

**ROYAL COLLEGE OF OBSTETRICIANS AND GYNAECOLOGISTS**  
**Minutes of a Meeting of Council held at the RCOG and virtually on**  
**Friday, 15 September 2023**

**PRESENT**

President	Miss Raneer Thakar (Chair)
Senior Vice President, Global Health	Professor Hassan Shehata
Vice President, Clinical Quality	Mrs Geeta Kumar
Vice President, Membership and 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 Justin Clark  
Dr 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 Hlupekile Chipeta  
Dr William Dudill  
Dr Peter Harris  
Dr Angharad Jones  
Dr Vanitha Kumar  
Dr Javaid Muglu  
Dr Claire Thompson  
Dr Alison Wiggans

**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
Executive Director, Global, Membership & Governance	Ms Kristen Morgan
Executive Director, Finance & Commercial	Ms Ashley Wang
Business Administrator	Ms Natasha Sullivan

## 1 Welcome

The President welcomed all to the meeting. It was highlighted that the unveiling of the portrait of the Immediate Past President, Mr Edward Morris FRCOG, had taken place following the membership ceremonies on 14<sup>th</sup> September and the portrait could be viewed in the Members and Fellows Lounge.

## 2 Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from:

Alastair Campbell FRCOG

Emma Crosbie FRCOG

Peter von Dadelszen FRCOG

Chimwemwe Kalumbi MRCOG

Hanan Mustafa MRCOG

William Parry-Smith MRCOG

## 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 30 June 2023 (A1093) were approved.

### 4.2 Actions Record

The actions from the June meeting of Council were noted. The President had raised the issue of the reviewing of Foundation Trust job plans with the Academy of Medical Royal Colleges, who were aware of this issue which affects all Colleges. However, it was felt that it was not possible to alter this currently.

## 5 Obituaries

### 5.1 Resolved:

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

Mr Colin John Richards – Fellow of Wales

## 6 President

### 6.1 President report

The President shared a report of her recent activities, and presented updates on her three priorities: to 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 to support Fellows and Members 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. Detailed scoping work has taken place on all three priorities. It was noted that in July the President hosted a workshop with 50 members from around the world to input into the sustainability priority. The College will soon be making the Levelling the Playing Field: RCOG Differential Attainment, Race & Racism Report available to members.

The President thanked Council members who represent the College on a number of external groups, and requested that all representatives share feedback with the Officers following the meetings they attend in order to keep the College updated.

There was a request for a representative from Council to attend two upcoming events, an NHS England postnatal working group meeting and the UKHACC Ride for their Lives event.

The President presented an update on the College's work to influence the Women's Health Strategy, published in 2022. Professor Dame Lesley Regan, the Government's Women's Health Ambassador, works closely with the College on the developments. There is funding and enthusiasm for new women's health hubs and the College continues to advocate for these, in partnership with other organisations. Other key successes from the first year of the strategy include the new post of a National Clinical Director for Women's Health and publication of the Independent Pregnancy Loss Review.

## **6.2 Membership Engagement Council Workshop: Progress Report**

The President presented a progress report on key actions from the 24 February 2023 Council workshop on membership engagement. The workshop considered how College staff, Officers and Council representatives could achieve greater engagement with the membership.

The following actions were highlighted:

- Daily media summary emails will be sent to all Council members. Licencing prohibits wider circulation of the summary but a recommended alternative is to produce a monthly 'RCOG in the news' round up.
- Guidance shared with Council in June 2023 on how RCOG operates within GDPR guidelines and the support available to Council members to communicate with their constituents.
- The Get Involved webpage was refreshed in the first half of 2023 making the most common categories clearer and more accessible.
- Professional and social networking opportunities to engage with members include; Officers attending regional meetings, an upcoming Global Health film night being hosted at Union Street, and an RCOG workshop at the FIGO Congress 2023. Council members were encouraged to let the President know if there is a regional meeting being arranged in their area.
- The Chief Executive has written to Council member's Trusts to share thanks (where Council members requested a letter to be written) and demonstrate impact of their role. This offer is open to any new members.
- Trainee travel bursaries have been offered to two trainees for the 'Four Countries meeting' in the Netherlands, September 2023 and plans for a further bursary for the AOFOG (Asia and Oceanic Federation of Obstetrics and Gynaecology) Conference in Korea, May 2024. The trainees who attended the Four Countries meeting will be writing a blog on their experience to be shared with members; it was agreed the trainees will also present at the National Trainees Conference in 2024.

A Council member raised frustration with difficulties to directly engage with constituents in country; it was noted that College is happy to send any emails to members in constituencies on behalf of Council representatives and that GDPR is a legal requirement with which the College must comply.

Council welcomed the upcoming Global Health film night being organised by the Senior and Global Vice President. It was queried whether there would be option to join virtually as it may be challenging for members outside of London to attend; this would be considered though there are restrictions due to licencing.

The East Midlands Council representatives requested a visit by the Officers to Nottingham where colleagues have been facing significant challenges; the President responded that the Officers appreciate the difficulties impacting members in the region and that she had been speaking to the Clinical Director with the aim to arrange a visit imminently.

The President noted there has been much discussion with other Colleges through the Academy of Medical Royal Colleges on the impact of the ongoing industrial action on patients and doctors; the College is contributing to an upcoming revised joint statement being led by the Academy.

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

The following new members of Council introduced themselves:

Justin Clark, Fellows' rep West Midlands

Peter Harris, Members' rep East of England

Swati Jha, Fellows' rep Northern/Yorkshire/Humber

Dudley Robinson, Fellows' rep London South  
Alison Wiggans, Members' rep South West

## **8 Regional presentation**

### **8.1 Kent, Surrey and Sussex**

The Fellows' representative for Kent, Surrey and Sussex presented an update from the region.

It is a large region geographically, with an increasing and diverse population. The region includes the largest women's prison in the country which has significant challenges for members who care for pregnant women there.

The region tends to score highly in the Training Evaluation Form feedback and has an active trainees committee, and an expanding training programme with the development of further subspecialty training posts. There is unfortunately no CSRH training in the region and the Head of School is working with the FSRH with the aim to put this in place; it was noted that funding is required.

The SAS/LED figure for the region is not currently available and the representatives are working to source this information to update in the future.

Council congratulated on the region's excellent support for trainees and it was noted that trainees in the region benefit from effective mentoring.

## **9 Membership and Workforce**

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

The Vice President for Membership and Workforce highlighted that a face-to-face Clinical Director forum would be held at Union Street on Friday 10 November, for Clinical Directors across all four nations in both obstetrics and gynaecology.

Council and the College's membership team were thanked for supporting the membership ceremonies, including a recent ceremony held in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia which formed part of a Presidential Visit to Malaysia and Singapore, and an upcoming ceremony being held in Delhi, India in October.

An update was shared on the membership transformation programme. Feedback on the proposal to enhance the proposition for Retired Fellows and Members is being sought from international representatives.

A Task and Finish Group is being set-up to guide the development and review of the elevation to Fellowship application and assessment process, and the proposition for Fellows; Council members are invited to volunteer to join this group.

It was suggested that a survey is undertaken for members who do not apply for Fellowship; it was confirmed that this would be undertaken as part of the work of the new group.

It was queried whether there is a geographical differential in members applying for Fellowship; and confirmed that research will take place to investigate this.

### **9.2 Elevation of Members to Fellowship**

The list of Members for elevation to Fellowship, as circulated to the Fellows on Council, was approved.

### **9.3 Honorary Fellowships 2023**

The admission of 15 Fellowships honoris causa and 6 Fellowships ad eundem were ratified by Council. The awarding of one Distinguished Service Medal was also ratified.

It was queried how the College benefits from the awarding of Honorary Fellowships; it was responded that the applications are marked on criteria including what benefits they can bring to the College, and that the International Council representatives need to consider how to best utilise these awards. It was suggested there could be an outline of the Honorary Fellows role and responsibilities.

## **10 Strategy and Academia**

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

The Vice President for Strategy and Academia reported that the first phase of the Workforce Planning Tool project, commissioned by the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) and led by Dr Jo Mountfield as Clinical Lead for the Workforce Tool, has now been completed. The DHSC has been provided with the prototype Workforce Planning Tool and a final report, which has significantly advanced the understanding of, and the ability to quantify and analyse, obstetric staffing levels in England. The DHSC will need to confirm the plans for the next phase of the project.

Council discussed the availability of the Workforce Planning Tool and it was noted that the College was responsible for delivering the tool to DHSC and that the DHSC are responsible for how it will be used and shared. It was noted that the College has been advocating for the tool to be made publically available.

Under the guidance of the Maternity Safety working group, the Clinical Quality team have undertaken a detailed thematic audit and review of College activity over the last three years, and undertaken a number of engagement workshops including with Council, to understand what the College is doing to support safer maternity care. An interactive tool is being developed for the RCOG website that will present the College's current activity in a structured and accessible way for the membership. Further clinical input is required to bring this work to fruition which Council are invited to contribute to.

The College is exploring a potential partnership with the University of Birmingham with funding through a five year NIHR grant (2023-2028) to establish an RCOG Maternity Safety Research Centre. A collaboration would provide opportunities to use the best evidence and robust research approaches to improve patient safety. Further updates will be shared with Council in due course.

The Clinical Quality team have been working on a proposal for the College to develop a research strategy in partnership with the James Lind Alliance. This would enable big research funders to support the research priorities and encourage a focus on women's health when commissioning new grants. The proposal is supported by the Academic Board and RCOG Research Committee. Funding options are currently being explored to take this activity forward in 2024.

Development of the new Point of Care Ultrasound Training resource is underway and has been submitted to the College's Education Quality Assurance Committee (EQAC) for approval of a new educational product. GE-Healthcare are funding the digital resource, to enable it to be hosted on RCOG Learning as open access to all healthcare professionals. A number of supplementary activities are being scoped to support the resource including a webinar aimed at low and middle income countries as well as a face to face practical event to coincide with the launch.

### **10.2 Awards, Prizes and Bursaries 2023**

Council ratified the individuals put forward for the 2023 awards by the Academic Board. The number of award applications has increased this year, due to a refresh of the awards content on the website and increased promotion across RCOG marketing channels.

## **11 Education**

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

The Vice President for Education reported that the consultation feedback for the Advance Training Review (ATR) has been reviewed by the ATR working group and input to the upcoming submission to the GMC. The submission documentation includes the updated core, speciality interest and sub-speciality curricula, the consultation summary report, the RCOG Equality Impact Assessment report, the Implementation and Transition Plan and a comprehensive communication plan. The decision from the GMC is expected in December 2023 to allow for implementation in August 2024.

The results of the July 2023 MRCOG Part 1 and 2 examinations were shared with Council. Following three unstable years affected by the pandemic, candidate numbers are now returning to above pre-pandemic levels.

A higher pass rate was seen in the MRCOG Part 1 which was concluded is likely to be due to a higher standard of candidates in this diet.

There was a poor pass rate seen for international candidates in the MRCOG Part 2, which has been reviewed and concluded to be due to the candidates rather than the exam. There are concerns that the EMQ question format results in lower performance and additional preparation materials will be made available for candidates; a detailed review of the structure of the exam has been planned, working with Plymouth University who have expertise in the question types.

The UK candidates pass rate was also discussed as this has dropped for the Part 2 diet and is a concern for trainees; it was responded that this is being looked into and may be the result of trainees taking the exam earlier in training and the pandemic impacting the amount of clinical experience the candidates have.

An in-person diet of the MRCOG Part 3 exam will be held in November, including in centres in Hong Kong and Abu Dhabi. The expansion of the Part 3 exam to other countries including Pakistan is planned in the future. A decision has been made to hold Part 3 as a primarily an in-person exam, along with one virtual exam in 2024 for candidates from certain regions.

Consideration will be given in regards to the notice period for upcoming exams to provide examiners with up to a year in advance notification. It was queried whether the College can do more for trainees who have recurrent failures of the exam; it was responded that a pilot has recently been undertaken to give UK candidates summative feedback following the Part 2 exam in July 2023. Feedback gained from this exercise will used in the development of standardised feedback for all candidates sitting both Part 1 and Part 2 exams from January 2024.

The accreditation of overseas hospitals; Aster, Corniche and Max healthcare are progressing well. In addition, as part of the Presidential visit to Malaysia in August a number of important educational meetings were held with the Ministry of Health to discuss the Parallel Pathway Programme and the status of the MRCOG in the country.

It was queried whether accreditation pathway creates an unfair system against those who chose to undertake the MRCOG; it was responded that accreditation helps to support the member pipeline in countries where the MRCOG status is at risk.

The Learning Management System (LMS) Project – RCOG Learning is in its final stages with the last phase to be delivered in December 2023 that will connect the platform to the wider College systems and automate data transfer processes. The College team were thanked for successfully completing this large project on time and to budget.

### **11.2 Changes to CESR pathway 2023**

The revised Certificate of Eligibility for Specialist Registration (CESR) process and new O&G Speciality Specific Guidance (SSG) was approved by Council. This has been developed in response to the mandate received from the GMC in 2022, to make the process more accessible whilst maintaining the quality of applications. The new framework will give more flexibility, as, rather than 'equivalency' to CCT applicants will be assessed on their Knowledge, Skills and Experience against the high-level learning outcomes of the O&G curriculum.

The guidance document has been submitted to the GMC for review, before publication ahead of the November deadline.

### **11.3 CPD Evaluation Recommendations**

The CPD Task and Finish Group, chaired by Miss Sue Ward, produced a Recommendations Report following evaluation of the CPD framework which has been shared with Council. Eight recommendations have been proposed to make the CPD framework and CPD ePortfolio more flexible and fit-for-purpose.

Council welcomed the proposed improvements to the CPD. An implementation plan proposed for 2024 will be taken forward by the Education team as part of their annual work plan.

It was requested that the recent APD session and webinar on CPD be made available to members, in order to help members understand how to complete their CPD diary. It was suggested that a mobile application is developed to maximise the usability.

Council noted that the College's CPD platform does not connect with the NHS platform due to Trusts using different versions. The benefits of the RCOG platform such as linking with RCOG hosted events and courses were noted.

## **12 Global Health**

### **12.1 Report on Global Health Activities**

The Senior and Global Health Vice President reported that the RCOG launched its 'Getting back on track' report in Parliament in July, hosted by Sarah Champion MP, Chair of the International Development Select Committee. The report makes the case for greater overseas development assistance (ODA) investment in global sexual and reproductive health, calling on Government to restore ODA to 0.7% of gross national income and invest £500 million per year for the next three years in SRHR programming and supplies.

The College participated in the Women Deliver 2023 Conference in Kigali, Rwanda, with representatives from the College's Global Health Team attending with the RCOG President. The College hosted an event on tackling stigma in women's health which showcased the global health work of the RCOG.

The College will host a women's health and wellbeing-themed film forum and discussion at the College on Thursday 30 November. This event will showcase a diverse selection of acclaimed international short films, on the topics of Female Genital Mutilation (FGM), domestic violence and post-natal depression.

A summary report evaluating the inaugural workshop developed to combat female genital mutilation was shared with Council. The workshop took place in Alexandria, Egypt in May.

Council received a presentation sharing feedback from more than half of the delegates who attended the hybrid RCOG World Congress hosted from Union Street in June. 98% agreed or partly agreed that the standard of presentations was high and 95% agreed or partly agreed that Congress met all delegates personal development needs.

The next Congress will be held between 15-17 November in Oman; Council members will be invited to attend and subsequently assigned roles to contribute.

It was noted that a programme of webinars is being created for 2024, including a trial with commercial sponsors.

## **13 Clinical Quality**

### **13.1 Report on Clinical Quality Activities**

The Vice President for Clinical Quality reported that the Trustees of Tommy's Charity have agreed to award a one-off grant of £107,000, for the financial year 2023-24 to the Tommy's National Centre for Maternity Improvement. This is to support the procurement of a new software developer for the Tommy's App and will allow the Centre to also continue to deliver its existing priorities this year.

The Tommy's PARTNER Trial to evaluate the 'real world' implementation of the Tommy's App medical device is currently accepting expressions of interest from maternity units in England; Council members were asked to share the request with their networks.

Following an in-depth review of the existing NMPA outcome measures, which considered recent changes in maternity care and involved extensive consultation, a revised list of 15 measures has been submitted to HQIP for approval. The team are undertaking preparation work on Welsh data which has been received ahead of the upcoming NMPA annual reports; Scottish and English data is still awaited.

The College has updated its consent webpage to include information on informed consenting prior to intimate examinations during procedures under anaesthesia, and this has been shared with members through the

President's blog. This is in response to complaints raised through the GMC regarding incidence of not gaining explicit consent before such examinations.

The College website now shares information on guidance products in production and their development status. Council was asked to encourage their constituents to feedback on draft guidance out for consultation.

A working group has been established to develop a response to the Chief Coroner's Guidance No. 45 on Stillbirth and Live Birth Following Termination of Pregnancy issued in February 2023. A paper is being developed to provide a resource for all healthcare practitioners involved in termination of pregnancy, to inform standards of practice and mitigate variations in care in response to the Chief Coroner's Guidance.

It was highlighted that following a high number of requests, guidance on Bleeding on HRT is being produced jointly through a rapid process led by the British Menopause Society with input from the RCOG and BGCS; interested Council members were invited to contribute.

## **14 CEO**

### **14.1 CEO Update**

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

The College received a formal Rule 9 request to submit evidence for Module 3 of the COVID-19 Public Inquiry, which relates to the impact of Covid-19 on health systems. A comprehensive written statement will be submitted in the name of Past President Mr Edward Morris ahead of the September deadline.

A 'win back' campaign will be piloted in 2024 for Fellows and Members who lapsed their membership during the period 2018-2022, following approval by the Finance and General Purposes Committee. The initiative aims to make it easier for members to re-join who have been removed due to non-payment of their membership fee. The impact of this campaign will then be assessed to inform any proposal to hold a further campaign, or to make adjustments to the current reinstatement model.

The College has developed a proposal for a partnership with RANZCOG that will enable its members to access digital education content available on RCOG Learning, via an institutional membership access. This is the first step in creating a commercial offering for the College's digital education products using the new Learning Management System (LMS).

An online RCOG shop has been developed to sell the range of official RCOG branded merchandise through the website, which can currently only be purchased at Union Street.

## **15 FSRH**

The President of FSRH reported that a new three-year FSRH strategy has been approved by the Board of Trustees and will be launched to the membership in September 2023. The Faculty have a focus on governance with the reorganisation of their committee structure to ensure all groups and committees report into the relevant body, and a new CRM system being launched in 2024.

The Faculty delivered its first Annual All Member Survey, providing information on the FSRH membership and the SRH workforce more broadly. This information is being used as the basis for the forthcoming FSRH Workforce report, with an emphasis on the need to increase the number of SRH trainees.

The Faculty is hosting their Annual Conference at Union Street in December. The event will close with a member ceremony and a drinks reception in aid of the Faculty's 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

The Faculty are holding a The Hot Topic event in September on preventing and recognising women with genital syphilis and HIV jointly with BASSH.

It was noted that a recent Syphilis Summit had taken place which a Clinical Quality committee member had attended on behalf of the RCOG, the key issue for members is the late diagnosis of pregnant women; guidance

on testing is expected shortly from the National Screening Committee.

## **16 Board of Trustees**

### **16.1 Report from 8 September 2023 meeting**

The President highlighted key points from the Board of Trustees meeting held virtually on 8<sup>th</sup> September.

The CEO had reported to the Board on activity including the successful World Congress event, status of MRCOG exam, the College's response to the Covid Inquiry, review of the College's products and services pricing principles, and the ABC3 contract.

The Board discussed the potential purchase of 8 Union Street, which has the potential to be utilised for Officer accommodation.

A number of policies were approved by the Board: General Reserves, Investment and Risk Management.

The Board noted the commencement of the Chair's second and final term, in addition to the following appointments:

- Dr Mausumi Das - Audit and Risk Committee
- Dr Fatima Husain - Equality and Diversity Committee
- Roy Clarke - member of the Nominations and Remuneration Committee as independent trustee

## **17 Trainees**

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

The Trainees' Committee Chair reported that the mid-year Trainees Committee meeting was recently held in hybrid format at Union Street and items discussed included the progress of the Advanced Training Review (ATR) and future implications, the industrial strikes, which trainees feel do not impact on training and the recently published sexual harassment in surgery paper.

Two projects are underway being led by the Chair; a 'Say No to Waste N20' networking event which aims to document change in usage and reduce waste of N20, and a week-long O&G Bake Off for trainees and members with local collections for charity.

A National Trainees' Conference will be held in 2024, which will be located in the Kent, Surrey and Sussex region.

It was noted that the Trainer of the Year Award had been awarded to Dr Alexandra Rice and Trainee Trainer of the Year awarded to Dr Rachel Lee.

The Chair's tenure will be coming to an end in December, and planning has begun to elect a new National Trainees Committee Chair.

## **18 SAS/LED**

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

The SAS/LED Lead highlighted that the College will be promoting SAS Week 2023 from 9-13 October. This is an opportunity to celebrate SAS doctors across all specialties, recognising their role in the NHS workforce. Five case studies of SAS doctors working in O&G will be shared on social media channels across the week. Council members were encouraged to reach out to SAS/LE colleagues and acknowledge the week in their own units.

SAS and LE Doctors continue to be heavily involved in covering duties during Junior Doctors' and Consultants' strikes and are at risk of exhaustion and burnout; the SAS/LED Lead requested that consideration be given to the tone of messaging on strikes in relation to the impact on members and women. It was noted that SAS doctors are being balloted to ask if they would like to join the strikes.

Recruitment is going to the SAS-LED Committee for areas where representatives are still required, including Wales and the South West. Council members were encouraged to liaise with the representative in their region and collaborate on planned activity.

The SAS-LED committee would like to start planning for a three – five years’ strategy; the President noted her pride of the SAS-LED Committee and network of regional representatives, and that the committee is part of the wider membership strategy.

## **19 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 Ms Emma Crookes and Ms Freya El-Baz have been appointed as co-Vice Chairs of the Women’s Network and will begin attending future Council members. Four new Women’s Network members have also been appointed, and an advert will open shortly for two new clinical representatives of the Women’s Network.

The Women’s Network are considering the development of a series of public facing webinars for women and service users focusing on topics such as fertility and urogynaecology, with the Network members contributing suggested topics.

It was queried whether the Women’s Network or Voices Panel contribute to CQC investigations in maternity units; it was confirmed that the Network are not asked to contribute and that CQC carry out their own public and patient involvement activity.

The Vice President for Clinical Quality thanked the Women’s Network for their significant contributions to Clinical Quality products, and that a number of new CQ products are being developed in partnership with the Network including an animation video, and a menopause education project with UCL.

It was queried whether patient information products are being translated as this is a limiting factor in accessibility; it was confirmed that a pilot translation has taken place and the result of this pilot is awaited.

## **20 Academic Board**

### **20.1 Report on Academic Activities**

The circulated report on Academic Board activities was noted.

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

### **21.1 Removals and Reinstatement of Members**

Council noted two removals and one reinstatement to RCOG membership, following changes to the GMC register.

### **21.2 DRRC Membership Appointments**

Council approved the appointment of two new members (a Trainee representative and SAS/LED representative) to the DRRC.

## **22 Council Membership**

### **22.1 Committee and Honorary Appointments**

The 13 new appointments to RCOG Committee posts were ratified.

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

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

Education Board: Fellow

The following Council representatives on Boards and Committees were approved:

Clinical Quality Board Member: Hanan Mustafa MRCOG

EDI Committee: Hlupekila Chipeta MRCOG

## **23 Reports/minutes**

The following minutes were circulated to note:

23.1 Education Board minutes 21 July 2023

23.2 Membership Board minutes 1 June 2023 and 20 July 2023

23.3 Clinical Quality Board minutes 6 July 2023

23.4 Academic Board minutes 6 July 2023

## **24 Any other business**

The East Midland representatives requested that comparative outcome data for units be made available to be shared with colleagues at Nottingham Hospitals; it was confirmed that data from the NMPA report and the quarterly HES data could be shared. It was noted that generally units undergoing investigation are not usually outliers on outcomes and this raises whether the methodology used for investigations and/or the matrix of clinical outcomes used are correct. It was noted that the College is a member of a group hosted by NHS England which reviews ratings from CQC and NHS Resolution to monitor which units are starting to drop and aim to put support in place.

A query was raised regarding harassment calls received to the on call, reported to be occurring at different units across the country; it was responded that this would be a police matter.