Applications sought for up to six members to join the new Environmental Special Interest Group (ESIG)

The Council of the College is setting up an Environmental Special Interest Group to devise an environmental policy and work programme for approval by the Executive Committee focussed on reducing the environmental impact of the College and the specialty of emergency medicine.

We have just appointed Alexander Robertson (known as Sandy) who is an ST4 at Homerton University Hospital and Tim Spruell as Vice Chair who works at St Thomas’.

Applications are sought from interested Members or Fellows to join this Group. We are hoping we can find six members who are interested in making a difference to the specialty when it comes to environmental concerns.

Amongst a potentially wide range of initiatives the College might wish to become involved in we are already a member of the UK Health Alliance for Climate Change and this ESIG will provide a representative to join Alliance meetings as well as other relevant programmes. For example, we had a recent call from the Association of Anaesthetists to attend meetings aimed at reducing the environmental impact of gases used in emergency medicine and maternity services.

Initially the Group is to be formed to generate a work programme through to the end of 2020, when a progress review will be undertaken, and Council will then decide whether to extend the life of the Group or not depending on the achievements and effectiveness of the ESIG.

We are particularly keen to appoint from across the UK and wish to have at least one member who works in Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland.

If you wish to apply please set out a brief statement of no more than 500 words as to why you have the credentials, experience and drive to lead this Group. Please send this to rcem@rcem.ac.uk

Please note the closing date for applications is 4 October 2019.
Environmental Special Interest Group - Member - Role Profile

Reports to: Chair of Environmental Special Interest Group

Responsible to: Executive Committee

Key working relationships: Chief Executive, Officers of the College, RCEM Committees,

Grade: Honorary post

The Environmental Special Interest Group is formed subject to review at the end of 2020. It reports to the College Executive Committee, via the Chief Executive.

Responsibilities

The Members of the Special Interest Group (SIG) are responsible for contributing the work of the SIG. They will attend meetings, contribute ideas, contribute to projects and also represent the views of the SIG to other stakeholders.

The aim will be for the SIG to:

1. Develop a costed and budgeted for programme of events/activities aimed towards promoting environmental sustainability in the practice of emergency medicine.

2. Deliver campaign events, actions and other projects that aim to reduce the environmental impact of emergency medicine whilst not compromising on the quality of patient care.

3. Help the College in achieving ISO14001 the international Environment Management System standard.

Appointment

Appointment is through self-nomination. Applicants are required to outline, in no more than 500 words, their suitability for the role. Selection will be based on strength of application and reviewed by the Chair and Vice Chair of the SIG and the Chief Executive of the College.

Place of work

It is anticipated that we will utilise video conferencing and other media to reduce the need for travel and so we expect that duties will be primarily conducted from your normal place of work.

Hours of work

It is estimated that this post will require 0.5 PA per month in addition to:

- Up to 6 SIG meetings (3-4 hours each) per year.
- This SIG will be a busy, working committee and members will be expected to take ownership of work-streams, as agreed by the Group.
- Anyone wishing to stand for the post will need to discuss this issue with their clinical colleagues and employers. NHS Trusts and Foundation Trusts are reminded that the NHS allows such special leave as it is in the interests of the NHS.
Remuneration and expenses
The post is honorary. Reasonable expenses for travel and subsistence will be payable on production of receipts and vouchers. As with all travel on College business, sub-committee members will be expected to travel in accordance with the College policy.

Member Specification

Member or Fellow of the College in good standing

Experience of and interest in the environmental issues and climate change as it relates to the practice of emergency medicine

Experience of:

- Leading contributing to Working Groups or project work;
- Working in cross functional teams;
- Providing moral and ethical leadership;
- Evidenced experience of participating in a campaigning or voluntary group.

Skills set to include:

- Contributing to meetings;
- Good communications skills;
- Ability to inspire, support and communicate with a diverse range of people including peer-to-peer engagement, public speaking and listening skills;
- Can demonstrate a passion for this role;
- Good political skills to navigate through complex stakeholder relationships
- Ability to motivate others to be involved in environmental initiatives.
Environmental Special Interest Group - Terms of Reference

The EM environment SIG reports sits within the CEO’s Committee Cluster and reports to the Executive Committee. It has the following terms of reference.

Remit

Devise an environmental policy and work programme for approval by the Executive Committee focussed on reducing the environmental impact of the College and the specialty of emergency medicine.

Membership

The first Chair will be appointed by a process of and interview as described in the standing instructions governing Committees of this College and will be subject to Executive Committee endorsement. With up to 8 other members appointed or co-opted as required, subject to budget constraints.

The terms of office of Committee Members and the Chairperson will be initially for three years, subject to the general standing instructions governing Committees of the College.

Meetings

To reduce its environmental impact the SIG shall meet by email or telephone conference when appropriate, subject to budget constraints.
Environmental Special Interest Group - Draft Work Programme

RC EM Special Interest Group on environment/climate/sustainability: draft workplan

Purpose/Vision:
To promote the environmentally sustainable practice of emergency medicine (EM) in the UK in order to tackle the climate emergency.

Aims + Objectives:
- To provide a network for members and fellows concerned about climate change and the ecologically sustainability of EM in practice.
- To promote activities and develop educational resources that foster environmentally sustainable practices within emergency departments
- To highlight the public health implications of carbon emissions, including for EM service provision (e.g. burden of air pollution)
- To raise awareness about the implications for EM practice of climate change impacts in the UK and worldwide (e.g. new and emerging infectious diseases)
- To advocate for health policies that accelerate the UK’s transition to net zero emissions
- To assist the College in the development of its environmental policy to comply with ISO 14001

Activities:
- Producing educational material and guidelines relating to environmental sustainability in EM healthcare provision
- Providing updates to members and fellows about how they can act to address the climate emergency in day-to-day practice, including at RCEM events
- Developing a programme (provisionally named GreenED) for EM departments to transform their services to become environmentally sustainable, starting with a series of pilot projects
- Set up an ‘environment lead’ role to take forward this work in trusts/EM departments
- Represent RCEM at environment-themed stakeholder meetings and through media work

EXAMPLES/LINKS

- Centre for Sustainable Healthcare (CSH)’s Sustainable Specialities Programme
- CSH’s Green Impact: Better Healthcare behaviour change and staff engagement programme (see this video for an example)
- The Faculty of Public Health’s sustainability-themed special interest group
- The RCGP’s GP-specific ‘Green Impact Award’ scheme