



Histocompatibility & Immunogenetics Sub-Committee

Terms of Reference

1 Background

The Histocompatibility & Immunogenetics sub-committee was established in 1993 which was the first year that examinations for Membership of the College in H&I took place. The committee was initially a sub-committee of both the Immunology SAC and the Transfusion Medicine Sub-Committee of the Haematology SAC. This reflected the fact that H&I and Immunology share elements of basic immunological knowledge and also that H&I clinical practice crosses many areas including blood transfusion as well as solid organ transplantation, haematopoietic stem cell transplantation and immunogenetic testing to aid disease diagnosis and for other indications. Subsequently the direct link with the Transfusion Medicine Sub-Committee was dropped and the H&I Sub-Committee exists as a sub-committee of the Immunology SAC.

The significant differences between H&I and Immunology in terms of specialist knowledge and clinical practice are clear and the 2 specialties have their own examinations with no sharing of content. The training pathways for the 2 specialties are also completely separate with H&I being predominantly a Clinical Scientist led Specialty and not having a recognised medical training pathway.

2 Remit of the committee

The H&I sub-committee will advise Council and oversee the delivery of the responsibilities of the College in respect of the specialty of H&I.

To review, update and develop the curriculum for higher specialist training in H&I, working in partnership with the British Society for Histocompatibility & Immunogenetics.

To review and facilitate the delivery of appropriate systems for training and Continuing Professional Development (CPD) including:

- Acting as the main focus for advising on and facilitating training in the absence of a formal College Advisory Training Team in H&I
- Arranging meetings/activities to complement those organised by other professional bodies



To contribute to the review of examinations and assessment systems in H&I as necessary and advise on changes to these systems via the Chair of the H&I Panel of Examiners

To provide specialty-specific guidance and advice to College Officers, College Staff, trainers and trainees and others as required

To work with the College Website Advisor and other members of College staff to develop and update a section of the College website with information relevant to H&I

To consider all proposals, guidelines, official documents and other developments of which the College becomes aware that are relevant to H&I, with particular focus on issues related to transplantation & Immunogenetics

To respond to consultations (e.g. Department of Health) on any issue with relevance to H&I, with particular focus on issues related to transplantation & Immunogenetics .

To nominate H&I representatives to contribute to the work of other College committees or working groups as required

To undertake any other work of relevance to H&I as the RCPATH sees fit.

3 Reporting structure

The committee reports to the Immunology SAC

4 Membership

- The Chair.
- Chair of the Panel of Examiners in H&I, *ex-officio*
- Chair of SAC on Immunology *ex officio*
- Specialty Adviser
- A representative of the British Society for Histocompatibility & Immunogenetics (BSHI)
- A trainee representative
- A co-opted College Fellow

The co-option of a College Fellow onto the Committee ensures that membership of the committee consists of sufficient Fellows, with relevant working experience, to cover the various different clinical specialties within H&I. With the exception of ex-officio members, the duration of membership will be three years.

5 Meetings

Meetings will be held twice each year at The Royal College of Pathologists, 2 Carlton House Terrace, London SW1Y 5AF. The membership should expect the Chair occasionally to lead discussions by email or teleconference between formal meetings. Additional ad-hoc meetings may be held if necessary, subject to the agreement of the President of the College.

6 Resources

Travelling expenses will be paid to members of the committee (or deputies when appropriate) in line with the College's expenses policy. The expenses of the BSHI representative will be met by BSHI. The expenses policy and claims form are available on the website at www.rcpath.org/index.asp?PageID=732 and hard copies can be provided upon request.

Administrative support will be provided by the Committees Department at the Royal College of Pathologists.

Minutes will be made available on the College website.