



ROYAL COLLEGE OF PHYSICIANS AND SURGEONS OF GLASGOW

UNCONFIRMED

Minute of the **Annual General Meeting** held in the College and online on Friday 6 December 2024 at 16.30hrs

Present

The President welcomed all Fellows and Members present and those in attendance including;

Linda Irvine	Interim CEO; Director of Membership and Engagement
Muir Brown	Deputy Director of Membership and Engagement
Fiona Winter	Director of Education and Assessment
Kenneth Osborne	Finance Director
Kat Hannah	Director of Communications and Marketing
Emma Maxwell	Director, Burness Paull LLP

		<u>Action</u>
1.	Apologies and Intimations The President welcomed all Fellows and Members to this hybrid Annual General Meeting, noting that over 125 members from 16 countries had registered to attend. The President noted that apologies had been received from 4 Fellows and Members, notable among whom was Professor Stephen Powis, National Medical Director of NHS England; he also asked everyone to pause for a few moments to remember the 33 Fellows and Members of the College whose deaths were notified to the College since the last AGM. The President made specific reference to the deaths of Peter Garfield Bennett (founding Fellow of the Faculty of Podiatric Medicine), Robert Hume (Past President), Colin MacKay (Past President), Stuart McAlpine and Roy Miller (Past Honorary Librarian).	
2.	Minutes of Annual General Meeting held on Friday 1 December 2023 The President proposed that the minute of the last AGM be approved as a true record of the meeting. This was agreed and seconded by Prof Abhay Rane.	
3.	Matters arising from the Minutes There were no matters arising from the minutes.	
4.	President's Report The President reminded members of the College's 3 key aims, namely: - to deliver an education and assessment programme aimed at maintaining standards - to engage with the College's membership across the world - to raise the profile of the College across all aspects of healthcare Education and Assessment In the last year, the College delivered 157 educational events, attended by over 5,000 delegates. The majority of these were hybrid events, allowing delegates to join remotely as well as in the College lecture theatres. The use of hybrid technology allowed the College to partner with the Association of Surgeons of India (ASI) and the Association of Physicians of India (API) to deliver a highly successful series of webinars, some of which had over 1,000 attendees. In assessment, the College opened 4 new MRCP(UK) exam centres – in Bury, Oxford, Portsmouth, and London. The College now examines one-third of all MRCP(UK) candidates in the UK. Similarly, 3 new MRCS Part B exam centres were opened in India – in Pune, New Delhi and Trivandrum. In the dental arena, our College played a key role in reaching agreement with the other 3 Dental Faculties in the UK and Ireland, and with the GDC, simplifying the landscape of dental specialty examinations, resulting in a new suite of curricula and examinations at fellowship level.	

The President reminded members of the pivotal role this College plays as a combined medical and surgical College, one of only 4 in the world. As a member of both the Federation of Royal Colleges of Physicians and the Joint Surgical Colleges, and enjoying good relationships with all statutory education bodies, our College has been able, for example, to broker discussions with the GMC on CESR applications.

The President informed members that the provision of surgical training in the UK has still not recovered from its pre-COVID state across all surgical specialties. This is having a significant impact on the provision of services and on surgical trainees. Low morale in the profession is also negatively affecting retention of medical staff and recruitment of new trainees, with only 1.1 applications for every place at a medical school in Scotland.

In the last year, the College has focused its attention on public health and used its power in bringing people together to discuss important issues such as environmental sustainability, climate and the increasing problem of obesity. This year's President's Conference highlighted the disturbing statistic that 64% of all adults in the UK and 22% of children starting school at the age of 5 years are obese. Other important topics covered by the College include commentary on the report into sexual misconduct in surgery, and the role of physician and anaesthetic associates in the medical workforce, resulting in a policy statement issued by the College's Resident Doctors' Committee.

Membership

The President confirmed that total membership grew by 1.7% in the year 2023-24. 45% of members are based outside the UK, with 22% in Scotland and 33% in the rest of the UK. 70% of the membership are physicians/surgeons; 24% are dental surgeons and 6% are travel and podiatric medicine specialists. In a recent survey, our members gave the College an average score of 7.94 out of 10, with over 80% saying they would recommend the College to new members and over 90% saying that they are satisfied with the way the College speaks up for its members.

Charitable Purpose

The President thanked the William and Elizabeth Davies Charitable Trust for its continued financial support to the Clinical Anatomy Skills Centre at Glasgow University and the Macewen Clinical Skills Suite in the College. He went on to summarise several charitable projects which the College is actively supporting. These include:

- visit to Scotland by the first 2 qualified dentists from the Malawi Dental School
- continuing support to the College of Surgeons of East Central and Southern Africa
- visit to Scotland of the Teasdale Fellow, Peter Mushenya, a neurosurgeon from Zambia
- the Bridges programme supporting refugee doctors in Scotland
- the Scottish Clinical Leadership Fellows programme
- partnership with the Vascular Society on a 2nd PhD student
- a new clinical PhD student supported by the College

Heritage

The President informed members of the recently unveiled portrait in College Hall of Jamini Sen, the first female Fellow of the College from Bengal, India, who was admitted in 1912. He also announced a £45K grant from Museums & Galleries Scotland to maximise the Audubon Collection through a community engagement project with the young people of Govan. The College's rich heritage is also visible in the current exhibition marking 100 years since the death of Sir William Macewen.

Future

In closing, the President focused on AI, hybrid conferences and webinars, development of the College website and regulating the financial position as the key priorities for the year ahead.

5. Annual Financial Statement: Report by the Honorary Treasurer

The Honorary Treasurer informed members that College's Net Assets increased by over £1.3M in the last financial year to £28.3M at 31 March 2024. The College's balance sheet has remained relatively stable over the last 4 years, although this masks an under-performance in annual operating results.

	The total consolidated deficit for the year 2023/24 was £834K – an increase of £285K from the previous financial year. Of that, the operating deficit improved by £116K. The auditors had previously observed that the College should be increasing its net expenditure from endowments and other funds donated to the College for specific purposes. Expenditure from these funds has duly increased by £66K in the last financial year. The Honorary Treasurer explained how the adverse gap between operating income and expenditure, which has persisted since 2015/16, has closed slightly in the last financial year, and this trend has continued into the current year. In January 2024, the Trustees approved a target of a break-even budget in 2024/25. The year-to-date results are in line with this budget and, if realised, would mean an operating improvement of £0.5M. This is being delivered by an increase in income of £1M (from membership, examination and education) while keeping the increase in costs to just £0.5M. This would represent a very significant improvement in the College’s operational budget. Members should note this is still a forecast and the full picture for 2024/25 will not be known until after the end of the current financial year.	
6.	Audit & Risk and Finance & Investment Committees Report Mr Mark Allison, Lay Trustee and Chair of the Audit and Risk Committee, gave a short report on both Committees, stressing the independence of the Committee Chairs. In the last year, the Finance and Investment Committee (FIC) issued a tender and appointed a new investment manager. This individual will deliver against the agreed investment strategy and be held to account by FIC. This includes the divesting of all oil and gas investments in line with the College’s sustainability policy. FIC also agreed to sell some investments to repay the College’s bank loan, since the cost to renegotiate the loan was too prohibitive. FIC also approved the ending of the overdraft facility, and is now managing cash via a short-term working capital facility which is proving more effective. Committee members review financial performance against budget or reforecast at each meeting, as well as the key performance indicators across all College activity driving the business. Mr Allison outlined the key areas of focus of the Audit and Risk Committee (ARC), highlighting that the College has a robust risk framework which is reviewed regularly to ensure all risks are appreciated and managed appropriately. A cyber incident which affected the College in September 2023 was managed maturely and in line with due process. Lessons have been learned, controls have been improved, but this remains a very high risk, as it does for all organisations. ARC also called for a review of all the College’s intercollegiate relationships. These partnerships offer opportunities, principally in the examination arena, but come with their own risks. These are now fully documented and appreciated. The committee received a positive report on the College’s Health and Safety audit, and Mr Allison also took part in the tendering process to supply legal services. In conclusion, Mr Allison reassured members that the College’s risk framework is fit for purpose, and is kept under constant review. The external auditors, Chienne + Tait, have assessed the entire business of the College and, with one minor weakness which was since been addressed, have issued an unqualified opinion on the College’s finances. The accounts for 2023/24 are a true and fair view and fully compliant with accounting standards and charities law.	
7.	Questions from Fellows and Members There were no questions from the membership.	
8.	Proposed Amendments to the Regulations and Bye Laws The Registrar introduced the proposed amendment to the Byelaws as detailed in Resolutions A of the Agenda and provided a brief explanation of the rationale behind this.	

	The Resolution was passed unanimously.	
9.	Election of Office Bearers and Members of Council The President thanked all those demitting office from College Council namely: • Dr Graham Curry for his 4 years' service as Ordinary Councillor (Physician) • Dr Graeme Tait for his 8 years' service as Ordinary Councillor (Physician) • Dr Dhiraj Tripathi for his 4 years' service as Regional Councillor (Physician) • Major Ajay Sharma for his 4 years' service as Regional Councillor (Surgeon) • Mr Mark Allison for his 10 years' service as Lay Trustee and Chair of the Audit & Risk Committee (previously Finance Audit & Risk Committee) a) Honorary Librarian The President announced that 1 nomination was received, and Dr Elizabeth Murphy was elected for a first term of 3 years. b) Honorary Treasurer The President announced that 3 nominations were received. A ballot was conducted and Mr Drummond Mansbridge was elected to serve for a second term of 3 years. c) Ordinary Councillor (Physician) The President announced that 4 nominations were received for the 2 vacancies. A ballot was conducted, and Dr Ananth Srinivasan and Dr Muhammad Mohsin Isar were each elected for a first term of 3 years. d) Regional Councillor (Physician, UK excl. Scotland) The President announced that 4 nominations were received. A ballot was conducted, and Dr Charles Kelly was re-elected for a second and final term of 3 years. e) Regional Councillor (Surgeon, UK excl. Scotland) The President announced that 6 nominations were received. A ballot was conducted, and Mr Aidan Armstrong was elected for a first term of 3 years. f) Regional Councillor (Physician, International) The President announced that 22 nominations were received. A ballot was conducted, and Professor Nandini Chatterjee was elected to serve for a term of 3 years.	
10.	Appointment of Auditors The President proposed that Cheine+Tait be re-appointed as the College's auditors for the year 2024-25. This was agreed and seconded by Professor Abhay Rane.	
11.	Appointment of Clerk and Legal Advisors The President informed members that a rigorous tendering process for the supply of legal services took place earlier this year with 5 firms short-listed and interviewed. The President proposed that Burness Paull LLP, represented today by Ms Emma Maxwell and Ms Emma Manson, be re-appointed as the Clerk and Legal Advisors for 2024/25. This was agreed and seconded by Mr Mike McKirdy.	
12.	Any Other Competent Business There were no other items of competent business.	
13.	Date and Time of next AGM The President confirmed that the next AGM would take place on Friday 5 December 2024 at 16.30hrs. The President declared the meeting closed, thanking all Fellows and Members for their attendance, and inviting those present in person to join the Executive Board and Council members for a reception in the Lower Library.	