG and virtually on
29 November 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
Miss Mausumi Das
Professor Stergios Doumouchtsis
Professor Colin Duncan
Mr Sujeewa Fernando
Miss Fatima Husain
Mr Joseph Iskaros
Professor Swati Jha
Mr Andrew Leather
Dr Hans Nagar
Dr Suzanne O’Sullivan
Mr Andrew Pickersgill
Mr Dudley Robinson
Mr Philip Rolland
Miss Melanie Tipples

ELECTED MEMBERS

Dr Jenny Barber
Dr William Dudill
Dr Helen Goodall
Dr Peter Harris
Dr Javaid Muglu
Dr Hanan Mustafa
Dr Diane Nzelu
Professor William Parry-Smith
Dr Ganga Verma
Dr Alison Wiggans

MEMBERS

Dr Janet Barter FRCOG, FSRH President
Dr Kat Barton MRCOG, Trainees’ Committee Chair
Ms Freya El Baz, Women’s Network Vice Chair
Dr Abigail Hyland MRCOG, Trainees’ Committee Vice Chair for Strategy

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	<p>Welcome The President welcomed all to the meeting.</p>
2	<p>Apologies for absence Apologies for absence were received from: Chimwemwe Kalumbi MRCOG Aditi Miskin MRCOG Hannah Mistry MRCOG</p>
3	<p>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.</p>
4	<p>Minutes and Matters Arising</p>
4.1	<p>Minutes from the last meeting The minutes from the meeting held on 13 September 2024 were approved as an accurate record of the meeting.</p>
4.2	<p>Actions record The actions from the 13 September 2024 meeting of Council were noted.</p>
5.1	<p>Obituaries Resolved: That the sympathy of Council be extended to the relatives of the following: Dr Habib Muhammad Sadauki – Fellow of Nigeria Dr Evaline Anne Joan Gammack – Member of Northern Ireland Dr Samad Kader – Fellow of Malaysia Miss Anne Mary Jequier – Fellow of England Dr Reuben Wein - Fellow Dr Hilary Margaret Gordon-Wright – Fellow of England Dr Aisha Alzouebi – Member of England Mr Douglas Sladen Bamford – Fellow of England Mrs Audrey Midwinter – Fellow of England Mr Michael Edward Pawson – Fellow of England</p>
6	<p>President</p>
6.1	<p>President’s Report The President updated Council on progress towards the delivery of the Presidential Priorities.</p> <p>Improving Surgical Training in Obstetrics and Gynaecology Council noted that the Phase I report will be published in January 2025. An update will be brought to the next Council meeting.</p> <p>Levelling the playing field: Race equity in the O&G workforce in the UK Council was informed that The Race Equity Project (Phase One): Summary Report would be published in December 2024.</p>

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

Council noted that recruitment for the Green Maternity Challenge concluded on 20 September. 30 applications were received, of which nine projects were selected to receive training and mentoring from Centre for Sustainable Healthcare.

Council noted that the RCOG's Waiting for a way forward report had received substantial media coverage. The report launched at a parliamentary reception hosted by MP Sarah Champion and the College was following up with parliamentarians with the aim of scheduling a debate on important matters raised in the House of Lords and House of Commons.

Council noted that the Assisted Dying Bill was making its way through parliament. The College's Policy team are looking at the implications of this on the College and O&G practice and Council will be updated at the next meeting.

Action: Update to be provided to Council members on College's position with regards to the Assisted Dying Bill.

Council noted the President's Report.

6.2 Tommy's Centre Pathway

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

Action: Council noted that a report on Tommy's Centre Pathway is to be brought to February 2025 Council meeting.

7 Academia and Strategy

7.1 Report on Academia and Strategy Activities

The Vice President for Academia and Strategy presented the Report on Academia and Strategy Activities.

Council noted that the Point of Care Ultrasound, a free online learning resource, was launched on 29 November 2024. Council members were requested to email any feedback on this directly to the Vice-President, Academia and Strategy.

The RCOG Annual Academic Meeting, taking place between 6-7 February and organised in partnership with Blair Bell Research Society, was highlighted. This meeting will be held at Union Street and Council members were requested to encourage colleagues and trainees to attend.

Council noted the new appointments for the Academic Board, including representatives for each of the devolved nations and a SAS/LED representative. The College is currently recruiting for a new Women's Network Representative.

The College's work on the Accelerating Femtech programme, which aims to support early-stage companies, academics and university spin-outs focused on women's health to gain commercial and funding momentum, was noted. Council members were asked to encourage clinicians and academics to engage with this work.

Council noted that two PICO's have been sent to NIHR for review. Council discussed the process for the submission of PICO's and the need to ensure that it is balanced and transparent.

Council noted the Report on Report on Academia and Strategy Activities.

8 Education

<p>8.1</p>	<p>Report on Education and Exams Activities The Vice President for Education presented the Report on Education and Exams Activities, reflecting on the key achievements for 2024.</p> <p>Council noted the successful launch of Curriculum 2024. 3,361 learners have now been transferred onto the Training ePortfolio and, since May 2024, over 16,000 users have accessed the Curriculum 2024 website pages and over 311 SITM registrations have been received.</p> <p>Council noted that, with regards to alternative routes to specialist registration, the first Portfolio Pathway application has now been processed with a successful outcome. The 23 remaining CESR applications have been processed with 16 successful outcomes, achieving 100% compliance with the GMC KPIs. The RCOG remains the leading College for processing these application.</p> <p>Council was informed that 19,712 users are now registered and using the College’s Learning Management System, a 30% increase on the previous platform.</p> <p>Council noted that 8,632 MRCOG Part 1 and Part 2 exams delivered were delivered in 2024, a 20% growth from 2023. The College is implementing new quality assurance measures to ensure that there is parity across all exam diets. This includes the introduction of enhanced standard setting and the creation of new roles for the Part 3 exam. It was noted that continued growth in demand for RCOG examinations may create capacity challenges in 2025. The College is exploring mechanisms for managing this risk including the introduction of addition diets in the UK and MENA region, examiner recruitment, expansion of local provision.</p> <p>Council noted the Report on Education and Exams Activities.</p>
<p>9</p>	<p>Global Health</p>
<p>9.1</p>	<p>Report on Global Health Activities The Senior Vice President for Global Health presented the Report on Global Health Activities, reflecting on the key achievements for 2024.</p> <p>Council noted the successful delivery of the 2024 Congress in Oman, which attracted more than 2,200 delegates from 88 countries. Work is underway for 2025 Congress, which is taking place 23-25 June 2025. Council was informed that the request for abstracts will close on 20 January 2025 and Council members were encouraged to share topics for inclusion, as well as to encourage colleagues to submit abstracts.</p> <p>Council noted the increased roll-out of training on essential gynaecological skills to frontline health care professionals in Nigeria. During the period, the Centre for Women’s Global health has providing a range of training on ‘essential gynaecological skills’ to 180 frontline healthcare workers. 99% of the trainees reported that the course met their expectations.</p> <p>With regards to the College’s work to remove the medicalisation of FGM globally, Council was updated on a webinar that took place on 3 October 2024 with healthcare professionals who have participated in RCOG’s FGM/C training sessions held in Cairo, Upper Egypt, and Alexandria. Work continues to develop a ‘trainer of trainers’ course to empower health professionals as advocates against FGM, with OPTIONS commissioned to support this process.</p> <p>Council noted the Report on Global Health Activities.</p>

<p>9.2</p>	<p>International Representative Committee (IRC) Chair and Committee Election Process The Senior Vice President for Global Health presented the proposal on the IRC Chair and Committee Election Process.</p> <p>Council was informed that there were ongoing challenges with regards to the delivery of IRC Chair and Committee elections including the resource requirements to monitor and provide an effective election process, and ensuring adequate representation in regions with lower membership numbers such as sub-Saharan Africa.</p> <p>Council noted that, reflecting these challenges, a new appointment process is proposed for IRC Chair and Committee members. This includes locally run election for Committee members and a more robust appointment process for Chairs using a clear role description. It was noted that this approach would bring the IRCs more in line with the College’s approach for other Committees.</p> <p>It was noted that feedback gathered from International Council Representatives during the World Congress in Oman was in support of these proposals.</p> <p>Council approved the proposal to change the process by which the chairs and the committees of the International Representative Committees are identified.</p>
<p>9.3</p>	<p>Liaison Groups The Senior Vice President for Global Health presented the proposal on an updated model for College work with liaison groups.</p> <p>Council was informed that the College’s 11 liaison groups are, at present, varied in terms of their engagement and activity. It was highlighted that there had been particular challenges in identifying the electorate for each liaison group, in quality assuring educational and engagement activity, and in managing fundraising activity. Reflecting this, a new model for the College’s work with liaison groups was proposed including more rigour around appointment processes, closer working with International Representative Committees and additional support to doctors from overseas as they come to the UK.</p> <p>It was noted that feedback from current liaison group Chairs and International Council Representatives was in support of these proposals.</p> <p>Council approved the proposed updated model for working with liaison groups.</p>
<p>10</p>	<p>Clinical Quality</p>
<p>10.1</p>	<p>Report on Clinical Quality Activities 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 a new Green Top Guideline on Care of late intrauterine fetal death and stillbirth (No. 55) published on 30 October 2024 and the Caesarean birth animation on 27 November 2024. The opportunities for further video animations was discussed for relevant O&G topics.</p> <p>Council noted the forward look of clinical quality activities including the publication of the updated Green Top Guideline on sepsis including herpetic sepsis.</p> <p>With regards to the ABC 3 Programme, Council was informed that two ‘Train the Trainers’ events had taken place at the College focusing on ‘Impacted Fetal Head’ and ‘Detection and response to managing suspected intrapartum fetal deterioration’. The evaluation of the impacted fetal head training, produced by RAND Europe had been very positive, with 100% of survey responders saying they would recommend the training to colleagues. The second phase pilot is due to commence in January 2025.</p> <p>Council was reminded that the College had been part of a successful bid, led by the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine for National Institute for Health and Care Research Patient Reported</p>

	<p>Experience Measure (PREMS). Work is expected to commence by the end of 2024 with the aim being to develop new PREMS survey.</p> <p>Council was informed that the National Maternity and Perinatal Audit State of the Nation report was nearly finalised and was expected to be published in May 2025.</p> <p>Council noted the Report on Clinical Quality Activities.</p>
11	Membership and Workforce
11.1	<p>Report on Membership and Workforce Activities</p> <p>The Vice President for Membership and Workforce presented the Report on Membership and Workforce Activities.</p> <p>Council noted that job plan review and approval was ongoing with 23 job plans approved since the previous meeting.</p> <p>Council were updated on the successful #Nextstage webinar. 536 delegates registered for the session, with 96% agreeing that the content met their personal development needs.</p> <p>The College hosted its annual in person Clinical Directors Forum on 1 November 2024, with 30 clinical directors from across the UK in attendance.</p> <p>Council noted the Report on Membership and Workforce Activities.</p>
11.2	<p>Elevation of Members to Fellowship</p> <p>Council approved the 370 applications for elevation to Fellowship.</p>
11.3	<p>Retired Fellows and Members Society Committee: Terms of Reference and Chair Role Description</p> <p>The Vice President for Membership and Workforce presented the Retired Fellows and Members Society Committee: Terms of Reference and Chair Role Description, which had previously been discussed by both the Membership Board and Retired Fellows and Members Society Committee.</p> <p>Council approved the updated terms of reference and Committee Chair role description.</p>
11.4	<p>Peer support</p> <p>The Vice President for Membership and Workforce presented the peer support paper, which a proposed way forward for a refreshed RCOG Peer Support offering with a suitable governance framework, training and oversight in place.</p> <p>Council approved the proposal within the peer support paper.</p>
11.5	<p>Membership Survey 2024</p> <p>The Vice President for Membership and Workforce presented the Membership Survey 2024 report, noting the above-industry-average response rate and broadly positive feedback.</p> <p>It was noted that the findings of the survey will be shared with a number of College audiences and will also be used to inform the development of the next five-year strategy.</p> <p>Council members provided feedback on the usability of the survey. It was agreed that the next Council workshop session would focus on how the key messages from the survey could be promoted to their constituents.</p> <p>Action: Workshop on drop-in sessions/membership survey at next Council meeting.</p>
12	CEO

<p>12.1</p>	<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 submitted a written statement to Module 4 of the public inquiry into COVID-19, which was focused on the development and delivery of the COVID-19 vaccination programme.</p> <p>Council was updated on the College’s progress with regards to transitioning to a new CRM, iMIS. Council noted the planned go-live date of 25 February for iMIS.</p> <p>Council noted that the College’s budget for 2025 had been approved by the Board of Trustees in their meeting of 29 November 2024.</p> <p>Council was informed that the College will host an Annual Members’ Meeting in 2025 and Council members were asked to note the proposed date of 25 June 2025.</p> <p>Council noted the CEO’s report.</p>
<p>12.2</p>	<p>RCOG Regulations Update</p> <p>The Chief Executive informed Council that, at the Board of Trustees’ meeting which preceded Council, the Board of Trustees had approved the updates to the College’s Regulations pending Council’s recommendation.</p> <p>Council recommended the updated RCOG Regulations to the Board of Trustees for approval.</p>
<p>13</p>	<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 the report from the Women’s Voices Lead.</p>
<p>14</p>	<p>Report from Trainees’ Committee Chair</p> <p>The National Trainees’ Committee (NTC) Chair presented their report, which provided an update on the committee’s recent activities.</p> <p>Council noted that the NTC had met with the College to discuss trainees fees and how the RCOG benchmarks with other Royal Colleges. An output of this will be an infographic highlighting how the College utilises these funds in order to improve understanding and transparency.</p> <p>Council were also informed that the NTC has been working with the College’s Communications team to explore ways in which the NTC can better connect with trainees. This will include updates to the trainees sections of the RCOG website.</p> <p>Action: Review and update Trainees sections on RCOG website.</p> <p>Council noted the report from the National Trainee’s Committee Chair.</p>
<p>15</p>	<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 been appointed as Co-Vice-Chair for the SAS Committee at the Academy of Medical Royal Colleges.</p> <p>Council noted the Report from the SAS/LED Lead.</p>
<p>16</p>	<p>Board of Trustees Report</p>

	<p>The Council appointed Trustee provided a verbal update on the Board of Trustees meeting which had preceded Council.</p> <p>Council noted the Board of Trustees report.</p>
17	<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 were informed that the FSRH membership voted on 7 November 2024 in favour of a special resolution to change the name of the organisation to the College of Sexual and Reproductive Healthcare. The date of the change will now be set by the FSRH Board of Trustees and is likely to be in Summer 2025.</p> <p>Council noted that the FSRH Hatfield Vision had won the Best Lobbying Campaign at the national Memcom Awards in September.</p> <p>Council was informed that Contraception Choices was now part of the FSRH and had been incorporated into the website.</p> <p>Council noted that the FSRH's annual conference was taking place on 6 December 2024 in the RCOG's Union Street building.</p> <p>Council noted the FSRH report.</p>
18	<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>
19	<p>Council Membership</p>
19.1	<p>Committee and Honorary Appointments and Extensions</p> <p>13 new appointments were ratified.</p>
20	<p>Reports/minutes</p> <p>Council noted the following minutes:</p> <p>20.1 Global Health Board 26 September 2024 minutes</p> <p>20.2 Clinical Quality Board 4 October 2024 minutes</p> <p>20.3 Membership Board 25 July 2024 minutes</p> <p>20.4 Membership Board 7 November 2024 minutes</p>
21	<p>Any other business</p> <p>Council discussed O&G standard setting. It was noted that the Standards for Maternity Care are currently being revised by a task and finish group and that the Standards for Gynaecology will be updated following this. It was commented that this is guidance and can be amended locally.</p>