

Role Description

Role Title:	Academic Ophthalmologist in Training ('Academic Trainee') Member of the Academic, Research and Innovation Sub-committee
Reports to:	Academic, Research and Innovation Sub-committee
Term of office:	Up to three years
Time commitment	There are three committee meetings a year (currently held twice virtually and once in person at the College). The post holder is expected to liaise with Sub-committee members, RCOphth staff and the chairs between meetings. Much of this work is undertaken electronically. The post holder is a co-opted Member of the RCOphth Ophthalmologists in Training Group (OTG) and is expected to attend their meetings to represent the ARI Sub-committee and feedback from OTG to ARI SC. OTG meetings are currently held three times per year, twice virtually and once in person at the College.

Background information

The Royal College of Ophthalmologists champions excellence in the practice of ophthalmology. We are the only professional membership body for medically qualified ophthalmologists and for those who are undergoing specialist training to become ophthalmologists with over 4,000 members worldwide.

The College acts as the voice of the profession, we set the curriculum and examinations for trainee ophthalmologists, provide training in eye surgery, maintain standards in the practice of ophthalmology, and promote research and advance science in the specialty. Ophthalmologists are at the forefront of eye health services because of their extensive training and experience in the area.

The Academic, Research and Innovation (ARI) Sub-committee aims to promote research by all ophthalmologists and support the careers of academic ophthalmologists at every career stage, for the benefit of patients and to raise the profile of eyes and vision research and academic ophthalmology in the UK (See terms of reference below)It is seeking to appoint an academic

ophthalmologist in training ('academic trainee' irrespective of funding support) who is able to represent the perspectives and needs of academic trainee ophthalmologists in the UK.

Main Purpose and Deliverables of ARI Sub-committee

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 and research 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.

Main Areas of Work and Responsibility of Academic Ophthalmologist in Training Member

- To attend Ophthalmologists in Training Group meetings as required in order to discuss the needs of all trainees regarding acquisition of research skills and opportunities to be involved in research as well as the needs of academic trainees and to provide liaison with ARI S/C.
- To attend all ARI Sub-committee meetings, contribute to discussions and report on issues especially relevant to academic ophthalmology trainees
- Assist the College in developing appropriate communications to members and non-members
- To lead work as related to trainees, supported by the Chairman and the other members of the Sub-committee
- Work with ARI S/C and relevant College teams to help deliver the appropriate educational events and the Horizon Scanning session at the annual College Congress
- Ad hoc meetings: e.g. meetings with other officers or College members of staff, liaison with other bodies, representing the College at meetings. These are infrequent and can normally be arranged at times to suit the post holder. The College encourages the use of video and telephone conferencing wherever possible and appropriate and will arrange this on request.
- The College base is in Central London, but this role may very rarely require travel to meetings and events in and around London (e.g. Congress), the UK as well as occasional working outside of normal office hours.

Key Working Relationships

- Colleagues on ARI S/C– sharing information, working collaboratively, providing advice
- Ophthalmologists in Training Group - sharing information, working collaboratively, providing advice
- Members and Officers – providing information and support
- Other Royal Colleges – networking, collaborating on joint projects
- External stakeholders sharing information, working collaboratively, providing advice information and support

Scope and Accountability

Legal, regulatory and compliance responsibility	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Compliance with health and safety procedures, including prompt reporting of any defects, risks or potential hazards • Compliance with the organisation’s data protection and privacy policies
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Person Specification

	Criteria	Essential (E) Desirable (D)
Eligibility	• Fellow or Member of the Royal College of Ophthalmologists in good standing	E
	• ‘Academic’ ophthalmologist in training ie (irrespective of funding and type of academic post) who is able to represent the perspectives and needs of academic trainees	E
	• UK License to Practice	E
	• UK resident	E
Knowledge, Qualifications and Experience	• Experience of working in a committee environment	D
	• Demonstrable understanding of the principles of scientific research and its applicability to UK clinical practice	E
Skills and Abilities	• Confident communicator with written and verbal communication skills; the ability to relay key routine information and handle ad hoc enquiries	E
	• Solves problems logically and seeks additional information where necessary	E
	• Actively listens to what others say, responding professionally in all interactions	E
	• Ability to build relationships and rapport, responding to enquires in a timely manner	E
	• Ability to respond flexibility and adapt approach in response to changing policy and changing priorities	E

	• Acts with honesty and integrity	E
	• Commitment to equality and diversity and understanding of how this applies to own area of work	E
	• Committed to own continuing professional development	E