

9 November 2021

International Committee

A meeting of the **International Committee** was held on **Monday, 6 November 2021** at **11:00 am (GMT)** via Zoom.

The meeting was chaired by **Professor Ismail Matalaka, Clinical Director of International Activities.**

Unconfirmed Minutes

Present:	Professor Ismail Matalaka	Clinical Director of International Activities
	Dr Angharad Davies	Vice President for Learning
	Professor Lai-Meng Looi	International Regional Advisor for the Western Pacific Region
	Dr Maysa Al-Hussaini	International Regional Advisor for the Middle East & North Africa
	Dr. Naresh Kikkeri	International Regional Advisor for Americas
	Dr. Kedar Deodhar	International Regional Advisor for South East Asia
	Dr Ranganathan Iyer	Associate International Regional Advisor for South East Asia
	Dr Sanjiv Manek	Clinical Director of Examinations
	Dr Monica Terlizzo	International Regional Advisor for Europe
	Dr Hebah Ali	International Education Lead – ITSS Histopathology
In attendance:	Dr Anan Ghazy	International Education Lead – the Sponsorship Scheme
		International Education Lead – ITSS Microbiology
		International Education Lead – MTI scheme
	Dr Wale Atoyebi	Clinical Lead for the ARISE project
	Professor John Obwufana	International Regional Advisor for Sub-Saharan Africa
IC Apologies:	Dr Nicki Cohen	Clinical Director of Training and Assessment
	Dr Omar Layth Qassid	Associate International Regional Advisor for the Middle East & North Africa

ITEM NO. 1 - WELCOME & APOLOGIES

The Chair welcomed members to the meeting and apologies were duly noted. Professor Ismail Matalaka also thanked his predecessor Dr Maadh Aldouri for all his hard work and effort over the years.

ITEM NO. 2 – DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None declared

ITEM NO. 3 – MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 9 NOVEMBER 2021

The minutes were approved as an accurate recording of the meeting held on the 12th May 2022

ITEM NO. 4 – MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

The Committee reviewed the 'Actions and Decisions' table arising from the last meeting. (Please refer to specific minute items for detailed information on each action)

	Action	Assigned to
1)	International team to meet with Country Advisor from Myanmar – Dr Thynn Thynn Lee	Miss Tanna Hawkins COMPLETED
2)	Query CPD charges	Miss Joanne Brinklow COMPLETED
3)	International Education Officer to meet with International Regional Advisors SE Asia to discuss hosting an IPS in the region	Miss Tanna Hawkins COMPLETED

ITEM NO. 5 – DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Professor Ismail Matalaka provided a summary of his activities undertaken since the IC meeting on Wednesday 9TH November 2021. These activities included the following:

1. Recruited and appointed (subject to a Council and Committee approval) a new International Regional Advisor for Sub-Saharan Africa – the International Team
2. Coordinating activities that have enabled MoUs with The National Postgraduate Medical College of Nigeria (NPMCN) and the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Pakistan and Pakistani Association of Pathology to be renewed for a term of 3 years: The International Team.
3. Histopathology FRCPath Part 2 exams were run in Egypt and Dubai this October taken by approximately 70 candidates in total - Professor Ismail Matalaka, Professor Mona El-Bahrawy, Country Advisor for Egypt and Dr Shroque Zaher, Country Advisor for the UAE.
4. Planning for International Pathology Day 2021, taking place on Wednesday 10th of November. Themed on digital pathology incorporating aspects of AI – A World's EyeView - Kelley Price.
5. Continuing work on ARISE the sickle cell project. Planning to resume staff exchanges between, countries in Sub-Saharan Africa, the UK and Europe in the first quarter of 2022 are underway - Kelley Price and Dr Wale Atoyebi.
6. Designing and delivering a five-week training programme for seventeen haematologists in Saudi Arabia - a subsidiary project to ARISE. Involving the Institut National de la Sante et de la Recherche Medical (INSERM), France, Saudi Arabia's Ministry of Health and Accsight, a Saudi Arabian based training consultancy. The IBMS and NEQAS, UK also delivered a number of lectures across the programme - Dr Wale Atoyebi and Kelley Price.
7. Planning for the College President to attend Medlab 2022 to take part in a panel discussion as well as securing speakers in RCPATH's role as supporting body for the inperson Medlab Middle East January 2022

- programme - Professor Ismail Matalaka, Professor Angharad Davies, Joanne Brinklow, Tanna Hawkins, Kelley Price and members of the communications team at the College.
8. Supporting the running of a well-attended virtual event titled Modern Approaches to Diagnostics in the COVID-19 Era in collaboration with National Healthcare of Ukraine, one of our MoU partners - Olga Wise and Mark Howard, Country Advisors for the Ukraine and Kelley Price.
 9. Hosting a virtual examiners training session for examiners at the National Postgraduate College of Nigeria (NPMCN). The session focused on diversity and inclusion. Material from the examiner's session run by the College in June 2021 was featured and a live Q&A was included - Joanne Brinklow, Professor Obafunwa, Country Advisor for Nigeria and Kelley Price.
 10. The development and launch of the Refugee Scheme at the College, including the current resources available to support refugee pathologists in the UK with their GMC registration via the PLAB route – Tanna Hawkins.
 11. Met with a Trustee from the BMA charities and the Lincolnshire project regarding refugees, and initiated discussions on collaborating in a webinar event in 2022 to discuss the Royal College of Pathologists and the current scheme available to refugee pathologists in the UK – Tanna Hawkins
 12. Assisted with the Sudanese Doctors union to make OET available in Sudan – Dr Hebah Ali (International Education Lead Sponsorship and ITSS Histopathology)
 13. Established a working group for ITSS Medical Microbiology – Dr Anan Ghazy (International Education Lead MTI and ITSS Medical Microbiology)
 14. Successfully co-ordinated with the Country Advisor in South Africa to host the next IPS event, due to take place on the 12th and 13th November 2021. This event will be in collaboration with the University of Pretoria, South Africa and South Africa's National Health Laboratory Service (NHLS) – Professor Tahir Pillay, Tanna Hawkins
 15. At the previous Committee meeting, it was reported that MTI applications had declined, and it was unlikely that we were going to be in a position to report the same figures for the scheme as we did in the 2019/2020 period. The International Department were delighted to report a small increase in the numbers for 2020/2021 – Tanna Hawkins
 16. Received and processed 12 applications under the Sponsorship Scheme under the new financial period of 2021/2022 for either GMC registration or Pending Status – Dr Hebah Ali, Tanna Hawkins
 17. Received and processed 15 applications under the MTI scheme under the new financial period of 2021/2022 for GMC registration – Dr Anan Ghazy, Tanna Hawkins

ITEM NO. 6 – INTERNATIONAL DEPARTMENT REPORT

Joanne Brinklow and the International team provided a summary and review of department's work and achievements for the period May 2021 – November 2021 :

International Department Report	
60th anniversary of the RCPATH, Curriculum and Examination Update <i>Joanne Brinklow</i> <i>Director of Learning</i>	60th anniversary of the RCPATH <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The College celebrates its 60th anniversary in 2022 • There will be a full year of activities to celebrate the College, its work, and pathology • We have been looking at how international members will be included • International budget July 2021 – June 2022 • Ideas and activities currently include: • RCPATH participation in Medlab Middle East – January 2022



International Department Report

- Get involved in National Pathology Week – 22 – 25 June 2022, Past, present and future
- International Pathology Day – 1 November 2022
- Social media campaign inviting overseas members to write messages wishing the College a happy anniversary and to share their memories of how the College has supported them
- Bulletin articles, profiles and blogs

RCPATH Curriculum Update

Joanne Brinklow updated the committee on Shape of Training and the new Curriculum. Committee members received a copy of the presentation which noted these changes.

Certificate of Eligibility for Specialist Registration (CESR) Update

- New specialty specific guidance published in line with new curricula: [Specialty specific guidance for CESR and CEGPR - GMC \(gmc-uk.org\)](https://www.gmc-uk.org/specialty-specific-guidance-for-cesr-and-cegpr)
- LEPT system now made available to doctors putting together a CESR application to allow them to collect and present evidence (chemical pathology and cellular pathology specialties)
- CESR applicants can apply for a CESR against the 'old curriculum' standards until **July 2022**. After then all applicants must apply against the new curriculum standards

RCPATH Examination Update

Approved changes to the examinations:

- Online proctoring for FRCPATH Part 1
- Full tender process followed
- TestReach chosen and purchased
- Exams taken in candidates' own homes or place of work with live proctor as invigilator
- Working and sharing ideas with other Colleges making similar changes
- Virtual viva/face to face examinations
- Slide based exams (Histopathology and Haematology FRCPATH Part 2) ran as normal with social distancing
- Autumn 2020

Mistakes in some Part 1 papers

- Some isolated connectivity issues (resolved by TestReach in real time for candidates)
- Connectivity issue for a small number of candidates sitting Histopathology Part 1
- Spring 2021
- Examinations much smoother although some isolated connectivity issues remained
- Issues for some Clinical Biochemistry FRCPATH Part 2 candidates
- Autumn 2021



International Department Report	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Only FRCPATH Part 1 examinations online - FRCPATH Part 2 examinations in person - 70 candidates examined for the Histopathology FRCPATH Part 2 in Dubai and Cairo • 2022 - Next overseas FRCPATH Part 2 examinations to take place in Autumn 2022 - Centre(s) to be determined
International Projects <i>Kelley Price</i> <i>International Projects Officer</i>	<p>International Pathology Day 2021</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The College will host an event on Tuesday 1 November - prior to Wednesday 9 November the day of official celebration • Hopes are high for holding a hybrid event at the College building in London • A steering committee will be formed to plan the event and will begin meeting at the start of next year • We are looking for three people to join us – please let us know if you are interested <p>ARISE</p> <p>The Kaduna State SCD Newborn Screening Programme</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clinical networks in Ghana, Kenya, Liberia, Nigeria, Uganda, Tanzania, and Zambia • CONSA stems from a multifaceted initiative ASH launched in 2016 to address the global burden of SCD. • CONSA introduces standard-of-care practices for screening and early intervention therapies (such as antibiotic prophylaxis and immunizations) at participating institutions, screening 10,000 – 16,000 babies per year in each country and providing clinical follow-up for SCD-positive babies. Haematologists and public health officials participating in the consortium have mobilized networks of screening laboratories, SCD or paediatric haematology clinics, teaching hospitals, universities, and satellite clinics to screen babies in these catchment areas and provide clinical services. <p>Training for hematologists in Saudi Arabia</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Seventeen hematologists working in adult and paediatric hematology were selected by Saudi Arabia's Ministry of Health to participate • A 5-week virtual training programme was designed by the leads of work package 3, based on the milestones of task 3.2. laboratory protocols for haemoglobin analysis and sickle cell diagnosis (SCD), which originate from the ARISE programme • Partnerships were formed with the Institute of Biomedical Science (IBMS) and UK NEQAS who provided 5 lecturers • The final programme included fourteen hours contact time and encompassed 9 modules including for example: The principle of Hb analysis and parameters affecting measured values - sickle cell and thalassaemia underpinning knowledge (IBMS), External and internal quality assurance of



International Department Report	
	<p>the diagnostic and testing process (NEQAS), molecular diagnostics and point of care testing (POCT).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> We liaised with Accsight a healthcare consultancy and relevant contacts at the Ministry of Health for Saudi Arabia directly regarding planning implementation and execution of the programme <p>ARISE 2022</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The programme was accredited by The College Planning is underway to resume official activities of the project in the first quarter of 2022 after the project was paused in late 2020 When the project resumes we will have approximately two and a half years to complete all the milestones assigned to us under work package 3 An important area of focus will be planning for incoming and outgoing staff exchanges <p>International Projects – looking ahead</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Haem Icon Sri Lanka: Dr Wale Atoyebi will give a presentation as guest of honor on behalf of the College Medlab 2022: The College is to be a supporting body of the conference at the end of January Three speakers will give talks on behalf of the College Professor Mike Osborn will join a panel discussion on laboratory management Antimicrobial Resistance training : A new project is being arranged with the National Postgraduate Medical College of Nigeria (NPMCN). With the guidance of Dr Angharad Davies VP for learning, the aim will be to provide online based education and resources suitable for practitioners involved in infection such as doctors, medical microbiologists, antimicrobial pharmacists (or equivalent) involved in specialist infection practice International MoUs: Work will continue to renew and form other MoUs, as well as plan activities over the next 12 months with existing MoU partners MBRU student placements: Are being organised for students at Mohammed Bin Rashid University (MBRU) to enable them to spend 4-6 weeks in laboratories in the UK next summer
<p>International Medical Graduates <i>Tanna Hawkins,</i> <i>International Education Officer</i> <i>Dr Hebah Ali</i> <i>International Education Lead for ITSS</i> <i>Histopathology and Sponsorship</i> <i>Dr Anan Ghazy</i> <i>International Education Lead for ITSS Medical</i></p>	<p>RCPATH Refugee Scheme College recognises the challenges refugee pathologists in the UK face</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Council Approved: April 2021 Launched: September 2021 Open to all refugee pathologists in the UK Requires refugee pathologists to also register with the BMA Extensive resource list now available on the College website to support these doctors with their PLAB examinations, and English (IELTS/OET) examinations The Refugee Initiative will be free of charge for doctors who have trained as pathologists in their home country and IMGs who have started their training in pathology but were unable to complete their training.

International Department Report	
Microbiology and the MTI scheme	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Refugee Initiative also offers refugee pathologists a free one-year membership at the College which includes a range of benefits <p>International Pathology School (IPS)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The College restructured what was formally International Pathology Summer School (IPSS) to a developed toolkit and relaunched the scheme in Jordan earlier this year. The event was held in collaboration with the University of Science and Technology in Jordan. Next IPS will be held in South Africa 2022: Applications Open to other regions – x3 Members were encouraged to contact the International team to get involved Opportunity to engage and encourage medical students in your region to select pathology in your region <p>MTI and Sponsorship Schemes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Members of the International Committee were provided with a refresh on the mandatory GMC criteria for these schemes Members were given an overview on the 4 routes to GMC registration Sponsorship: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 23 applications in the 2020-2021 period Up 5 applications for this period (in a Pandemic) 12 of applications this period (2021-2022) CESR in Histopathology: Following the successful CESR Day, 5 would-be applicants were matched with Consultants to provide 1-1 mentorship. Dr Hebah Ali Registration and PLAB: In an initiative to support doctors in Sudan, SDU UK approached Cambridge Boxhill Language Assessment and OET@Home is now available in Sudan. Dr Hebah Ali CESR and SAS: Taken on the role to support SAS and CESR applicants for all specialties at both the CSU and Trust (Leeds Teaching Hospital). Dr Hebah Ali Medical Training Initiative (MTI scheme) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 23 amount of applications in the 2020-2021 period Growth of 1 application since 2019-2020 period 15 of applications this year Changes in authorised deanery sign offs have meant that many applicants have had some delay in getting their CoS for their Tier 5 AoMRC to introduce a system to withdraw sponsorship should Trusts fail to send the New Starters Report (more details to follow Dec 2021)
Comfort Break	

ITEM NO. 7 – INTERNATIONAL REGIONAL ADVISOR REPORTS

(a) Americas

Summary of activities undertaken taken during this period

- Tele-meeting of Fellows in the region of Americas – 5th August 2021

Emerging issues, opportunities & trends

- Training opportunities to pathology trainees in clinical and translational research areas beyond borders.
- Artificial intelligence and its applications in all areas of morphological pathology – implications on training, clinical practice, and work force development.
- Promotion of leadership and expertise in genomic pathology and embedding them in conventional pathology arena.

Future Priorities and Objectives

- Second tele-meeting of Fellows in the region of Americas
- Plan meetings during upcoming major national/ international meetings

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

Summary of activities undertaken taken during this period

- Update on the new 2021 classification of tumours of the CNS (2 sessions were held). This aims at updating participants from the MENA region on the most important aspects of the new classification and its impact on the daily diagnosis and practice of pathologists in the region. This was supplemented by case presentations and discussion of the implementation of the new classification.
- A one day symposium on “Breast carcinoma” on the 30th October 2021. The activity aims at increasing the awareness on breast carcinoma in the month of Breast Carcinoma Awareness. This was delivered through a multidisciplinary approach with speakers including pathologists, surgeons, radiologists, psychologists, nutritionists and cancer survivors to emphasize on the role of multidisciplinary team approach. The organizers included Dr. Omar Qassid, Associate MENA region Advisor (UK), Dr. Ahmad Omar (UK), Dr. Fatima Hashim (Bahrain), Dr. Eman Abdelzaher (Egypt) and myself (Jordan). There were more than 300 participants from all over the MENA region countries. The Activity was accredited 6 CPD hours from the RCPATH.

Emerging issues, opportunities & trends

- We would like to continue with arranging more symposia that tackles various disciplines in pathology including the new updates on the classification of the various tumors and systems.
- Also, arranging activities related to new advances in pathology like artificial intelligence, digital pathology, and pathology informatics.
- Another important topic is molecular diagnostics and genomics in clinical practice.
- We can also re-do the very successful event of International Pathology Taster Webinar aimed at medical students to increase the awareness of medical students regarding the various specialties and sub-specialties in pathology



Future Priorities and Objectives

- Gynaecological Pathology update
- Artificial intelligence and digital pathology
- Molecular pathology and genomics in practice
- International Pathology Taster Webinar

(c) South-East Asia (SEA)

Summary of activities undertaken taken during this period

- CME- Paediatric infections (Dr Iyer)
- 21st to 24th July 2021 CME

Emerging issues, opportunities and trends

- As the travel restrictions will slowly ease, enquiries to College for possible examination dates and centre will increase

Priorities for the next period and upcoming activities

- 11,12th Nov 2021; technician (MLSO) training programme, sponsored by The Royal College of Pathologists, UK
- Participation in International Pathology day – Nov 2021
- Programme for medical undergraduate students (online)- tentative late Jan 2022
- Obstetric infections (tentative) Feb 2022

(d) Sub Saharan Africa (SSA)

Professor John Obafunwa introduced himself to the committee and the committee look forward to working with him in the future.

(e) Western Pacific (Inc. Australasia)

26% of RCPATH International Fellows are in Western Pacific

- Mainly in Australia, New Zealand, Singapore, Hong Kong and Malaysia
- Engaged in their National Colleges/Societies, and joint professional activities with each other
- Royal College of Pathologists of Australasia
- Chapter of Pathologists, Academy of Medicine of Singapore
- Hong Kong College of Pathologists
- College of Pathologists, Academy of Medicine of Malaysia

Of note:

Strong adoption of online and remote conferencing

- Attendance much better than previous face-to-face meeting
- More involvement in international webinars

Impact of Covid-19 Pandemic on Society, pathology educational and professional activities

- Vaccination has made a big difference
 - 25% (Philippines) - 80% (Singapore) population fully vaccinated
 - Boosters started on frontliners



Although numbers are still worrisome, almost all countries are easing out of lockdown

- Businesses opening
- Domestic travel/tourism opened
- International borders still closed
- Most conferences and MDTs in hybrid mode
- Pathology laboratories continue to be heavily engaged in COVID-19 testing

Pathology training and practice in Malaysia

- Master of Pathology (University-based) is main pathology training programme
- The new normal has set-in
 - Practical training has continued well with adherence to SOPs for safety
 - Classes/seminars/multidisciplinary team meetings almost entirely using teleconferencing
 - Training through webinars, online teaching and teleconferencing established, more international input
 - Face-to-face sessions cautiously being restored
- Training centres take turns to host examinations
- MPath Examinations in October- November 2021 now on-going in hybrid mode

Emerging issues, opportunities and trends

- **New normal of Online and Hybrid communication has settled in**
 - Online and hybrid meetings have removed the distance of UK from the Western Pacific.
 - Easier for RCPATH to be more engaged in meetings of overseas Fellows and local Colleges of Pathologists
- **Growth of Local Colleges of Pathologists**
- ISI journal (Malaysian Journal of Pathology)
- CPath-AMM now has 5 chapters:
 - Chemical Pathology & Metabolic Medicine
 - Anatomical Pathology
 - Perinatal and Paediatric Pathology
 - Medical Genetic Pathology
 - Transfusion Medicine

Recommendations and Priorities for RCPATH in the Western Pacific

- Keep vigilance on Capacity-Building in Myanmar
 - Engagements with Myanmar in flux due to political situation
 - Continue to invite Myanmar pathologists and trainees to online sessions
- Strengthen parallel training in WP towards FRCPATH
 - Establish regular online forum for potential trainees – introducing RCPATH and pathway towards FRCPATH

- Establish WP FRCPath exam centres (online and practical)
- More involvement of International Members in RCPPath initiatives
 - Consideration of time zone differences

(f) Europe

Dr Terlizzo provided a summary was provided of progress over the past year:

Summary of activities undertaken taken during this period

- Webinar event with Shupyk National Healthcare University Ukraine 'Modern Approaches to Diagnostics in the COVID-19 Era 1st of October 2021
- Ongoing co-operation with Ukraine University thank to Dr O Wise and M Howard

Emerging issues, opportunities and trends

- The EU-UK Trade and Cooperation Agreement (TCA) and recognition of medical professional qualifications post-transition
- EU RPQ – including the Trade and Cooperation Agreement and the Withdrawal Agreement (previously application of the EU MRPQ Directive)
- RPQ elements of free trade agreement negotiations
- Work to support regulators and professional bodies agree recognition arrangements, such as MRAs
- The GMC continues to work with its European medical regulator counterparts following the end of the Brexit transition period.
- The RCP is looking into the EUSS and any emerging issues from the upcoming deadline. It is also looking at immigration policy – specifically the Health and Care Worker visa and advocating to extended it to any social care workers. Regarding the PQB, the RCP will be pushing for more transparency and accountability on workforce planning with a designated body to publish workforce projections regularly and then for the Secretary of State for Health to respond with the government's future actions.
- Given that the UK has unilaterally decided to continue to recognise EU/EEA qualifications for up to two years post-transition, as a more immediate solution, the BMA initiated a MRPQ campaign to ensure continuity and legal certainty for both, medical professionals and students, in post-Brexit Europe.

ITEM NO. 8 - Covid-19

- Professor Angharad Davies wanted to address the accelerating Covid-19 crisis across the globe which is having a major impact on colleagues abroad. The RCPPath is very concerned about this and are looking use our influence to support equitable distribution of vaccine internationally
- The RCPPath supported an AoMRC statement urging the government to distribute its surplus vaccine to parts of the world that need it
- Supported the WHO declaration on vaccine equity
- Concern about the recent situation in India (regarding the DELTA variant)

ITEM NO. 9 – Any Other Business

- Nothing to report.

ITEM NO. 10 – 2022 MEETINGS/ EVENTS SCHEDULE

The Committee noted the following schedule of meetings for 2020:

Date	Activity
Wednesday 18 th May 2022	International Committee Meeting
November 2022 – Date TBC	Diaspora Meeting
November 2022 – Date TBC	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)	International team to meet with Country Advisor from Myanmar – Dr Thynn Thynn Lee	Miss Tanna Hawkins COMPLETED
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