



9 June 2023

International Committee Meeting

A meeting of the International Committee was held on 17 May 2023 at 11:30 BST via Teams.

Dr Lance Sandle
Registrar

Minutes

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



1. Minutes of the meeting held on 3 November 2022

- a. These were agreed as a correct record.

2. Clinical Director's Report – Professor Ismail Matalaka, Clinical Director of International Activities

- a. Pathology is Global, the College's International Strategy for 2023-2026 was launched in April 2023. It reflects the overall College strategy for 2021-2025 and comprises 5 main objectives.
- b. New Country Advisors across all 6 regions have been appointed. There will be targeted recruitment to fill gaps in certain regions.
- c. Between 6-9 February 2023 College staff and representatives went to Dubai to exhibit at Medlab. Feedback was useful about the College stand. A MENA meeting for College members was held at Mohammed Bin Rashid University.
- d. **Action: International Committee to let the International Team know by emailing international@rcpath.org if they would like a Country Advisor appointed to any countries that do not currently have a Country Advisor.**

3. 2023-2024 Budget – Joanne Brinklow, Director of Learning

- a. International Committee meetings will be held virtually in November 2023 and May 2024. International Manager recruitment will be put on hold until July 2025, with the Director of Learning continuing to cover. The international engagement fund is £8,500 to support work across all regions. International Regional Advisors have a budget of £500 each. There will be a scaled down RCPATH attendance for Medlab 2024.
- b. Funded projects will continue (e.g. ARISE, Ghana Lecture Series) and the committee were encouraged to let the international team know about any funded international projects that the College could apply for.
- c. There is a restricted fund of £27,000, primarily from fundraising activities, which can be utilised over the next 2 years to support international activities. It was suggested that the funds could be used to deliver antimicrobial stewardship training via two methods. One option is to deliver webinars that are specific to each country we co-produce them with. Another option would be for the College to run a one-time course on antimicrobial stewardship that all countries could attend, the format would involve webinars and sending materials to each country centre. This will allow attendees to participate in interactive activities. The committee were asked for their views on the suggestion and to make any other suggestions about how the money could be used.
- d. The development of a mentoring programme was suggested and discussed. The view was that this would be challenging due to the issues associated with establishing mentoring programmes and doing so with a potentially broad pathology community internationally. It was also suggested that it could also be difficult to measure the impact of a mentorship programme, and therefore demonstrate value for money.

- e. The International Committee could point interested personnel to the World Economic Forum's website that runs [Global Leadership Fellows Programme](#).
- f. It was agreed that the committee would be asked for further views about the use of the funding again after the committee in order that a decision could be made.
- g. Action: International Team will send an email with suggestions and a survey of how to spend the international fund.**

4. Regional Updates

- a. The Americas, Professor Naresh Kikkeri
 - i. Country Advisors appointed to Canada, Mexico and Brazil.
 - ii. Outlined the benefit of mentorship and how it can benefit pathologists. If trainees get in touch with College for mentorship, inform them of other organisations that deliver these mentor programmes.
- b. Europe, Dr Monica Terlizzo
 - i. The Retained EU Law Bill will downgrade the special status retained EU law currently in our legal system. The Bill will make it easier to amend, repeal or replace retained EU law in the best interest of the UK.
 - ii. Following a discussion about existing reciprocal recognition of training and qualifications in Europe, it was stated that the GMC is asking each College to start thinking about recognising training/qualifications from certain countries where the standards are similar but this was in the very early stages.
- c. Middle East and North Africa, Professor Maysa Al-Hussaini
 - i. College staff and representatives exhibited at Medlab in February 2023. This activity was described in the [College's April Bulletin](#).
 - ii. It was discussed with Country Advisors in the MENA region that a meeting on immunodeficiency would be useful which could involve microbiology/immunology/genetics/histopathology.
 - iii. The FRCPath Part 2 examinations were held in January 2023 in Cairo Egypt.
- d. South East Asia, Professor Kedar Deodhar and Dr Ranganathan Iyer
 - i. Dr Iyer conducted a 3-day course from 27-29 January 2023 online for Part 1 examination attendees sitting FRCPath Microbiology.
 - ii. Currently planning an IPS in South East Asia region, speakers for the webinar are being finalised.
 - iii. Dr Iyer will submit a proposal for creating a full day learning programme titled 'Infections in Obstetrics and Gynecology' which aims to be delivered as an online event in January 2024.
- e. Sub-Saharan Africa, Professor John Obafunwa
 - i. Professor Obafunwa was not able to attend the International Committee, but he was able to send his presentation that included the updates in the Sub-Saharan Africa region.
- f. Western Pacific, Professor Lai-Meng Looi

- i. Professor Looi was not able to attend the International Committee, but she was able to send her presentation that included the updates in the Western Pacific region.

5. Any Other Business

- a. The College is currently reviewing its data protection processes to enable International Regional Advisors and Country Advisors to have each other's contact information. Once this process has been reviewed, we will allow the contact information of International Regional Advisors and Country Advisors to be shared amongst themselves.
- b. **Action: International Committee to research 2025 conferences they would like the College to participate in. Please bring the names and dates of these conferences to the November 2023 International Committee.**

6. Date, time and venue of forthcoming meetings

- a. Next International Committee meeting will be held via Teams on Monday 6 November 2023.