

Research and Academic Medicine Committee

Terms of Reference

The Research and Academic Medicine Committee is a standing advisory committee established by the Royal College of Physicians of London. It exists to develop the profile of research and academic medicine within the College both regionally and nationally and to demonstrate the importance of research to the NHS and to patient care.

The committee aims to promote clinical scientific innovation and development, enhance the quality of training and career development for potential and established clinical researchers whilst also protecting and promoting interests of those who have chosen to undertake a career academic pathway. It particularly aims to support NHS physicians interested in undertaking research who are not academics. It will do this by:-

1. raising awareness of the importance of clinical academic medicine to the members and fellows of the RCP
2. promoting research and innovation in medicine
3. being the source of mentorship and guidance to those seeking a career in academic medicine
4. encouraging trainees to have some involvement in research as part of their training programmes
5. encouraging doctors to become involved in research at any stage of their career but particularly new consultants from non-teaching hospitals undertaking research with little or no protected time allocated for academic study
6. developing and supporting the careers of members of the RCP practising as clinical academics and clinical researchers
7. encourage and speed up the translation of academic advancement into clinical practice
8. developing a process within the RCP to recognise and reward clinical academic excellence in the UK
9. developing and maintaining effective links with other national stakeholders in academic medicine including the NHS, industry, funding bodies, the Academy of Medical Sciences, the Academy of Medical Colleges and organisations representing those active in the biomedical and relevant physical sciences.

Reporting and responsibilities

The committee reports to Council and also shares its minutes with the Education Board

The committee is advisory with advice is restricted to the context of England, Wales and Northern Ireland. Scottish College representation is welcomed in an observer capacity and by virtual attendance only. The Scottish Colleges are not involved in joint ownership of the committee.

Constitution

Membership and appointment

The committee will be chaired by the RCP academic vice president and the committee may choose to appoint a deputy chair from amongst its membership.

Tenure will be for three years for RCP appointees, which can be extended for an additional term if necessary. External bodies organise their own representatives.

Membership of the committee will comprise

- Academic vice president (chair)
- President (ex officio)
- Registrar (ex officio)
- Vice President Education & Training
- Executive Director Education
- Medical Director JRCPTB
- RCP representatives x 6 Fellows of the Royal College of Physicians
- RCP trainees committee
- RCP New Consultants Committee
- Patient and Carer Network member

Representative organisations may include:

- Academy of Medical Sciences
- Medical Research Council
- Association of Clinical Professors of Medicine
- National Institute for Health Research
- Defence Medical Services
- Faculty of Public Health
- RCPCH
- Representative of women in academic medicine
- NHS Research Active Physician new consultant
- Head of School
- Post graduate dean with interest in academic affairs
- UK RD representative
- Health Foundation representative

Frequency of meetings

The committee will meet twice a year, with correspondence between meetings as required.

Administration and other support

Administrative and policy support will be supplied by RCP committee services and the Communications, Policy and Research directorate

The RCP will cover the costs of meeting rooms, travel, refreshments and administrative support. However, meetings are currently virtual only.

Frequency of review – every three years

Last reviewed: November 2021

Next review: November 2024