

Albert Ferro

Professor Albert Ferro MB BS PhD FRCP FAoP FBPhS FBIHS FESC is a professor of cardiovascular clinical pharmacology, King's College London, and honorary consultant physician, Guy's and St Thomas' Hospitals, London.



What is your vision if you are successfully elected as RCP president? What would you do in your first 100 days in office?

AF My vision as RCP president is to champion a modern, inclusive and patient-focused medical profession. I will advocate for the highest standards in medical education, workforce wellbeing

and equitable healthcare access. Doing all I can to lobby for tackling workforce shortages, reducing burnout and ensuring physicians have the support they need will be my priority. This is of course going to take time, but I will set plans in motion immediately.

In my first 100 days, I will engage directly with members to understand their concerns and set clear priorities. Although I have my own views based on nearly 30 years as a practising physician, I strongly believe it is important to consult widely and get as much input as possible into what our members feel is needed. I will push for urgent workforce planning discussions with policymakers, strengthen mentorship programmes and promote diversity in leadership. I will also enhance RCP's role in climate-conscious healthcare and digital innovation.

Collaboration will be key – and strong and visionary leadership is crucial in uniting physicians, policymakers and patients, to drive meaningful change for the profession and improve patient care.

The RCP London estate requires substantial investment and is much larger than needed following the opening of The Spine in Liverpool and flexible working. What is your vision for the college infrastructure and ways of working, both in London and UK-wide?

AF The RCP's infrastructure must be sustainable, financially viable and aligned with our evolving ways of working. With The Spine in Liverpool now a key hub and flexible working reshaping our needs, I do agree that we must optimise our London estate while ensuring strong UK-wide engagement.

I plan to lead a strategic review of the London site, exploring options for modernisation, downsizing or

repurposing to maximise value while maintaining a strong presence. Any investment must support members – enhancing education, collaboration and accessibility.

Beyond London, I will strengthen RCP’s regional role, expanding hybrid learning, digital engagement and local networking to ensure equitable access to resources and influence. The college must work for all members, wherever they are, while maintaining a world-class presence in both London and Liverpool.

Many of the RCP’s legal frameworks and bye-laws date from its formation in 1518. What is your vision for constitutional reform for the college and how can we ensure it is relevant and fit to serve medicine in the 21st century?

AF It is most certainly the case that the underlying legal framework of the RCP is showing its age. I strongly believe that the RCP’s constitution must evolve to reflect the realities of modern medicine while preserving its rich heritage. My vision is for a governance structure that is transparent, inclusive and responsive to the needs of today’s physicians. Events in the college’s recent history have highlighted to me how a complete overhaul of its governance is now sorely needed – and wished for by its membership.

I will lead a comprehensive review of our legal frameworks and bye-laws, ensuring they support equity, diversity and adaptability. In my view, we must remove outdated barriers to leadership, strengthen member representation and streamline decision making to be more agile in responding to healthcare challenges.

To remain relevant, the RCP must engage widely – consulting members at all career stages, across all regions and specialties, to shape reforms that serve the profession effectively. A modernised constitution will empower the RCP to lead with impact in the modern age.

As RCP president, how would you advocate for protecting training time for doctors? How would you ensure that medical education is recognised as an essential contribution to high-quality patient care and service improvement?

AF Protecting training time is essential for both patient safety and the future of our profession. As RCP president, I will push for national policies that safeguard dedicated training time, ensuring it is not eroded by service pressures. I will

work with NHS leaders and policymakers to embed training as a core workforce priority, advocating for adequate staffing levels so that education is never compromised.

Medical education must be recognised as integral to high-quality patient care. I will champion protected teaching time, fair recognition for trainers, and – importantly – stronger incentives for institutions that prioritise training excellence. By demonstrating the direct link between well-trained doctors and better patient outcomes, we can shift the culture to one where education is valued as an essential service investment, not an afterthought.

Approximately 26% of RCP membership is based outside of the UK. What action would you take to ensure that this cohort feels valued and better represented through core RCP functions?

AF International members are a vital part of the RCP community, and I am committed to ensuring they feel valued, represented and fully integrated into our college’s work.

I will establish stronger regional networks and leadership roles for international members, ensuring their voices shape RCP policy, education and advocacy. Expanding digital engagement – through accessible CPD, leadership programmes, and remote networking – will help bridge geographic barriers.

I will also push for greater recognition of global healthcare contributions, fostering international collaboration in research, training and workforce development. Strengthening our partnerships with overseas institutions and ensuring international fellows play a key role in RCP decision making will reaffirm our commitment to a truly global medical community.

This interview was produced for a special election edition of *Commentary*, the RCP’s membership magazine.

You can find interviews with all candidates and information about the 2025 RCP election on the [RCP website](#).