

Forensic Pathology

Specialty Advisory Committee

Terms of Reference

1. The College's Mission Statement

The Royal College of Pathologists' mission is to: advance the science and practice of pathology; further public education in the field of pathology; and, promote study, research and innovation in pathology and disseminate results.

2. Purpose

The Specialty Advisory Committee (SAC) has delegated responsibility from Council for matters, including the professional, clinical and continuing professional education functions relating to their specialty.

3. Oversight Responsibilities

- Delivery of agreed strategic objectives for the specialty which will be approved through College Council. These will be within any budget parameters and resource limitations of the College.
- Standards, continuous quality improvement, and clinical audit in the specialty
- Training and Continuing Professional Development for established practitioners.
- Workforce issues and actions taken within the specialty.
- Specialty networks and links or relationships with other networks or bodies related to the specialty
- Specialty engagement through an annual conference, other meetings and published articles

4. Accountabilities

4.1. Strategy

- To promote the work of the specialty and the College
- Reviewing latest research and considering its implications on the specialty
- Developing strategic objectives for the continuous improvement of their specialty in the context of the College vision and strategy
- Monitoring and considering workforce issues across the jurisdictional areas and actions taken within the specialty

4.2. Standards and best practice

- Developing and maintaining standards, clinical guidelines and best practice recommendations, working with college staff, other college committees and outside agencies as appropriate. It is recognised that the development of standards in forensic pathology is more complicated than

other specialities including stakeholders (such as the Forensic Science Regulator, The Home Office, the Police, Crown Prosecution Service, The Crown Office and Procurator Fiscal Service and the Department of Justice in Northern Ireland)

- Providing advice on how clinical pathologists in the specialty should demonstrate compliance with relevant regulatory bodies' requirements
- Support ongoing development of continuous quality improvements and clinical audit
- Supporting and fostering a culture of research and evidence-based practice

4.3. Specialty engagement

- Develop a regular programme of conference and academic activity for the specialty
- To develop regular articles for publication on the specialty
- Providing advice on College communications with members with an interest in the specialty and key stakeholders as appropriate
- To receive reports from representatives from outside bodies ('Outbods') associated with specialties
- Delivery of the College membership engagement plan through regular communication
- To regularly keep the specialty webpage(s) under review and update as appropriate in co-operation with College Communications department
- Contribute/organise the provision of specialty input into NICE consultations
- Recognising and monitoring specialty networks and links or relationships with other networks or bodies related to the specialty
- The SAC (usually through its chair) has a role in representing the College and forensic pathology on stakeholder bodies (such as the FPSG and the Pathology Delivery Board).

4.4 Supporting other Committee and College activities

- To receive reports, scrutinise and contribute advice to new training and exam plans, and provide advisory input to the Exams and Training CSTC Committees via their respective specialty representatives
- To respond to requests for specialist advice from exams and training committees
- Partnership and links with specialist societies
- Responding to College consultation processes
- Participating in College processes for administering Fellowship applications as required
- Through the specialty trainee representative, the SAC will gain an understanding of issues experienced by trainees in the specialty

5. Approval Authority

- Communications plan within specialties
- Review periods for approved standards in the specialty
- SAC annual report to Council

6. Governance

- Reporting to Council on the activities of the SAC, including production of an annual report
- In relation to the speciality, raising ethical issues in specialties up to Council for consideration and action when an SAC becomes aware of them.

7. Membership

- The membership of the SAC will be College appointed members and shall be approved by Council. Normally there will be 9-11 members, with exceptions to this requiring Council approval.
- The Royal College of Pathologists understands the value and strength that diversity brings and we are proud to be an organisation of members from a wide range of backgrounds. We are keen to encourage and enable more people of all identities and from all backgrounds to become involved in the College.

The membership shall comprise the following:

- Chair.
- Deputy Chair to be appointed from SAC membership.
- Specialty Members from Association of Clinical Pathologists, British Association in Forensic Medicine.
- Trainee Representative.
- Chair of Associated College SACs (if applicable).
- Honorary Officer (ex officio). Officers are all ex-officio members of committees and should be included in any item that requires a vote.
- Co-opted external representation dependent on the SAC. Each SAC will recommend organisations they should be collaborating with for the approval by the Governance Committee or Council.
- Co-opted devolved administration representatives will be sought should any region not be represented by an SAC member
- Lay Member (where required, this will be specified)
- Academic
- Charities will be offered observer status, at the request of the SAC.

See appendix for current membership.

8. Meetings

- Two meetings a year should normally be held, with the possibility to hold one of these via teleconference. Discussion and decision via email or other electronic means is encouraged outside of formal meetings.
- Administrative support will be provided by a member of the College's Governance and Committee Services team
- Agendas and papers will be circulated at least one week before each meeting
- Minutes will be made available on the College website, with access restricted to College members only via myrcpath

9. Resources

- Travelling expenses will be paid to members (but not observers) of the committee in line with the College's expenses policy. The expenses policy is available on the website. Claims should be made through the College's on-line finance system.

Terms of Reference agreed at SAC meeting _____

Chair of SAC _____ Signed _____

Approved at College Council meeting _____

Review date (3 years following Council approval) _____

Current SAC Membership

Chair	Dr Ralph Bouhaidar, Forensic Pathologist
Specialty members	Dr Matthew Lyall - Chair of Panel of Examiners Dr Kathryn Urankar, Neuropathology SAC Representative Dr James Lyness, State Pathologist, Northern Ireland (also NI Legal Representative) Dr Rob Ainsworth, Consultant Forensic Pathologist, also representing the Association of Clinical Pathologists Dr Amanda Jeffery, Forensic Pathologist, also representing the British Association in Forensic Medicine
Trainee representatives	Dr Theodore Estrin-Serlui, Forensic Pathology Trainee Representative
Chair of associated College SACs (if applicable)	Dr Martin Goddard, representing the Death Investigations Committee Dr Clair Evans, representing the Pre/Peri/Paediatric Pathology SAC
Honorary officer representation (ex officio). Officers are all ex-officio members of committees and should be included in any item that requires a vote.	Dr Marta Cohen, Vice President of Learning
Co-opted external representation dependent on the SAC. Each SAC will recommend organisations they should be collaborating with for the approval by the Governance Committee or Council.	Dr Jeff Adams, Home Office Mr Jez Noyce, Home Office Ms Moira Orr, Procurator Fiscal's Office (Scotland) Dr Nicholas Shaw, The Coroners' Society
Co-opted devolved administration representatives will be sought should any region not be represented by an SAC member	
Lay member (where required, this will be specified)	
Charities will be offered observer status, at the request of the SAC.	
Total:	17

