

20 May 2020

International Committee

A meeting of the **International Committee** was held on **Wednesday, 20th May 2020** at **11:00 am (BST)** via Zoom.

The meeting was chaired by **Dr Maadh Aldouri, Clinical Director of International Activities.**

CONFIRMED Minutes

Present:	Dr Maadh Aldouri	Clinical Director of International Activities
	Dr Nicki Cohen	Clinical Director of Training and Assessment
	Professor Lai-Meng Looi	International Regional Advisor for the Western Pacific Region
	Professor Tahir Pillay	Country Advisor for South Africa
	Professor Ismail Matalaka	International Regional Advisor for the Middle East & North Africa
	Dr Rachael Liebmann	Vice President for Communications
	Dr. Mashal Al-Nawab	Committee Member
	Dr. Abeer Shaaban	Committee Member
	Dr. Oliseyenum Nwose	International Regional Advisor for Americas
	Dr. Gary Tse	International Regional Advisor for South East Asia
In attendance:	Dr Sanjiv Manek	Clinical Director of Examinations
	Professor Monalisa Sur	Committee Member/ Country Advisor for Canada
	Ms Mary Ann Cameron	Lay Member
	Dr Monica Terlizzo	International Regional Advisor for Europe
	Miss Joanne Brinklow	Director of Learning
	Miss Kelley Price	International Projects Officer
	Miss Tanna Hawkins	International Education Officer

IC Apologies: Professor Adekunle Adesina International Regional Advisor for Sub-Saharan Africa

ITEM NO. 1 - WELCOME & APOLOGIES

The Chair welcomed members to the meeting and apologies were duly noted.

ITEM NO. 2 – DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None declared

ITEM NO. 3 – MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 13TH NOVEMBER 2019

Dr Abeer Shaaban noted that she was present at the last meeting, minutes were amended to reflect this. The Committee reviewed and approved the minutes as an accurate record of the meeting subject to the change mentioned above.

ITEM NO. 4 – MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

The Committee reviewed the 'Actions and Decisions' table arising from the last meeting.

Minutes	Action	Assigned to	Update
6a)	Indextra	Miss Joanne Brinklow	Completed The Indextra App has now been launched since the November meeting, and is available through the College website.

ITEM NO. 5 – DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Dr Aldouri provided a summary of his activities undertaken since the IC meeting on Monday 11th November 2019. These activities included the following:

1. ARISE Project: continued to advance and second trainee arrived beginning of the year. Because of difficulty in travelling emphasis was put on developing E-learning modules, and Kelley Price will provide further details.
2. Revising existing MoUs between the RCPATH and International institutes: In late February the International Team began a review of the five existing International MoUs. The team have been able to identify a number of achievements that have been made through collaborations with our international colleagues. In addition to this, the team have identified scope and further opportunities that would enhance and enable joint work to continue between the College and these institutions, particularly around examinations and training. Each institution is in the process of being contacted and representatives will be invited to discuss the progress of the items set out in the schedule of activity and explore where more support may be required. Moreover, in instances where an MoU is due to expire within the next year or has elapsed, we will offer for it to be either renewed or extended. We also have two MoUs where talks are underway to settle on a final schedule of activity before being officially signed between the relevant parties, subject to Trustee Board approval.

We have been revising implementation of MoU with National Postgraduate Medical College of Nigeria (NPMC) and agreeing future steps to support pathology training, especially in area of forensic pathology as well as planning CPD activities. We have also been reviewing previous MoU with West African College of Physicians- Faculty of Laboratory Medicine.

3. Setting up MoU with Mohammed Bin Rashid University of Medicine and Health Sciences, Dubai: we had several communications and held teleconference meeting to finalise MoU with MBRU.
4. Revising MoUs with Pakistan and Egypt.
5. Halting of recruitment into International Training Study Scheme and MTI (Tanna Hawkins):

The International Team have suspended all new applications for both the MTI and Sponsorship until further notice (30th March 2020). Following the global Covid-19 outbreak, several countries have suspended all international travel. In addition to this, many visa centres in overseas countries have closed and applicants are unable to get their visas issued. 30 of these International Medical Graduates have been recommended to the GMC by the College since July 2019. Further information is available on the College website.

6. Progress with Pathology Training Recognition Framework with Iceland (Jo Brinklow)
7. International Pathology Day: It had already been agreed that the theme for this year would be infection and there will now be a focus on Coronavirus and its impact (including on the delivery of healthcare in other places around the world). The meeting will be run virtually with potential for attendance in person at the College, depending on social distancing requirements.
8. Plan to renew membership of the International Committee and terms of International Advisors.

ITEM NO. 6 – INTERNATIONAL DEPARTMENT REPORT

Dr Maadh Aldouri and Miss Joanne Brinklow provided a summary and review of department's work and achievements for the period November 2019 – May 2020 as well as an overview of the team's performance over the previous five years:

International Department Report	
New Clinical Director of International Activities International Committee Membership <i>Jo Brinklow, Director of Learning and International Manager</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Following the revision of the International Strategy, the International Team have spent the past few months reviewing the MOUs. The International Team are now starting to review the Terms of Reference (ToR) of the International Committee and the membership. There are a few members of the committee whose term has now come to an end. The next 6 months, we will recruit new International Regional Advisors. New advisors will be recruited and invited to the next IC meeting in November 2020. Work of the department – additional members to be invited. The International team will recruit International Education Leads (MTI/Spon/ITSS). These members will be for clinical advise and support Wale – Clinical advisor for ARISE will join the IC ToR was circulated to the International Committee. (To be agreed at the Nov meeting) ICD will be readvertised by November – advertised via the College website Country Advisors will be looked at after the IRA and look at their Terms of office. Trainee Advisory Committee (TAC) and Lay Advisory Committee will need to be considered too. MTI/Spon lead will represent the TAC representative.
Budget and the Planning Cycle	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Annual Budgets are usually submitted around February as the College financial year runs from July-June every year.

International Department Report	
<p><i>Joanne Brinklow</i> <i>Director of Learning</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Due to Covid-19, these budgets have been closely evaluated, there has been a significant impact on the College. • Spring examinations were deferred and these candidates will sit their examinations in the autumn or early next year. This will impact the membership fees for 6 months – 1 year. • Covid-19 has had an effect on the running of events/Events @ no6 and therefore a decrease in the amount of income coming in from external events. • Adjustments have needed to be made due to Covid-19, there is a projected cut to the department income (although expected to recover) and there will be some cuts to the budget across the College as a whole. • Until June 2021 all College meetings will be held virtually, this includes the IC meeting in November 2020 and May 2021. • IPD will be held virtually in 2020. • The International travel budget and allowance for IRA will also be cut. • Iceland has been put on hold due to Covid-19.
<p>International Projects <i>Kelley Price</i> <i>International Projects Officer</i></p>	<p><u>ARISE</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Since October 2019, the College has hosted two secondees through the ARISE staff exchange programme. • Each secondee spent time at the laboratories serviced by Viapath in London. They have been given the opportunity to tour some of the Doctors Laboratory sites in London. • The Clinical Lead for ARISE will be providing a virtual lecture to secondees on SCD and pathology, to support the ongoing CPD of ARISE secondees. <p><u>ASH</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sending of samples for NEQAS newborn screening quality control was supposed to have commenced earlier this year. <p><u>International Pathology Day</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Infection will be the theme for 2020 with a focus on coronavirus and its impact. • We will once again partner with The Pathologist magazine and Sonic Healthcare UK. • We have been working together to shape ideas for the day, which include hearing global perspectives on how coronavirus has changed things within Pathology. • The event will be run virtually <p><u>Recognition Framework</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A teleconference with representatives from Landspítali University Hospital Pathology Department has been conducted. • The process so far has revealed that their histopathology programme had its first in-take of a modest size cohort in September 2019.

International Department Report	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The aim of our work with Landspítali University Hospital will be to support them in further establishing their programme to the standard of FRCPath Part 1. A scoping visit will be planned when it is safe and appropriate to do so. <p>International MoUs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work has begun to review five of the existing International MoUs. Enabling us to identify a number of achievements that have been made through collaborations with our international colleagues. Scope and further opportunities to enhance and enable joint work to continue between the College and these institutions, particularly around examinations and training have been identified. Representatives will be invited to discuss the progress of the items set out in the schedule of activity and explore where more support may be required. There are also two MoUs where talks are underway to settle on a final schedule of activity before being officially signed between the relevant parties, subject to Trustee Board approval.
International Medical Graduates <i>Tanna Hawkins,</i> <i>International Education Officer</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The International department has received 31 MTI applications, all of whom were eligible to register with the GMC and have since started their training within the NHS. In addition to this, the College sponsored 19 doctors through the Sponsorship scheme to register with the GMC, 10 of whom have been offered Pending Status sponsorship. Should these doctors secure employment they will also be sponsored enabling them to work and support their colleagues in the NHS. The International Team have suspended all new applications for both the MTI and Sponsorship until further notice (30th March 2020). Following the global Covid-19 outbreak, several countries have suspended all international travel. In addition to this, many visa centres in overseas countries have closed and applicants are unable to get their visas issued. 30 of these International Medical Graduates have been recommended to the GMC by the College since July 2019. Further information is available on the College website. The College hope to relaunch the scheme in the summer 2020. The International team continues to develop the International Trainee Support Scheme and hope to advertise for a new cohort in the autumn.
X-Lab	X-lab presented to the International Committee and detailed the organisation. A PDF presentation will be circulated around the committee and members are encouraged to contact them.
Comfort Break	

ITEM NO. 7 – INTERNATIONAL REGIONAL ADVISOR REPORTS

(a) Americas

Dr Onwose raised the issue that there was a lack resources available for activities with regards to the College funding and time that had been available. He noted that the College, International Regional Advisor and the Americas had lost connection and there was a need to re-engage with the Americas. All



points were noted and taken on board and we hope to establish better engagement with the Americas and the support for the IRA.

National Activities in Canada

- Monalisa Sur is now the incoming chair of the national Anatomical Pathology Specialty Committee for the Royal College of physicians and Surgeons of Canada (RCPSC) and currently holds the position of Chair elect, Vice Chair since July 2019
- Monalisa is also a board member and examiner for the AP exams at RCPSC (newly appointed since May 2019 ongoing.
- Monalisa will be in the organizing committee of our Canadian Association of Pathologists Annual Conference which was going to be held in Halifax from June 6-9th 2020, but this has been cancelled due to the COVID-19 Pandemic
- 2019- Specialty Chairs Workshop, Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada, Nov 25, 26 2019, Ottawa, Canada
- **Committee member** of the newly formed National Climate Change and Environmental Pathology section of the Canadian Association of Pathologists

(b) The Middle East & North Africa (MENA)

Summary of activities undertaken taken during this period

- Attending the International Committee meeting, Diaspora meeting, and international pathology day (11-13 November 2019)
- Participation of the College in the Exams of Arab Board of Pathology (22-27 November 2019) for the first time as part of the signed MOU.
 - Dr Sanjiv Manek (Clinical Director of Examination) and Dr Ali Al Bahrani (Chemical Pathologists) have participated in the final exam (Written and practical) of Arab Board of Pathology in both Histopathology and Clinical Pathology which was held in Amman.
 - The Histopathology practical exam was fully digital (Virtual Pathology Slides).
 - Dr Manek and Dr Al Bahrani have submitted excellent comprehensive reports on the exams with suggestions for improvement.
 - Very fruitful experience.
 - More collaboration in the future will help to improve standards of assessment and practice.
- Participation of Professor Jo Martin, President of the College, as a keynote speaker in the Medlab Middle East, 3-6 February 2020. Dubai, UAE. "The growing importance of molecular "omic" technologies in modern pathology"
- Visit of Professor Jo Martin, President of the College, and Professor Ismail Matalka (MENA Advisor) to Mohammad Bin Rashid University, Dubai-UAE (4 February 2020).
- Meeting with the Dean and Staff including Prof. Riyad Biomi, Dr Shroque Zaher, Dr Maher Hilali (Fellows of the College) to establish a mutual collaboration between RCPATH and MBRU.
- Participation in the Medlab Middle East, 3-6 February 2020. Dubai, UAE as a speaker "Fatty Liver Disease : an Update".

Part 1 FRCPATH Spring Exam at Irbid Center, Jordan

Cancelled Due to COVID 19 Pandemic



Part 2 FRCPath Spring Exam at Cairo, Egypt - Canceled Due to COVID 19 Pandemic Future Scheduled meetings and activities

- In the era of COVID 19 Pandemic
- Changes of patterns of activities and meetings
- Webinars, E-education & training, Virtual Pathology
- The Annual Congress of Arab Division of IAP – Canceled
- The ESP/IAP Congress in Glasgow has been postponed to 5-9 December 2020

Future Priorities and Objectives

Training

- Further implementation of the Trainees Support Scheme will support the training in the region and encourage more trainees to join this scheme.
- More activation of MTI (Path) scheme will play a major role to complement the College role in training in the region and will create real opportunity for the trainees to be exposed to the UK practice in pathology.
- Involvement of the college with the Arab Board Exams and CPD activities will enforce more standardization and homogeneity of training programs in the region and benchmarking them with international standards.

Exams

- Time to think about the possibility of starting part 2 exams in chemical pathology and microbiology in the region.
- To hold the 2021 Part 2 FRCPath Exam in autumn rather than spring in Jordan. It is more appropriate time and Ramadan will become closer in spring.
- There is a need to organize a specialized course for Exam preparation in the region. This will encourage more trainees attempting the exam.

Networking and CPD Activities

- The college could contribute more in the future in the different CPD meetings in the region.
- Further social and scientific meetings for the fellows in the region are needed.
- The College can have more input in different accreditation processes and activities in the region.

(c) **South-East Asia (SEA)**

The activities in this period have been affected by COVID 19 epidemic, and most of the educational activities have been curtailed until now. During this period, as SE Asia has been the area affected by COVID 19 earliest, the lockdown effect is most severe.

Indonesian initiative: I was in Indonesia in Dec 2019, and have discussed with seniors from Indonesia University from Jakarta, and from Jogjakarta. They were to indicate to me the areas where there are needs for higher training for young faculties (fellowship program), but now this is pending (COVID 19



effects), and I expect we shall resume the discussion once the education activities reopen. The first fellow from Jakarta successfully completed training in Hong Kong in 2019.

Myanmar teaching program: Prof Looi (IA West Pacific) have been in touch with Prof SY Tan, and more updates are expected. Meanwhile I have been in touch with Myanmar Pathology Society and Myanmar Ministry of Health and Sports. Unfortunately, the communication has been sporadic and will be a bit slow. It is felt that the need for educational activities is genuine, and as Prof SY Tan is not organizing any teaching there anymore, RCPATH organized activities would be welcome.

Emerging issues, opportunities and trends

- Re-establishment of Myanmar teaching. Issues will be mostly on timely communication. Faculty can be drawn from experts (and RCPATH fellows) in the region, and do not foresee major difficulties.
- Continuation of the higher training program. One issue is difficult in identifying fellows in the region who are interested to take up mentorship position. I tried to ask for volunteers but did not get any response. Failing that we shall have to look actively for potential fellow mentors.
- Establishing a communication link with India country advisors have been attempted and perhaps we have to pursue at least regular tele-meetings among the 2 Asian IAs and Indian CAs. There was one previous attempt but in vain.
- Strengthening tie with china, and whether this is still a priority. Has the appointment of the Chinese CA confirmed? Again if such appointment has / will materialize, maybe regular tele meetings will be indicated.

Activities

- Myanmar teaching conjoint efforts with Prof SY Tan (May 2020-May 2021)
- Continuation of higher training for junior faculty from Indonesia

(d) Sub Saharan Africa (SSA)

Professor Adekunle Adesina, International Regional Advisor for Sub-Saharan Africa sent apologies for this meeting.

(e) Western Pacific (Inc. Australasia)

Dr Lai Meng Looi, International Regional Advisor for the Western Pacific presented her report, and the Committee noted the following:

Dr Looi outlined how the Current Covid-19 Pandemic has overshadowed almost all pathology educational and professional activities and plans. Points to note:

- Most countries at various stages of lockdown
- Universities closed
- Medical conferences cancelled or postponed
- Upsurge of online teaching and teleconferencing
- Pathology laboratories actively engaged in COVID-19 testing



How Covid-19 has impacted pathology training and practice in Malaysia

- Master of Pathology (University-based) is main pathology training programme
- Face-to-face classes/seminars stopped
- Examinations deferred from May to November
- Practical training has continued through hospital-based practice
- New SOPs for safety
- Multidisciplinary team meetings cancelled, now reinstated using teleconferencing
- Upsurge in use of online teaching and teleconferencing
- Developing the post-Covid-19 new normal
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The Bhagwan Singh Fellowship (Malaysia). This was introduced in 1980s between RCPaTh and Malaysian College of Pathologists (CPath-AMM). It is now used mainly to fund a UK pathologist to be a guest speaker or resource at a Malaysian Scientific Conference or Workshop annually. Professor Jo Martin was to be the Bhagwan Singh Fellow and Guest at the International Congress of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine (ICPaLM) in Kuala Lumpur in June 2020. This has now been postponed to January 2021

Capacity-Building in Myanmar

- Initiated in 2014
- Workshops in Yangon 2015 – 2019
 - Trainers from Spore, Malaysia and few other.
 - 4 Myanmar candidates have passed the FRCPath part 1 exam (Anat Path)
- Current status
 - Programme on hold
 - Awaiting re-organisation with co-ordination with Myanmar diaspora (Professor Thynn Thynn Yee).

(f) Europe

Ongoing connections with the Ukrainian government to establish reciprocal collaboration.

This was highly carried out by Dr Olga Wise and Dr Mark Howard who have proactively promoted The College activities in Ukraine. In September 2019 at the National Academy of Postgraduate Education in Kiev. The memorandum of understanding was signed between RCPaTh and Kiev Academy of Postgraduate Education. Prof Anatolii Romaniuk, Department of Pathology Sumy State University, Ukraine has approached Dr Wise suggesting areas of collaboration in the re-development the pathology training program in Ukraine.

With the progression of BREXIT, which according to Government plans will be finalised by 31.01.2021, there would be the need of harmonising agreements in the recognition of the qualifications across European countries.

The recent pandemic has highlighted the need of convert communications into digital format. Many conferences have been postponed, as well as educational events, and professional meetings (MDT, i.e.) have been held via tele/video conferencing. There will be the need of reconfiguring the way education and professional events will take place in the near future and possibly in a long term plan.

Videoconferencing and digital pathology should be centred the attention.

Activities:

- Connection with Sumy State, Ukraine to assess possible collaboration and formulation of memorandum of understanding (September 2020)
- Collaborate with the education department and IT to explore ways of moving education and professional meetings to fully digital platforms.

ITEM NO. 8 – Any Other Business

The Committee meeting in November will be scheduled for the afternoon. The morning group will meet for Diaspora.

ITEM NO. 9 – 2020 MEETINGS/ EVENTS SCHEDULE

The Committee noted the following schedule of meetings for 2020:

Date	Activity
Monday 9 th November 2020	International Committee Meeting
Tuesday 10 th November 2020	Diaspora Meeting
Wednesday 11 th November 2020	International Pathology Day

MEETING CLOSE

SUMMARY OF ACTIONS & DECISIONS

(Please refer to specific minute items for detailed information on each action)

	Action	Assigned to
1)	Reopen MTI and Sponsorship Schemes	Miss Tanna Hawkins COMPLETED
2)	Send and request feedback regarding the Terms of Reference to all committee members.	Miss Kelley Price COMPLETED
3)	The IC and Diaspora group will meet on the same day (either the Monday or the Tuesday for the next meeting).	Miss Tanna Hawkins COMPLETED