

Meeting of the Royal College of Anaesthetists Scottish Board held on Tuesday 06 June 2023

Present	Dr Daphne Varveris Dr Jon McGhie Dr Susan Chapman Dr Ross Junkin Dr Angela Jenkins Dr Gary Rodgers	Chair Elected Member & Vice Chair Elected Member Elected Member Elected Member Elected Trainee Member
Ex Officio & Co-opted	Professor Lesley Colvin Dr Andrea Harvey Dr Nafees Jafry Dr Katie Lake Dr Alastair McDiarmid Dr Laura McGarrity Dr Neil O'Donnell Dr Sonya McKinlay Dr Colin Rae Dr Malcolm Smith Dr Cameron Weir	Vice Chair, SIGN Chair AAGBI Scottish Standing Committee SAS Member Scottish Society of Anaesthetists RA-A North East Scotland Representing Perioperative Medicine Workforce Lead Elected Member SIGN Representative RA, West of Scotland RA-A, East of Scotland
In Attendance	Dr Russell Perkins Ms Sharon Drake Mr Peter Kunzmann Dr Dannielle Seddon	Vice President, RCoA Deputy CEO & Director of Clinical Quality & Research, RCoA Head of Policy & Public Affairs, RCoA External Advisers/RCoA Panel (item 8.1)
Apologies	Professor Lesley Colvin Dr Nicola Hogan Dr Zuzanna Kusnirikova Dr Pete Paisley Dr Sarah Ramsay Dr Ann Shearer Dr Malcolm Sim Dr John Wilson Dr Neil Young	Vice Chair, SIGN Co-opted Trainee Member Scottish Paediatric Anaesthetic Network Joint Lead RA, Pain Medicine Elected Member Lay Representative Academic Anaesthesia Representative RA-A South East Scotland Lead RA in Intensive Care Medicine

1 Welcome, Introductions and Apologies

All welcomed to the meeting and new members introduced. Both Alastair McDiarmid RA North of Scotland) and John Wilson (RA South East of Scotland) were thanked for their service. Anoop Kumar (North) and Linzi Peacock (SE) were appointed as the new RAs. Neil O'Donnell would be stepping down from his role and the Chair expressed the Board's thanks to him. Jon McGhie would be taking on some of the workforce role.

Daphne Varveris had attended anaesthesia 2023 in Birmingham which had been well attending both online and in person.

- A Scottish representative to replace John Wilson on the Training, Curriculum and Assessment Committee are sought.

Action: Expressions of interest to Daphne Varveris

- COPES – the first consultation for Scotland had gone through this process.
Action: Could all Board members elected or co-opted support and respond to the process.
- Still a vacancy for a CD representative on the Scottish Board.
Actions: Expressions of interest from department CDs sought. (All)
- Joint Scottish Board Meeting with College Tutors – agreed to resurrect this meeting which usually ran in the autumn. Aim is to run in September 2024.
Actions:
 - **Sharon Drake to take back to RCoA for further discussion.**
 - **Volunteers needed to assist Daphne Varveris in setting up the meeting.**

2 Approval of the Minute of the Meeting held on 7 February 2023

The minute of the meeting held on 7 February 2023 was approved with the following amendment:

Item 5.5 – Action to be changed to Malcolm Watson.

Realistic Medicine – Sonya McKinley had attended the CfSD Leads’ meeting but had nothing to report.

3 Education, Training, Recruitment and Exams

3.1 Training and Impact of New Curriculum

The Board noted the difficulties with accessing the e-portfolio which had been reported to RCoA. Concerns re the logbook had been ongoing for over a year and have proved to be a big problem. It was further noted that the paediatric component in the new curriculum was a lot to consider in one domain and going forward consideration should be given to separating it out.

3.3 Recruitment Report [Jon McGhie]

The circulated report was noted. Scotland would stick with an August recruitment date. Issues of recycling of ICM funding recurred and had been discussed at STB. A 4 nations working group had been established to look at creating an interim solution or permanent fix for future rounds of recruitment. Recruitment of interviewers was starting in Scotland with the north and Tayside struggling to recruit.

Action: encourage new RAs to increase the pool of interviewers.

It was noted that there had been fewer applications for ST4, candidates were still going overseas, degree of attrition from year to year.

3.4 Workforce Report [Neil O’Donnell]

The circulated report was noted. Submission to the Transmission Group this year was part of a rolling plan to increase the ST establishment to 272. There was strong data to support this.

3.5 Trainee Update [Gary Rodgers]

The review of examinations published by the College in January had been well received in Scotland and elsewhere. Locally far fewer concerns regarding curriculum delivery than expected. The simulation strategy published by Ed Mellanby had been well received. Noted that a strong case needed to be made to address the unmet need of simulation training for trainees in Scotland. Funding remained an issue.

Action: Information regarding trainees cases of delays in training due to access to SIM training, concerns over equity sought and fed back to Ed Mellanby to support the case for funding. (All)

3.6 SAS Update [Nafees Jafry]

Noted that the new SAS contract had implemented. It was further noted that there was no reliable data identifying SAS doctors.

Action:

- **To let colleagues know that the Scottish Board now had an SAS representative and to link with Nafees Jafry. (All)**
- **To be included in the Scottish newsletter.**

3.7 Anaesthetics Assistants [Daphne Varveris]

The proposed name change to *Anaesthetic Practitioner* had instigated interesting discussion.

Action: Daphne Varveris to pursue further with the CMO and Fiona Fraser to establish if the circulated document had already been enacted in parts of Scotland. Will feedback if further information obtained.

3.8 Anaesthesia Associates [Sonya McKinlay]

- Sonya McKinlay has attended the Anaesthesia Associates information event organised by the College. The event was well attended with many departments showing interest in employing AA. Hospitals were at various stages in the process with some having AAs embedded within their teams successfully for many years and some just starting to employ and train them. The event allowed for collaboration and networking. Departments appeared to make the decision to employ AAs and then to train them in-house with the RCoA and GMC providing the framework and curriculum but no practical or hands-on assistance. The universities who deliver the training volunteered to help those departments wishing to employ AAs with the selection process with d HEE having been consulted regarding job descriptions. Unsure what is happening in Scotland.
- A meeting of the FAA Founding Board took place on 3 May. The Board had agreed on a final version of the document *Planning the Introduction and Training for AAs – Considerations for your Anaesthetic Department*.
- A common strategy is being worked on.

The Board noted that the College is looking to conduct a review in 1-2 years to allay trainees' fears. Results from a recent College survey of clinical leaders had given mixed results with those who have AAs giving positive feedback and those who don't rather sceptical. The survey would be going out to the wider membership, including trainees.

3.9 Anaesthesia Associates Curriculum [Ross Junkin]

This was nearing completion and would include a written exam.

4 RCoA President's and Senior Management Team Report

The circulated report was noted.

- Fiona Donald had been re-elected for a 3rd and final year as President
- Helgi Johannasson had been re-elected for a 2nd year as VP and Clare Shannon had been elected as the second Vice President.
- The College had been accepted as a core participant for Module 3 of the Covid-19 Inquiry, following the joint submission alongside FICM and the Association of Anaesthetists.
- The independent review into examinations was released on 16 February.
- A newly formed Examinations Development and Assurance Group (EDAG) would meet frequently to define the development of the exams and sees external advice on proposed changes where relevant. Trainee representatives from each exam were being sought.

- Exam sittings were progressing with very high numbers of candidates. It has not been possible to accommodate all those wishing to sit.
- Clinical Leaders in Anaesthesia Network (CLAN) – request to the Board to promote CLAN to all anaesthetists with a clinical leadership or deputy clinical leadership role in their hospitals as Scottish engagement with the network is less than in other parts of the UK. Sharon Drake would send list identifying the gaps. **Action: Sharon Drake/ALL**
- SALG – a new patient safety update had just been released. Leads asked to produce a redacted report which could be circulated with update. Could be a way of getting SALG to consider Scottish incidents.
- NAP 8 – the call had gone out for proposals; the teams were particularly interested in topics relating to regional anaesthesia.
- CPOC had been commissioned by NHS England to draft the training content for Perioperative Care Coordination.
- Danny Conway had been appointed to the role of Education Lead for the Perioperative Care Curriculum Project commissioned by HEE. **Action: Sharon Drake to put Danny Conway in contact with Sonya McKinlay.**
- The *State of the Nation* report would be released shortly. **Action: Peter Kunzmann to circulate the report.**
- Political engagement continues south of the border, trying to engage in Scotland.
- New workforce survey would be conducted.

5 Clinical Quality and Research

5.1 Perioperative Medicine (CPOC) [Laura McGarrity]

CfSD seemed to be reaching out to Health Boards to address the surgical backlog. Health Boards were being encouraged to consider bolder use of practitioner roles and extended roles for theatre nurses from Band 4 through to Surgical Care Practitioners.

It was noted that CPOC had recurring funding for staff involved with pre-habilitation.

Actions:

- **Sharon Drake to speak with Laura McGarrity**
- **Peter Kunzmann to be copied in as undertaking a mapping exercise with perioperative care**
- **Laura McGarrity to email Daphne Varveris and Peter Kunzmann a short paper on pre-habilitation in advance of meeting with Michael Matheson, Scottish Cabinet Secretary for Health and Social Care**

5.2 SIGN Update [Colin Rae]

The circulated report was noted.

5.4 Safe Anaesthesia Liaison Group [Daphne Varveris]

The circulated reports were noted.

Action: Prep, stop and block – consider small reminder for newsletter and include resources. Sonya McKinlay to link with Gary Rodgers and Nicola Hogan

5.5 Scottish Quality and Safety Group [Daphne Varveris]

Noted that Anaesthesia 2024 is in Glasgow from 21-23 May 2024. Support from the Board very much appreciated. **Action: All**

7 Academic Anaesthesia [Malcolm Sim]

- SCREDS posts have had funding allocated, potential for trainees to apply. Available to trainees across Scotland.

- Approached by RCoA Council members, potential for a Fellowship in AI which Scottish trainees can apply for. Trainees would remain in their Health Board and within their hospital and would be supported by a clinical lead with an interest in AI.

Actions:

- **Sonya McKinlay to contact Malcolm Broom**
- **All go back to their respective departments to ascertain if any individuals with an interest in AI.**
- **Daphne Varveris to feedback to RCoA.**
- **Daphne Varveris to send information to Sonya McKinlay.**

8 Communication and External Affairs

8.1 Scottish Academy Update: Meeting held on 1st February 2023 [Daphne Varveris]

- a **Joint Statement from NHS Employers (MSG Management Steering Group), BMA Scotland and the Scottish Academy: Survey of Senior Hospital Doctors' Retirement Plans**

The circulated statement was noted.

The Scottish Academy Wellbeing Group would be looking at job planning.

Action: All asked if could contribute by sending Daphne Varveris short anecdotes on this issue.

- b **Meeting with CMO held on 4 May 2023 [Sarah Ramsay]**

Focus of the meeting:

- higher value healthcare
- digital
- modern professionalism and the role of the doctor in the future
- discussion around patient trust issues
- 9/1 not feasible way of working

- c **Meeting with Cabinet Secretary 20 June 2023**

Issues discussed:

- Workforce
- Health & Social Care
- Pre-habilitation
- Winter 2023 **Action: Feedback to Daphne specific projects that might help/aid processes through the system.**

- d **EA Person Training [Dannielle Seddon]**

Recent published update on www.scottishacademy.org.uk

Update and review at some point.

Training of EAs – limited training in Scotland, specifically in anaesthesia. Discussion on streamlining the process between Scotland and England. RCPL had set up online training for its AACs. A training day in London to be reinstated. Online course is free and available to all. Noted that there are differences in the process north and south of the border.

Actions:

- **Dannielle Seddon to take this forward**
- **Sonya McKinlay to link with Dannielle Seddon with a view to preparing a short paper to be sent onto Sharon Drake.**

For Information

e **Reducing the Environmental Impact of Prescribing: RGCP Scotland & Royal Pharmaceutical Society Joint Roundtable**

Noted.

f **Medical Devices**

Noted.

8.3 **Scottish Newsletter/Media Engagement** [*Nicola Hogan*]

The next newsletter was shaping up. Agreed that it would be useful if it was readily available online with archived copies available. **Action: Sharon Drake**

This was Nicola Hogan's last meeting and she was thanked for her work on behalf of the Board. Susie Chapman will be taking on the production of the newsletter.

9 **Reports from Committees and Other Groups**

9.1 **Maternity Care Issues** [*Ross Junkin*]

None.

9.2 **Obesity Alliance Scotland** [*Daphne Varveris*]

Noted.

9.3 **SHAAP** [*Daphne Varveris*]

Minimum unit pricing of alcohol (MUP) was implemented in May 2018 at a rate of 50p per unit. The policy is subject to a sunset clause, it will lapse unless renewed by the Scottish Parliament by the end of April 2024. The aim is to renew MUP in line with inflation and SHAAP was looking for support.

9.4 **Scottish Paediatric Anaesthetic Network** [*Zuzana Kusnirikova*]

A report had been received and is attached to this note.

9.5 **Scottish Society of Anaesthetists** [*Katie Lake*]

Katie Lake had taken over the secretary role on the SSA. The Tayside team were thanked, the new team were all based in the west of Scotland. Kerry Litchfield has taken up office as President and Euan Jack as Vice President. Bookings would open at the end of this month for the SSA/RCoA Joint meeting. The spring 2024 meeting would be held in Peebles. People were encouraged to apply for travel grants. It was hoped to rejuvenate The Annals.

9.6 **Scottish Standing Committee AAGBI** [*Andrea Harvey*]

Advocacy

- SNP conference in person attendance with Mike Nathanson, October 2022 . Also virtual meetings with the Scottish Green Party
 - Raised Issues around retention of anaesthetists in Scotland (recruitment and retirement)
 - environmental issues
 - the Green Theatres Specialty Delivery Group work
 - Assisted Dying Bill.
- The Association was following the Assisted Dying Bill through the Scottish Courts and looking at its position on this as an anaesthetic body. Association was working with the RCOA on this.

- Last month, Matt Davies and the Advocacy Rep met with MSP Claire Haughey and one of the issues discussed was around shortening both medical school and specialist training. This was highlighted even more so when hearing how the Europeans were approaching this.
- The Association was also a core participant for Module 3 of the COVID inquiry as a joint group with the RCOA and FICM. The Inquiry is looking for single nation input so the Association will be working with the SSC and the RCOA Scottish Board to highlight specific Scottish issues. This will be over the next 6 months.
- SSC AA Trainee Committee was working with the RCSE Anti Bullying Campaign
- The Association's ongoing work relates to fighting fatigue, safety after shifts eg hospitals car parks and transport and wellbeing

9.7 **Scottish Health Technologies Group** [Jon McGhie]

The circulated report was noted.

10 **Items for discussion**

10.1 **Assisted Dying**

Discussed at RCoA Council as survey being developed. The nations would be separated out. Noted that RCoA is taking no stance on assisted dying. Survey asking if a neutral position should be taken. This would go back to Council in July and it would make the final decision.

10.2 **Abortion Buffer Zones**

Was to have been raised by Fiona Donald at UK Academy.

Action: Russell Perkins unsure if it was raised and will confirm.

11 **Final Thoughts**

- Scottish Government circular bringing down the carbon footprint of NHS Scotland
- National Green Theatres programme. There is a website, removing anaesthetic gases from the supply train etc.
- Developing a green map to monitor progress.
- Alastair McDiarmid had been sent a letter from the Head of Paediatrics in Aberdeen, it is in crisis. (See report at 9.4). Difficult to recruit and unable to get locum cover. Need to provide critical care cover as well. A plan in place to provide basic cover. A bleak picture. Impossible to say what the impact on training is at the moment. **Action: Alastair McDiarmid will keep the Board posted.**
- 'You can be a Doctor' – Callum Cruikshank had requested that RCoA co-badge *Widening participation in medicine.* **Action: Sharon Drake to take back to RCoA.**

12 **Dates of Meetings**

- Tuesday 3 October 2023 at RCPE, 10:30 – 15:00

2024

- 6 February at RCPE, 10:30 – 15:00
- 4 June at RCPE, 10:30 – 15:00