

30 November 2023

## International Committee Meeting

A meeting of the International Committee was held on 6 November 2023 at 14:00 GMT via Teams.

Dr Lance Sandle  
Registrar

### Minutes

<b>Present:</b>	Professor Ismail Matalaka – Clinical Director of International Activities Professor Angharad Davies – Vice President of Learning Professor John Obafunwa Professor Kedar K Deodhar Professor Lai-Meng Looi Professor Maysa Al-Hussaini Professor Naresh Kikkeri Dr Ranganathan Iyer Jeff Allen Giles Hanratty Joanne Brinklow Kelley Price
<b>Apologies for absence:</b>	Dr Anan Ghazy Dr Hiba Ali Professor Nicki Cohen Professor Ronan McMullan Dr Omar Layth Qassid



## **1. Clinical Director's Report – Professor Ismail Matalka, Clinical Director of International Activities**

- a. The obituary for Dr Ali Sa'ed was read out. He was a Fellow of the College and supported the College in numerous ways. The International Committee extended their condolences to their grieving family, friends, and colleagues.
- b. At the meeting of College Council in November a new Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between The College and the Ministry of Health-Kurdistan region, Iraq and Kurdistan Higher Council of Medical specialities was ratified. Preparations are underway to welcome a delegation from the Ministry of Health-Kurdistan region, Iraq and Kurdistan Higher Council of Medical specialities in December when the MoU will be signed.
- c. The MoU with Mohammed Bin Rashid University in Dubai will be renewed for a further 3 years and is being put forward for approval by College Council later in November.
- d. The College formed a Memorandum of Understanding with Shupyk National Healthcare University Ukraine in 2019, which is also going through a process to be renewed.
- e. There have been 37 Country Advisors recruited across the 6 regions. 3 for the Americas, 5 for Europe, 17 for the Middle East and North Africa, 7 for South East Asia, 3 for Sub-Saharan Africa and 2 for Western Pacific.
- f. The College will be attending Medlab in Dubai in February 2024. The College will deliver three workstreams across the conference. The first is providing three speakers for the conference. New College President Dr Bernie Croal will be giving a talk on 'Strategies to ensure safety during laboratory testing'. Professor Walid Al-Wali will be giving a talk on the 'Role of the Clinical Microbiology Laboratory in Diagnostic and Antimicrobial Stewardship', and the final speaker Dr Karin Denton will be presenting on 'Developments in cervical screening'. The second workstream will be delivering a workshop on the first day of the conference. A presentation will be delivered during this workshop then there will be a networking session for College representatives to meet current and potential members. The topic and speaker for this workshop are yet to be finalised. The third workstream will be the presence of a College stand.
- g. In 2023 the College has raised awareness of numerous natural disasters and conflicts around the world. During the earthquake in Morocco and flooding in Libya the College communicated with Professor Maysa Hussaini and Dr Omar Layth Qassid outlining the RCPATH humanitarian and refugee webpages, which benefits both members and non-members. During the conflict in Sudan, our College President sent a letter to our Sudanese MoU partners, along with Maysa and Omar to offer help and support. Emergency contact details for the Department of Health and Social Care were also provided for any NHS doctors trying to leave Sudan on the government flights. Recently, during the Israel and Gaza conflict we included information in the President's e-newsletter outlining humanitarian resources and organisations working in the area.

- h. A discussion document was shared outlining the possibility of creating a criteria for delivering International Pathology Schools in the future.
- i. It was proposed that going forward the International Pathology School should:
  - i. Have a practical focus.
  - ii. Work with Country Advisors to develop and advertise the webinar.
  - iii. Ensure that certificates of attendance are issued.
  - iv. Ensure the programme isn't too long.
  - v. Work with region specific medical schools to help develop and advertise the programme, and also in case of poor internet access, provide technical/logistic support by making a room available for attendees to join the webinar.

It was agreed that IPS should not have one global programme because it will not capture how pathology is different around the world. It was also agreed that it would not be appropriate to charge a fee.

- j. **Action:** International Regional Advisors should let Giles Hanratty know if they would like to deliver an International Pathology School in 2024.
- k. Professor Ismail Matalaka thanked the International Committee, International Team and esteemed partners for their support during his term and outlined the highlights of his term, in particular:
  - i. The formulation and finalisation of "The Pathology is Global Strategy" for 2023–2026.
  - ii. Evaluation, discussion, and renewal of all international Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs) with our valued partners.
  - iii. Appointment of new regional advisors and over 30 country advisors.
  - iv. The successful continuation of International Pathology Day.
  - v. Ongoing work of all the deliverables in package 3 of the ARISE project.
  - vi. The ongoing partnership with the Ghana College of Physicians and Surgeons, resulting in the creation of a range of new video lectures.
  - vii. Establishing various platforms and mechanisms to support pathologists in refugee settings and countries affected by conflict or crisis.
  - viii. Successful delivery of 5 International Pathology Schools, with ongoing efforts to review and enhance these programmes.
  - ix. The College's active participation at the Medlab Exhibition in Dubai.
  - x. The support provided by the International Committee to the overseas centres for the FRCPath Part 2 Exam in Histopathology.

## 2. 2023-2024 Budget – Joanne Brinklow, Director of Learning

- a. The budget available for July 2023 – June 2024 was outlined.
- b. International engagement fund – £8,500 across 6 regions.
- c. International Regional Advisors – £3,000 (£500 for each region).

- d. International project – £27,000 (this is a restricted fund but might be available for other projects agreed by the International Committee).
- e. Subject to workload, the International team can support the International Regional Advisors to bid for international projects.

### **3. Country Advisor Engagement Plans – Joanne Brinklow, Director of Learning**

- a. 12 Country Advisor engagement plans have been received and common requests are:
  - i. College involvement and support at events and conferences.
  - ii. Delivery of webinars on topics such as:
    - 1. Dysregulation/Immune deficiency.
    - 2. Gyne pathology.
    - 3. Gastrointestinal pathology.
  - iii. Guidance for International Medical Graduates about FRCPPath examinations and MTI/Sponsorship schemes.

### **4. International Project – Giles Hanratty, International Education Officer**

- a. The International Committee agreed to use the International Fund to deliver a series of 6 webinars on Antimicrobial Resistance.
- b. The potential topics are:
  - i. Global perspective on AMR.
  - ii. AMS in the community.
  - iii. AMS in secondary care.
  - iv. Engaging the public in AMS.
  - v. Developing prescribing guidelines.
  - vi. Evaluating an AMS programme. What are the measures of success?
- c. The structure of the programme outlines that for each webinar there would be 4 presentations, with one speaker from the UK and the other three speakers from countries in different regions (e.g. Ghana, Egypt and India), with a panel discussion and Q&A at the end. The countries and regions would change each webinar so that all regions have the opportunity to participate in the programme.
- d. Below outlines the proposed cost of the programme:
  - i. Speaker costs: £3,600 (£150 per speaker, 4 speakers per webinar, across 6 regions).
  - ii. Video and Editing: £1,150 (Video editing £1050, £175 per webinar, Animation £100).
  - iii. Total costs £4,750.
  - iv. The College has agreed to pay speakers for certain projects. However, the College has discretion over which projects the College will pay speakers for. Currently a speaker contract is being prepared.
- e. The International Team will reach out to the International Committee once the programme has been finalised to provide a list of potential speakers.

## **5. Regional Updates**

- a. The Americas – Professor Naresh Kikkeri
  - i. 3 Country Advisor have been appointed in the Americas region across Brazil, Canada and Mexico.
  - ii. Dr Miguel Perez-Machado attended the Latin-America Society of Cytopathology conference in September 2023 representing the College and spoke about the work of the College.
  - iii. The College was represented in the LIII Mexican National Congress of Clinical Pathology in November 2023 with presentations from College Fellows.
  - iv. The future plans for the Americas region are to plan a CPD event co-badged with the College in Mexico and conduct a members/Fellows meeting in Canada.
  
- b. Middle East and North Africa – Professor Maysa Al-Hussaini
  - i. Autumn FRCPATH examinations took place in Jordan and Dubai and both centres had 30 candidates join.
  - ii. Dr Nadia Mokhtar plans on delivering a meeting in December to raise awareness of FRCPATH Part 1 examination.
  - iii. Hawa Petkar and Mohammed Yousuf Karim representing Qatar plan on delivering a conference on Immune Deficiency in Doha aiming to attract delegates from across the MENA region. Also during the 34<sup>th</sup> Annual Congress of the IAP-Arab Division in Doha in December 2023, a session on RCPATH Part 2 examination in Histopathology and UK training opportunities will be held.
  
- c. South East Asia – Professor Kedar K Deodhar
  - i. It was proposed that the low number of attendees for South East Asia's International Pathology School in August 2023 was due to how busy the students were.
  - ii. During a South East Asia Country Advisors meeting it was outlined that some online lectures would help students who plan on sitting the FRCPATH examinations.
  - iii. An examination centre in South East Asia was requested. The Examinations team is investigating where overseas examination centres can be set up.
  - iv. A student outlined some difficulties with attempting the FRCPATH examinations in the UK. Taking their own microscope for the examination was a challenge and securing observer posts in the UK would help examination candidates.
  
- d. Sub-Saharan Africa – Professor John Obafunwa
  - i. Dr Kenneth Iregbu, the Nigeria Country Advisor, and Professor Shaheen Sayed, the Kenya Country Advisor participated in the joint application for THET/DHS Grant in conjunction with the International Team.
  - ii. Professor Komala Pillay, the South Africa Country Advisor, moderated the meeting on Examiner in Anatomic Pathology of Colleges of Medicine of South Africa.
  - iii. Dr Claire Thomas, the Uganda Country Advisor, resigned from the position in September 2023.

- iv. It was requested that in the second round of Country Advisor recruitment the following countries would be considered: Ghana, Sierra Leone, Liberia, Tanzania, Uganda and Zimbabwe.
  - v. A request for an examination centre in Nigeria was submitted.
- e. Western Pacific – Professor Lai-Meng Looi
- i. Most of the Western Pacific Fellows come from Australia, Hong Kong, Malaysia, New Zealand and Singapore.
  - ii. International Congress of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine 2023 took place in Kuala Lumpur in September 2023.
  - iii. A technical working group was established to review the Malaysian specific criteria of Laboratory accreditation and this work is ongoing.
  - iv. The appointment of a Country Advisor for Malaysia and Singapore was submitted.
  - v. A request for an examination centre in the Western Pacific region was submitted. If a centre is not appointed, trainees are likely to become more aligned to local Colleges in Australasia, Hong Kong and Malaysia instead of the Royal College of Pathologists, UK.
  - vi. Due to the conflict in Myanmar, there has been a disruption to pathology practice and international CPD participation.
  - vii. Due to the difficulty in securing placements in the UK for Myanmar pathology trainees for FRCPATH Part 1, conducting placements in training centres in other Western Pacific countries might help.

## **6. Research Conferences for 2025**

- a. **Action:** Please could International Regional Advisors research conferences for 2025 that they wish with the College to participate in and inform the International Team.

## **7. Any Other Business**

- a. The International Team will be in touch with the relevant International Regional Advisors whose terms are coming to an end in the coming months to discuss the possibility of extension.
- b. The International Committee gave their thanks to Professor Ismail Matalka and Professor Angharad Davies for their effort and input during their term as Clinical Director for International Activities and Vice President of Learning, respectively.

## **8. Date, time and venue of forthcoming meetings**

- a. Diaspora and International Committee meetings in 2024 will be held on Thursday 16 May 2024 and Monday 4 November 2024.
- b. The next International Pathology Day will be held on Wednesday 6 November 2024.