Taking shape: your regular update on the progress of the RCP’s new home in Liverpool

Bringing you up to date with our vision for the RCP’s presence in the north.

RCP North at The Spine will be a beacon of excellence, attracting high-quality healthcare professionals and staff, driving quality improvement in a pioneering atmosphere of collaboration and partnership.

It is a showcase that will open up medicine – a chance for us to show and demonstrate what we are most proud of as an organisation. It will establish our presence, excellence and purpose at this turning point in our 500-year history.

Led by academic vice president Cheng-Hock Toh as senior officer for the project, this new presence offers opportunities:

- to be a beacon of academic excellence and medical leadership
- to lead the improvement of patient care and public health
- to be a world-leading assessment centre
- to drive quality improvement and implementation science.

The new building will be a hub and meeting point for fellows and members in the region, who will have more opportunities to become involved in our work, attend meetings, educational courses, lectures and other events. Doctors, scientists and researchers from the nearby buildings will be able to pop in to the downstairs café, and walk to lectures, conferences, teach-ins and other events.

The building will become an integral feature of the medical landscape in Liverpool, allowing us immediate access to our local fellows – a home for our fellows in the north. As the medical ‘firm’ has disappeared there are fewer opportunities to have that sense of community. We can help to bring it back.

Construction

As you can see (right), The Spine, the building that will house our new office, is now beginning to take shape, the central lift shafts rising from the centre of the site on the corner of Paddington Village, a new development in Liverpool. The RCP is taking six floors of the 14-storey building including the ground floor.

The Spine will be a groundbreaking, world-leading example of biophilic architecture, supporting mental and physical wellbeing for staff and visitors. In parallel with our leading role in healthcare, the building itself will be a beacon of excellence in its field and a likely award-winner.

A new drone video taken by Liverpool City Council shows the site in the context of its neighbours, including the Rutherford Cancer Centre NW, Kaplan International English College, and the hotel that will be built next door. Added to our close proximity to the new Royal Liverpool Hospital, Clatterbridge Cancer Centre, and the Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine as well as other hospitals, we will be at the heart of a medical and scientific precinct, encouraging cross-collaboration, sharing of good practice and quality improvement.


The building’s internal spaces

The next few months are a crucial time, as officers, members and staff of the RCP will be involved in designing the services and spaces in our allocated floors. By leading the design of the inner shell of the new building, we can build spaces that will support all our activities, and promote collaborative working, space for growing skills and disseminating evidence, social networking and simply chatting over a cuppa.

The Spine will include an assessment centre, educational and co-creation space, meeting rooms, display spaces, and offices for the 200 staff based there. The building and its inclusion of more collaborative spaces will support flexible, agile ways of working, across teams.

Sneak peek: Voronoi glazing

This is a full-sized test piece of the external glass for The Spine, showing up close the Voronoi diagram that will reflect patterns common in nature, especially human skin. The glazing is part of the wider principles of design that bring nature, wellbeing, and systems of the body to the building.

Artistic impression of The Spine

An image, taken by drone, of the construction underway

The Voronoi glass