



Royal College  
of Physicians

# Campaigning, influencing, improving

The Royal College of Physicians' (RCP's) vision is to deliver the best possible health and healthcare for everyone. In order to achieve this, we work to influence the way that healthcare is designed and delivered.

## How we work

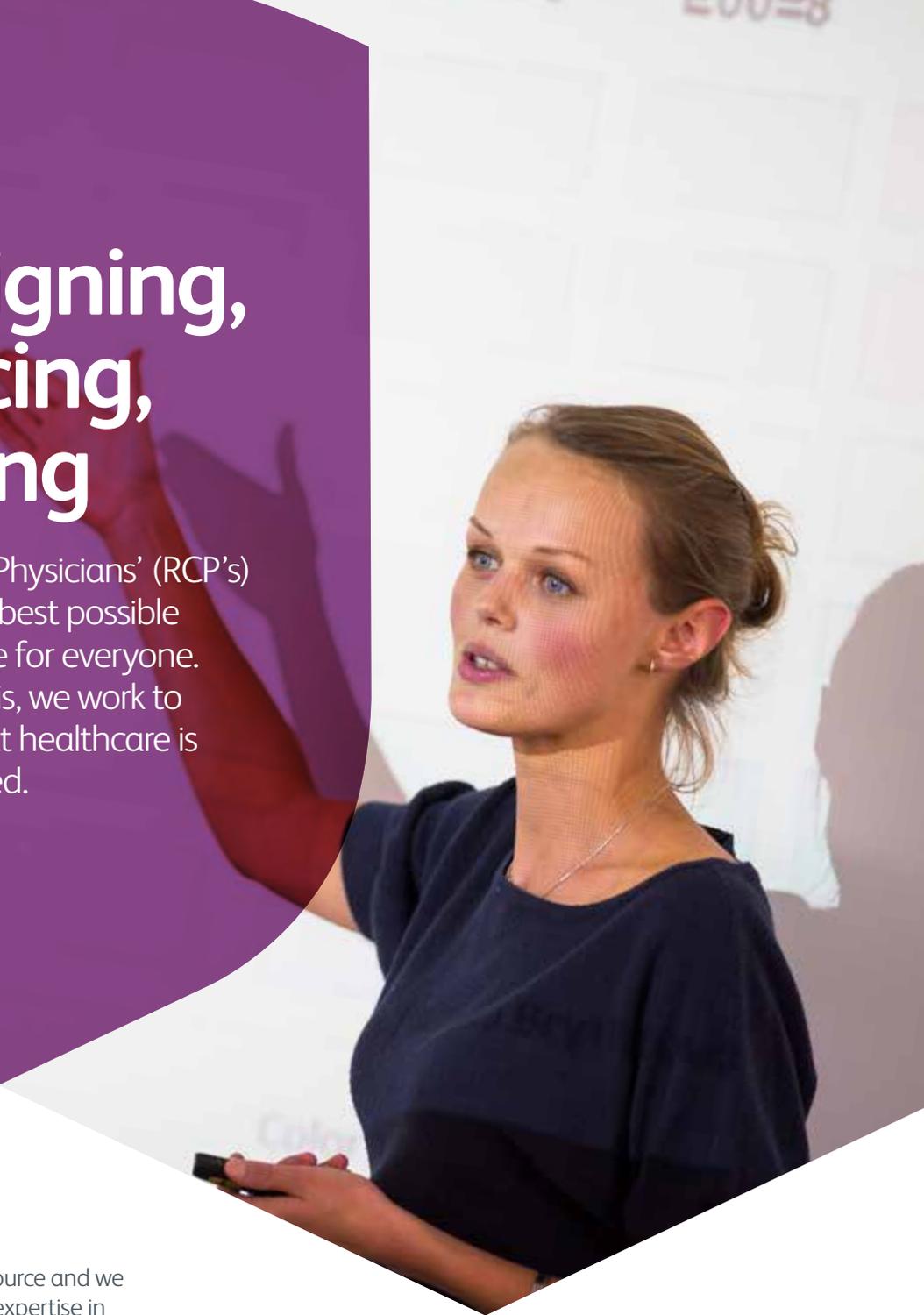
Our members are our best resource and we draw on their knowledge and expertise in everything that we do. By advocating for evidence-based policy positions, we work with a number of stakeholders to affect key areas of healthcare, including the medical workforce, patient care and public health.

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**Issues that affect doctors have a direct impact upon patients. As well as working in the interests of our members, we focus our efforts on promoting person-centred care**

## Medical workforce

The RCP works to benefit patients by supporting and empowering their doctors. Our 2015 reports *Hospital workforce: fit for the future?*, *The NHS: the doctors' view* and *Work and wellbeing in the NHS* consulted with physicians to assess and analyse the current challenges facing the medical workforce. Our new programme of work, Mission: Health, will focus on how to best protect the interests of patients and doctors in the period 2016–2020. Our report *Underfunded, underdoctored, overstretched* highlights some of the critical shortages facing the NHS and recommends vital improvements that need to be made.



## Patient care

Issues that affect doctors will, necessarily, also have a direct impact upon patients. As well as working in the interests of our members, we focus our efforts on promoting person-centred care and driving improvements in clinical practice. The RCP's Care Quality Improvement Department encompasses the Accreditation Unit, Clinical Effectiveness and Evaluation Unit, Future Hospital Programme, Health Informatics Unit and National Guideline Centre. These five constituent teams implement a range of methods, across numerous areas of healthcare, to support our fellows and members and their colleagues to deliver high-quality, evidence-based services.

## Public health

Since the 1960s and its report *Smoking and health*, the RCP has been a nationally influential body for the improvement of public health. We advocate evidence-based policies to address health challenges such as alcohol, obesity and tobacco. As well as allying ourselves with bodies such as the Alcohol Health Alliance, our working party reports such as *Every breath we take* and *Nicotine without smoke: Tobacco harm reduction* address the public health challenges of the day, and act to influence key policymakers.

## Working with policymakers

The RCP regularly communicates and meets with government, parliamentarians and stakeholders to embed quality improvement across all health policy. We provide MPs, peers and civil servants with independent advice to improve policy that is being developed and implemented. The RCP also engages with EU institutions and health stakeholder groups in Brussels, and is a member of the European Public Health Alliance.

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For more information, visit  
[www.rcplondon.ac.uk/projects/policy-and-public-affairs-rcp](http://www.rcplondon.ac.uk/projects/policy-and-public-affairs-rcp)



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