



RCP Resident Doctor Committee (RDC)

Role description

Background

The Royal College of Physicians (RCP) plays a leading role in the professional lives of physicians, including during their training.

The RCP's vision is for a world where every physician can deliver exceptional patient care and help shape a healthier society. Its mission is to empower our members and fellows to lead positive change for medicine and patients through community, learning and advocacy. The RCP raises healthcare standards by setting curricula and exams for physicians and working closely with national training structures to help with the implementation of physician training schemes. The RCP also develops guidelines for high-quality care and has a wider duty to reduce preventable illness and to promote evidence-based policies to government.

Statement of purpose

The RCP believes that it is important to provide means for members and fellows to contribute to RCP work. The Resident Doctor Committee (RDC) is a standing committee of the RCP established to represent the needs, interests, and views of RCP members who are resident doctors in core and higher specialist training, as well as in locally-employed roles. The committee is advisory in nature and reports to Council.

The committee's remit is to:

1. Represent the views of physician residents on all major RCP committees and working groups.
2. Send delegates to the Academy of Medical Royal Colleges Resident Doctors' Committee.
3. Represent the RCP RDC at other national health related bodies as the need arises.
4. Disseminate information to resident and other representatives (e.g. specialist society, regional resident bodies, Associate College Tutors).
5. Respond to documents published by other stakeholders in training e.g. Department of Health and Social Care, the Joint Royal Colleges of Physicians Training Board (JRCPTB), and the postgraduate Deans.
6. Contribute to the RCP's educational offering, in particular conferences, seminars, and talks focused on resident doctors.
7. Identify and act on any other areas that may affect the high standard of medical education and training set by the RCP.

The RDC meets at least three times a year online and at the RCP offices in either London or Liverpool. Between meetings, electronic communications are used to discuss relevant issues and allow rapid response to problems as they arise.

Members' responsibilities

- Understand the committee's remit and know the limits of its business and powers.
- Be willing and able to attend the committee's meetings. Members have a responsibility to attend. If for any reason members are unable to attend a meeting of the committee, they should ensure that they submit their apologies to the committee manager in advance of the meeting and, if possible, arrange a delegate to represent them at a committee meeting.
- Ensure that they prepare themselves properly for meetings by reading the committee papers in advance, giving them due thought and consulting others where appropriate.
- All RDC members are expected to sit on and contribute regularly to at least one other RCP committee, working group or external body. Membership across multiple committees is expected for the majority of RDC members. To ensure a balanced distribution of work, committee (co-)chair(s) and the secretary will assign memberships based on individual capacity and the varying time commitments required across different committees throughout the year.
- RDC members are expected to circulate a written summary of any meetings they attend to the group.
- RDC members may be asked to form and run working groups/parties to explore relevant issues as needed.
- RDC members are expected to communicate regularly with the regional office and manager, and residents from their region to inform them of the views of residents and to allow feedback of information to residents.
- RDC members are expected to give notice to the (co-)chair(s) and secretary of their intention not to attend full RDC meetings at least one week before the scheduled date of the meeting.
- RDC members are expected to arrange cover for their allocated committee roles should they be unable to attend.
- RDC members are expected to complete an annual audit of activities that they have been involved with, including meetings attended, how they have raised the profile of the RCP and RDC locally and nationally and any other RDC-related activities. This is to be submitted to the secretary.

Regional responsibilities

The core responsibilities of regional work include:

- Acting as a proactive conduit for communication between the RCP, RCP RDC, and resident doctors working within their region (e.g. establishing/maintaining an email or social media communication channel for regional resident doctors, presenting at local resident induction events, and liaising with Associate College Tutors).
- Gathering feedback from resident doctors within the wider region to inform RDC work and priorities.
- Supporting and attending regional RCP events (e.g. RCP Regional Update in medicine conference).

Additional contributions could include:

- Arrangement of additional regional events that enhance RCP engagement and support the College's role in promoting physician training (e.g. IMT applications course)

Person specification

Criteria	Essential	Desirable
Qualifications and experience		
Be a subscribing member of the RCP.	✓	
Be a doctor in a UK physician training programme (IMT or higher specialty) or a locally-employed doctor role.	✓	
Experience of gathering feedback from peers and representing their views, either formally or informally.	✓	
Experience in a formal representative, leadership, or educational role (e.g., Associate College Tutor, chief registrar, specialist society resident representative, BMA representative, local or regional training representative).		✓
Knowledge and understanding		
A clear understanding of the current challenges and key issues affecting the training and working lives of resident doctors.	✓	
A working knowledge of postgraduate medical training structures (e.g., JRCPTB, regional training bodies).		✓
An awareness of the RCP's role in education, training, and health policy.		✓
Skills and attributes		
A demonstrable passion and commitment to improving physician training and advocating for resident doctors.	✓	
Strong communication and interpersonal skills, with the ability to listen, build relationships, and articulate views clearly and constructively.	✓	
A proactive and solutions-focused approach, with the ability to identify problems and contribute to developing solutions.	✓	
Good organisational skills, with the ability to manage the competing demands of clinical work and other responsibilities.	✓	
Experience of participating in or leading a project to deliver meaningful change or improvement.		✓
Evidence of leadership potential.		✓
Values and behaviour		
A commitment to the RCP's values of being collaborative, learning, and taking care.	✓	
Ability to work effectively and respectfully as part of a diverse team.	✓	
A professional attitude and an understanding of the importance of confidentiality.	✓	
Reliability and a commitment to attending meetings and actively contributing to the committee's work.	✓	

Members' terms of office

- All members of the RDC should be subscribing members of the RCP, in good standing.
- All members of the RDC should be in postgraduate medical training or in local employment within a physician specialty.
- Members of the RDC serve for three years after first appointment. This may be extended by a further year at the discretion of the (co-)chair(s).