



# Country Advisor Terms of Reference

## The College's Mission Statement

The Royal College of Pathologists' mission is to: advance the science and practice of pathology, further public education in the field of pathology, and promote study, research and innovation in pathology and disseminate results.

Pathology is Global is the international strategy of the Royal College of Pathologists. The first Pathology is Global Strategy ran from 2013-2018 and laid the foundations of the College's international work; the latest three-year strategy, ending in 2026, aims to build on the successes from the last five years and align with the overall College objectives.

## Function and remit

Country Advisors act as key points of contact for members, both in the relevant country and in the UK. They will support the work of the International Regional Advisor for the region by implementing regional priorities at country level, identifying opportunities for engagement, project collaborations and membership development. Key aspects of the role include, but are not limited to:

- Developing and maintaining effective communications with the College's members within the relevant country, including ascertaining the views and concerns of members on relevant issues and adequately representing/ communicating these views to the International Advisor for the region.
- Acting as a source of advice, guidance and expertise to the College on the nature and structure of pathology training, assessments, examinations and professional development in the relevant country.



- Identifying emerging issues and advising the International Regional Advisor on the implications of any policies, curricula changes, practice developments, research, strategies or discussions on the direction of the College's international activities within the relevant country.
- Providing advice to the International Regional Advisor and International Committee generally, including identifying any opportunities which may exist to extend the College's influence, secure funding from external sources, strengthen or build its profile and consolidate its position.
- Promoting the College, its services, qualifications, examinations, and standards.

## Appointment

### Eligibility

At the time of taking up the position, Country Advisors must be:

- Fellow of the College for 5 years;
- In good standing with the relevant national medical authority;
- Up to date with their Continuing Professional Development (CPD)/ Continuing Medical Education (CME) requirements;
- In current pathology practice and practicing for five years or more; and it is desirable that Country Advisors are residing in the country that they will be representing but it is not essential.

### Procedure

- The procedure for appointing Country Advisor(s) shall be determined by the Clinical Director of International Activities and the International Regional Advisors. There may be more than one Country Advisor in a single country if this is deemed appropriate.
- In determining the procedure and number of Country Advisors to be appointed several factors will be considered, including the following:



- The number of college members within the country.
  - Country size and population.
  - The activities of the College within the country and any existing or proposed collaborations or partnerships.
  - Whether the country would be best served by holding elections, inviting expressions of interest, or establishing an interview panel.
- RCPATH Fellows who wish to be considered for a Country Advisor position should demonstrate, amongst other things, the following skills and qualities:
    - A commitment to promoting the College, its services, qualifications, examinations, and standards within the specified region.
    - Knowledge and understanding of pathology education, training, practice, and research in the country.
    - Well established contacts with pathologists and relevant health institutions and laboratories within the country.
    - Involvement in or membership of networks, forums, or associations within the country.
    - Ability to work as part of a team and be proactive.
    - Ability to provide leadership, set goals and inspire others.
    - An interest in developing new and existing College-supported activities for pathologists and other health care professionals in the country.

## **Approval**

The appointment of Country Advisors shall be approved by the International Committee and then forwarded to the College Council for final approval.



## **Term**

Country Advisors shall be appointed for a term of three years. The term shall be renewable for a further period of two years and is subject to approval by the International Committee and Council.

## **Accountability and reporting**

Once appointed, Country Advisors shall be accountable to the International Regional Advisor and will be expected to:

- Represent the College in their respective countries in their professional relationships and through attendance at national and/or regional meetings. Advisors will represent the College by describing themselves as the 'RCPATH Country Advisor for [Country]' and by promoting as appropriate the College's international activities, vision and mission.
- Actively contribute to the development and implementation of RCPATH projects within the country or region, providing written reports where appropriate.
- Build the profile and presence of the College within the country.
- Communicate and engage with members within the country on a regular basis.
- Promote and raise awareness of education, training, research and practice issues and developments within the country amongst the wider College membership using the College website, quarterly Bulletin and College events or meetings.
- Keep up to date with the legislation, rules and regulations underpinning the College's work in training, examinations and continuing professional development.
- Country Advisors are expected to meet twice a year with their International Regional Advisor to report on progress in the region and raise any issues. Ideally these meetings should take place prior to International Committee meetings in May and November in order that the International Regional Advisor can include any relevant points in their report to the committee.

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