

30 November 2023

## Diaspora and International Committee Meeting

A meeting of the Diaspora and International Committee was held on 6 November 2023 at 11:30 GMT via Teams.

Dr Lance Sandle  
Registrar

### Minutes

<b>Present:</b>	Professor Angharad Davies – Vice President of Learning Professor John Obafunwa Professor Kedar Deodhar Professor Lai-Meng Looi Professor Maysa Al-Hussaini Professor Mona El-Bahrawy Professor Naresh Kikkeri Dr Ranganathan Iyer Dr Shahid Pervez Dr Afaf Elhag Dr Hiba Ali Dr Wale Ayetobi Giles Hanratty Joanne Brinklow Kelley Price Luke Thrower
<b>Apologies for absence:</b>	Professor Ismail Matalaka – Clinical Director of International Activities Dr Anan Ghazy Dr Anwaar Ahmed Yuosif Kordofani Dr Husam El-Mugamar Dr Monica Terlizzo Professor Nicki Cohen Dr Omar Layth Qassid



### 1. Pathology Portal – Luke Thrower, Pathology Portal Officer

- a. Pathology Portal was launched in August 2022.
- b. There are more than 2,300 users and more than 4,700 resources on the platform.
- c. The platform has been shortlisted for the Healthcare Honors Award in Outstanding Innovation.
- d. The platform is available for the College's international members and can be accessed by completing the [international web form](#). Approximately 8% of the users are international.
- e. E-learning courses, guidelines, podcasts, videos, whole slide images and many more types of resources are available on the portal.
- f. Feedback from users has been positive, outlining how beneficial the platform is for pathologists.
- g. If any of the International Committee and Diaspora members want to add content onto the portal, please contact the team at [pathologyportal@rcpath.org](mailto:pathologyportal@rcpath.org).
- h. **Action:** Please could the International Committee and Diaspora members share the [international web form](#) with their network.

### 2. Updates from the College – Joanne Brinklow, Director of Learning

- a. Results for the Autumn 2023 examinations will be released on Friday 24 November.
- b. The Examinations team have been investigating moving to digital examinations for appropriate pathology specialties and establishing assessment centres for the part 1 examinations.
- c. The Examinations team is continuing to ensure the examinations have an open approach to Equality, Diversity and Inclusion.
- d. The College will work to ensure there is consistent feedback received for each examination specialty.
- e. Currently the Examinations and Pathology Portal teams are having discussions to investigate if the portal can be used for examination candidates to prepare for College examinations.
- f. Legislation behind CESR is changing which will mean CESR will be renamed to the Portfolio Pathway. There will be changes for how applicants have to provide evidence, this is to ensure the process is as efficient as possible for candidates.
- g. Previously applicants had to demonstrate how they met every aspect of the CCT curriculum, however going forward from 1 December applicants must demonstrate how they meet high-level outcomes (Capabilities in Practice). The College has specified that evidence can now be provided from within the

last 10 years, instead of 5 years. Detailed guidance on this new process will be published shortly.

### **3. International Projects – Kelley Price, International Projects Officer and Dr Wale Atoyebi, ARISE Lead**

- a. For work package 3 in the ARISE project, there have been 2 incoming secondees from Nigeria since February 2022. By the end of the project (October 2024), there is projected to be 7 further secondees incoming to the UK.
- b. For outgoing secondments, since February 2022 there have been 2 one-month secondments from UK to Nigeria and 1 one-month secondment from UK to Italy. By October 2024, there is projected to be 1 six-month secondment from UK to Cyprus or Italy.
- c. Since January 2023 there have been 9 secondments from Angola and 4 from Nigeria to the Lisbon School of Health and Technology. By October 2024 there is projected to be 24 secondees hosted by the Lisbon School of Health and Technology.
- d. Since January 2023 the Lisbon School of Health and Technology has sent 1 secondee to Angola and 2 to Chicago. By October 2024 there is projected to be one more secondee sent to Angola.
- e. The University of Udine and University of Campania are expected to be hosting their secondees in the coming months.
- f. There has been reduced capacity in laboratories in London which has limited the number of secondees that could come to the UK. As a result, other laboratories in the UK have been identified as potential hosting sites. Laboratories in areas such as Manchester, Bristol and Burton on Trent are being considered.
- g. A major aim of the ARISE project is to increase newborn screening for sickle cell disease in Sub-Saharan Africa. A stakeholder in this project is the American Society for Hematology who run a scheme known as the Consortium of Newborn Screening in Africa (CONSA), which screens babies for sickle cell disease. A total of 11,627 babies and infants have been screened for sickle cell disease.
- h. The College collaborated with the Ghana College of Physicians and Surgeons in conjunction with the Tropical Health Education Trust (THET) to present a series of 25 video lectures. There are 7 remaining videos that will be uploaded to the College website by the end of the year, which will complete the series.
- i. The College, in partnership with the National Postgraduate Medical College of Nigeria, the Ghana College of Physicians and Surgeons, the Aga Khan University (Kenya) and the Association of Clinical Biochemistry and Laboratory Medicine (UK) are submitting a bid for funding from the Global Workforce Health Programme. The proposal addresses key issues in the declining number of chemical pathologists in Ghana, Kenya and Nigeria.

- j. [International Pathology Day 2023](#) will be looking at the impact of climate change on disease. 4 talks will take place in the programme, with a keynote presentation and a roundtable discussion at the end. During the lunch break a presentation on the College's Net Zero strategy and a mindfulness workshop will take place. As part of IPD a virtual international undergraduate quiz will take place on Wednesday 15 November
- k. The International Team have been submitting articles about each region in the Bulletin. The remaining regions that will have articles written about them are the Americas and Western Pacific.

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

- a. So far in 2023 there have been 18 MTI applicants apply for the scheme and 5 of them have been completed. Of those 18, 77% have been from Sri Lanka, 11% from India and 5.6% are from Turkey. The Sponsorship scheme has received 30 applications with 4 of them being completed, with 26,7% from India, 26.6% from Nigeria and 10% from Pakistan. The reason for the lower numbers for both schemes is because there has been a reduction in funding in the UK and in other countries, which reduces the number of trainees who can be financially supported to join these schemes.
- b. The fees for the MTI and Sponsorship schemes have been implemented. Now there is a £50 admin fee and a £300 scheme fee.
- c. An article was released about the MTI scheme outlining how UK trainees are paid more the overseas trainees on these schemes. The Academy of Medical Royal Colleges is aware of this issue. The Academy is having discussions about how to best remedy this situation.
- d. International Activity Day webinars were delivered on 13 and 28 September. With the target audience being UK Employers and overseas doctors/organisations respectively. The UK webinar had 33 attendees, whilst the overseas webinar resulted in 168 attendees. Recordings of the [UK Employers webinar](#) and [overseas webinar](#) have been uploaded to the College website. The webinars outlined routes to GMC registration and the process and documentation for the College Sponsorship schemes.
- e. The Sub-Saharan Africa International Pathology School was delivered on 26 and 27 May 2023. There were speakers from numerous countries in Sub-Saharan Africa including, Ghana, Kenya, Nigeria, South Africa, Zimbabwe and many more. 70 attendees joined the webinar and 77% of the attendees were from Nigeria.
- f. South East Asia International Pathology School was delivered on 26 August 2023. There were speakers from India, Sri Lanka and other South East Asian countries. 38 attendees joined the webinar, with 88% from India. The feedback received from the attendees outlined that most were not in their final year of medical training and that they had already decided on their postgraduate career. 80% found the webinar extremely useful, stating that the topics were good and the presentations were informative. Due to the low number of attendees at the Sub-Saharan Africa and South East Asia

International Pathology School the need for creating a criteria for delivering these webinars was outlined. The discussion around this criterion was held in the afternoon International Committee meeting.

- g. On Tuesday 28 November 2023 a webinar, in partnership with the Egyptian Committee for Pathology Training and Shefa Al-Orman hospital will be delivered. The webinar will be focusing on [microbiology challenges in oncology practice in the UK and Egypt](#).
- h. The International Team will be starting a second round of recruitment to appoint Country Advisors to countries that currently do not have an advisor.

## **5. Feedback from Diaspora Groups**

- a. Egyptian Committee for Pathology Training – Professor Mona El-Bahrawy
  - i. The microbiology webinar that is being delivered in partnership with the College and Shefa Al-Orman hospital is being planned and advertised.
  - ii. Doctors at Shefa Al-Orman hospital will celebrate International Pathology Day by inviting junior doctors to present case presentations in histopathology and consultants will share their experience.
  - iii. Currently workshops and tutorials are being planned for 2024 and will be advertised once they have been finalised.
- b. India – Dr Kedar K Deodhar
  - i. Recruitment will take place to find an appropriate representative for the India Diaspora group.
- c. Pakistan – Dr Shahid Pervez
  - i. MoU between the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Pakistan (CPSP), the Pakistan Association of Pathologists (PAP) and the Royal College of Pathologist has been renewed and signed.
  - ii. 4 Fellows working in Pakistan were involved in the panel of international examiners in the autumn histopathology Part 2 FRCPPath examination.
  - iii. Dr Thomas Gowanlock has been invited by the CPSP to become an external examiner for the histopathology practical examination.
  - iv. The appointment of a Pakistan Country Advisor would be beneficial.
- d. UK Sudanese Pathology Group – Dr Afaf Elhag
  - i. Hospitals have been attacked during the civil war in Sudan.
  - ii. 3000 doctors have left Sudan and gone to Egypt.
  - iii. There has been a collapse of infrastructure and basic services, such as electricity and water.
  - iv. There have been limited supplies and delivery of aid in the region.
  - v. Health facilities and services are being targeted during attacks.
  - vi. There have been outbreaks of cholera and dengue.
  - vii. Involvement of Diaspora groups in local policy making and planning is recommended to help rebuild the Sudanese healthcare system.

**6. 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.