



Royal College
of Physicians

Nominations for the office of president 2026

Dear fellow,

The election of the president will be held as required by the 1860 Medical Act on the day after Palm Sunday: **Monday 30 March 2026**.

The special general meeting (SGM) to elect a president will form part of College Day, when named lectureships will also take place. The summons to fellows will be sent out 2 weeks before this day and will include a document containing the names of those fellows who are nominated. Only those fellows who have been nominated previously are eligible for election.

I therefore enclose a nomination form to be filled in electronically. Fellows are asked to return completed forms no later than **5pm on Tuesday 5 January 2026**.

Please note that RCP Council recommends to fellows that Professor Mumtaz Patel be nominated, to continue to serve as president. Professor Patel has indicated her willingness to stand for re-election. Please see attached statement from RCP Council in support of her candidature and **recommendation for an uncontested presidential election in 2026**.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "O Mustafa".

Dr Omar Mustafa
Registrar

Statement from RCP Council

Presidential election 2026

The election of the president will be held as required by the 1860 Medical Act on the day after Palm Sunday: Monday 30 March 2026. The election will form part of College Day, when named lectureships will also take place. The summons to fellows will be sent out 2 weeks before this day.

Since 2001, RCP Council has recommended a 4-year term for the office of president. This recommendation has recently been reconfirmed by Council (July 2023) to ensure the smooth running of the Royal College of Physicians.

Council also wishes to clarify wider issues of governance relevant to the role of president and the associated election process. These are outlined below.

- > Contested presidential elections are planned on a 4-year cycle in line with the Council recommendation for a 4-year term of office of the president.
- > The president is accountable to Council for their performance. Each year Council considers whether to support an incumbent president to continue in their role. If through this annual process, Council did not support an incumbent president it would call for a contested presidential election to be held.
- > Notwithstanding the above, annual challenge to an incumbent president is possible. Such a challenge would trigger an unplanned contested election (with a wider ballot of all eligible fellows). In this scenario, a challenger must be supported by the requisite number of fellows to be nominated to stand and provide a statement of reason for standing to be considered by Council.
- > The number of fellows required to support a presidential candidate in an 'unplanned contested election' year of the 4-year cycle is 20, a number consistent with the number of fellows in Bye-law 4.3 required to support a motion to Council for an extraordinary general meeting (EGM).

We are required by Act of Parliament to elect the president each year. Professor Mumtaz Patel has indicated her willingness to stand for re-election, with the support of her candidature confirmed by Council. **An uncontested presidential election in 2026 is therefore recommended.** In this scenario, the president would be re-elected on College Day 2026, by fellows voting at that meeting (without a wider ballot). Council recommends to fellows that **Professor Mumtaz Patel be nominated, to continue to serve with the expectation that the presidential term of office will end in September 2029.**

A nomination form is attached which must be completed in full and returned no later than **5pm on Tuesday 6 January 2026**. Only those fellows who have been nominated in this way are eligible for election.

Nomination form for the office of president 2026

The RCP is all about our people – our members, our staff, our volunteers and leaders. We educate, influence and collaborate to improve health and healthcare for everyone and know we can only do this by being inclusive, encouraging and celebrating diverse perspectives. Welcoming into our community people who represent the 21st-century medical workforce and the diverse population of patients we serve is a priority for us.

Nominations must be received electronically on or before **5pm on Tuesday 6 January 2026** and the agreement of the nominee must have been obtained.

We, the undersigned, wish to nominate for the office of president:

Name of candidate _____

RCP code _____

Principal appointment, including place of work (for contact purposes)

1 Name of proposer: _____

Signature: _____

RCP code: _____ Date: _____

2 Name of proposer: _____

Signature: _____

RCP code: _____ Date: _____

3 Name of proposer: _____

Signature: _____

RCP code: _____ Date: _____

4 Name of proposer: _____

Signature: _____

RCP code: _____ Date: _____

5 Name of proposer: _____

Signature: _____

RCP code: _____ Date: _____

6 Name of proposer: _____

Signature: _____

RCP code: _____ Date: _____

7 Name of proposer: _____

Signature: _____

RCP code: _____ Date: _____

8 Name of proposer: _____

Signature: _____

RCP code: _____ Date: _____

9 Name of proposer: _____

Signature: _____

RCP code: _____ Date: _____

10 Name of proposer: _____

Signature: _____

RCP code: _____ Date: _____

11 Name of proposer: _____

Signature: _____

RCP code: _____ Date: _____

12 Name of proposer: _____

Signature: _____

RCP code: _____ Date: _____

13 Name of proposer: _____

Signature: _____

RCP code: _____ Date: _____

14 Name of proposer: _____

Signature: _____

RCP code: _____ Date: _____

15 Name of proposer: _____

Signature: _____

RCP code: _____ Date: _____

16 Name of proposer: _____

Signature: _____

RCP code: _____ Date: _____

17 Name of proposer: _____

Signature: _____

RCP code: _____ Date: _____

18 Name of proposer: _____

Signature: _____

RCP code: _____ Date: _____

19 Name of proposer: _____

Signature: _____

RCP code: _____ Date: _____

20 Name of proposer: _____

Signature: _____

RCP code: _____ Date: _____

Please return the form electronically to:

Simon Land, head of professional governance: **simon.land@rcp.ac.uk** using the email subject line **'Presidential nomination 2026'** to receive confirmation of receipt. All 20 nominating fellows should be included on the email.

Each nomination must be supported by the signatures of 20 fellows. Please note that printed names rather than actual signatures are acceptable. Nominees for president must have been a fellow for over 10 years by the end of the nomination period. All officers of the RCP are encouraged to be practising medical doctors and actively connected with, and credible to, the clinical community. They should hold a licence to practise.