

Member - Academic, Research and Innovation (ARI) Subcommittee

Volunteer opportunity

Name of Position: Member – ARI Subcommittee

Start Date: January 2025

Term: Four years

Time Commitment: 5 days per year

Number of Vacancies: 2

Meetings: 3 Committee meetings (virtual), ARI representative on other internal College committees (3 meetings a year, usually virtual), Annual Congress, correspondence via email in between meetings

Contact: Beth Barnes, beth.barnes@rcophth.ac.uk

About the position

As a member of the ARI Subcommittee, you will have the opportunity to contribute and inform the College's activities to promote academic education and research.

The Subcommittee comprises members who are research active and academic ophthalmologists to represent their perspectives and needs.

Key priorities include:

- normalise ophthalmic and vision sciences research and innovation to ensure all ophthalmologists are equipped with skills and opportunities to contribute to and to apply research findings to improve patient care, services, and policies
- advance academic ophthalmology as a subspecialty by advocating its consideration in workforce planning and access to opportunities for academic training
- promote academic education, research, and innovation
- promote academic ophthalmology externally through good working relationships with other academic institutions and funding bodies
- promote equal opportunities for all in academic ophthalmology

Criteria for position

- Fellow, Member or Affiliate member ophthalmologist
- Experience as a
 - a) research active ophthalmology clinician with a track record of delivering impactful research, be able to demonstrate translating research into clinical practice
 - or
 - b) Academic ophthalmologist holding a (non-training) UK clinical academic post for at least three years
- Have a working knowledge of UK academia and UK research
- Demonstrable understanding of the principles of scientific research and its applicability to UK clinical practice
- Demonstrable understanding of the wider policy and research funding landscape processes and stakeholders relating to vision and eyes research and clinical academia generally
- Ability to build relationships and rapport, responding to enquires in a timely manner
- Ability to respond flexibility and adapt approach in response to changing policy and changing priorities

Benefits

- Deliver RCOphth strategy and inspire colleagues to undertake activities that advance vision and eyes research and innovation for patient benefit
- Enhance the standing, quality and impact of vision and eyes research nationally and internationally
- Sustain academic ophthalmology as a key 'subspecialty' within ophthalmology

How to apply

To apply for this exciting opportunity, please complete the [volunteer application form](#) and include your CV. Please feel free to email Anitta Yoppan Anitta.yoppan@rcophth.ac.uk if you have any questions.

Eligible individuals will be invited to attend an online interview.

Academic, Research and Innovation Subcommittee Terms of Reference

Purpose/aims

1. **Normalising ophthalmic and vision sciences research and innovation** (in accordance with the RCOphth College Charter and Strategy and wider national initiatives) by working with RCOphth Council and relevant College Committees to ensure all ophthalmologists are equipped with skills and opportunities to contribute to research in some way and to apply research findings to improve patient care, services, and policies.
2. **Advancing academic ophthalmology** as a subspecialty by advocating its consideration in workforce planning, and through development of and access to opportunities for academic ophthalmology training, adherence to national guidance on academic medicine and signposting to useful resources.
3. **Promoting academic education, research, and innovation in ophthalmology** by influencing and advocating for research funding and support for academic communities and research networks.
4. **Profiling academic ophthalmology externally** through good working relationships with other academic institutions and funding bodies including UKRI, Wellcome Trust, NIHR, Academy of Medical Sciences, and the Academy of Medical Royal Colleges.
5. **Promoting equal opportunities** for all in academic ophthalmology.

Composition:

Chairman, plus 7 – 12 further members with expertise relevant to the Committee's TOR and a representative from the Ophthalmic Trainees' Group. Members and Chair will generally serve for a period of three years, renewable once. Members who represent ARI on other RCOphth Committees or who represent key external stakeholders will serve for the duration of these additional roles/responsibilities within ARI.

Chair

The Chair of the subcommittee will be appointed by an open application process. All UK based College members who hold a substantive NHS consultant or SAS post who are either academic, research-active or have a significant innovation portfolio are eligible to apply.

In accordance with the College Bye-laws 'The Chair of the Academic Group for the time being will serve on the Council and be selected by a panel which consists of the President, a member of the Council and one other person to be appointed by the Trustees. The decision of the panel will be binding.'

<https://www.rcophth.ac.uk/about/governance/>

The Chair will attend Council and Scientific Committee meetings and submit update reports to these meetings. The Chair may send a deputy from the sub-committee if unable to attend.

Appointment:

All positions (Chairman and Members) to be advertised and open to all eligible College Members. Appointment: by a selection panel (selection criteria to be developed).

Meetings:

ARI meets three times a year.

College Congress:

The ARI Sub-Committee will lead a keynote 'Horizon Scanning' session and an 'Engaging with Research' at College Congress each year.

Reporting:

Reports to RCOphth Council (via Chair, Academic Sub-Committee).

Quorum

The quorum of the subcommittee shall be 6 full members.

Voting

Decisions will generally be reached by consensus. Where it is necessary to vote, the decision will be carried by a simple majority and the Chair may choose to have the casting vote.

Conflicts of Interest:

When the interests of a member of the Subcommittee conflicts, or appears to conflict with that of the College, such conflicts must be declared.

General:

Membership of the Subcommittee shall be terminated if there is repeated non-attendance at meetings or Congress. Membership of the Subcommittee automatically implies attendance at Congress and contribution to the Annual Congress.

In accordance with College policy, all correspondence and other dealings with professional and other organisations shall be prepared with the College by College staff.

No sponsorship shall be sought or accepted without the prior permission of the Honorary Treasurer.

No member shall accept payments or cash in kind for work undertaken on behalf of the College.

Expenses for College members to attend ARI Sub-committee meetings will be met at the usual College rates; expenses for any other meetings either in the College or outside will only be paid with the prior approval of the Honorary Treasurer or Chief Executive. Representatives of other bodies should be reimbursed by their organisation.

]October 2023