



THE ROYAL
COLLEGE OF
SURGEONS
OF EDINBURGH

The Faculty of Perioperative Care

The Faculty of Perioperative Care (FPC)

Providing education, training and support for advanced perioperative practitioners in their role as members of the extended surgical team



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(FPC) launched in early 2016 to provide education, training and support for advanced perioperative practitioners in their role as members of the extended surgical team.

The Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh (RCSEd) felt it was important to recognise the standards that have been achieved by this important group of non-medical members of the surgical workforce, who provide excellent continuity of care to our patients, as well as assistance to the operating surgeon.

The Faculty was created to support the complete modern surgical team and we want to welcome perioperative practitioners to join and be part of one of the largest and oldest (and friendliest!) of the Royal Surgical Colleges in the UK.

As part of my role in promoting the Faculty, I have had the pleasure of working closely in partnership with the Association for Perioperative Practitioners (AfPP) with whom we have held two conferences, who have accredited our courses and who have active representation on our Advisory Boards group. We also have a reciprocal arrangement with the Faculty of Physician Associates (RCP) London.

In addition, I have been visiting and lecturing at universities who run courses leading to modules and degrees for students / trainee surgical care practitioners (SCPs) and surgical first assistants (SFAs). In my visits to date, I have heard ongoing concerns relating to the provision of CPD and the lack of a database or register of practitioners, such as SCPs, and heard of the need for clarity of the exact role of SFAs which has now been addressed through the Perioperative Care Collaborative SFA position statement 2018. We have recently extended free affiliate membership to



MSC students in surgical care practice for the duration of their course at the above universities.

Our Faculty gives perioperative practitioners access to a wide range of RCSEd membership benefits, including access to bespoke discounted courses and online resources. It is important that the Faculty continues to provide education, training and set standards for these practitioners and the College is committed to supporting this group as part of the surgical team.

Mr Charles Auld

Faculty of Perioperative Care Lead and
Consultant General Surgeon

Founded in 2016

The Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh has been the professional home for surgery and dentistry for over 500 years. All through that time, we have never wavered from our commitment to advancing surgical excellence through education, training, examination and assessment.

Now in our sixth century, we are proud of where we are today and what we have achieved. Our College embraces the complete surgical team and beyond, with established faculties dedicated to the advancement and support of perioperative practitioners, pre-hospital care delivery, surgical trainers, dentistry, sport and exercise medicine and more.

We understand that our success relies on fostering a team ethos, and the progression of our profession relies on the commitment and dedication of a wider teams and support from colleagues in other vocations to surgery. As the surgical team has evolved, we have formally recognised the need to support our colleagues in the wider surgical team and founded a dedicated Faculty of Perioperative Care to support and develop surgical care practitioners, surgical first assistants and healthcare staff with similar roles. Established in 2016, the College's Faculty of Perioperative Care offers support and professional development for all perioperative practitioners, including surgical care practitioners; surgical first assistants; and all those with similar roles involved in the delivery of high quality surgical care.



Faculty of Perioperative Care Membership Categories

The Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh is one of the largest surgical colleges in the world, and by joining our Faculty of Perioperative Care, you are welcomed into a network of over 25,000 professionals, stretching across over 100 countries.

Membership of the Faculty of Perioperative Care is open to all perioperative practitioners in an extended and / or advanced role in the UK, including surgical care practitioners (SCP) and surgical first assistants (SFA), and those with similar job titles, such as formerly advanced scrub practitioners and physician associates.

There are three levels of membership to the Faculty that recognise the different career status of applicants: Affiliate, Member and Fellow. Full Faculty Members can use the post-nominals MFPCed upon being conferred at one of The Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh's prestigious diploma ceremonies. Fellowship is currently by invitation only.

Membership Subscription Rates

Membership Status	One-of Election Fee	Annual Fee*	Discounted Annual Fee*
Affiliate	n/a	£50	£40*/25**
Member	£50	£120	£100
Fellow	By Invitation Only		

Visit fpc.rcsed.ac.uk/join-the-faculty for further details about membership categories

*Discounted annual fee is available to Members of the AFPP in good standing

**Discounted annual fee is available to trainees

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I was delighted to have Membership of the Faculty of Perioperative Care conferred at the diploma ceremony. Having the opportunity to participate in the diploma ceremony, along with surgical colleagues from across the world, bears testament to the commitment that RCSEd has in supporting and developing perioperative practitioners as part of an evolving surgical community. I enjoy working with the Faculty and the RCSEd more widely to continue to develop training, education and support for surgical first assistants (SFAs), surgical care practitioners (SCPs) and a wide range of perioperative practitioners who undertake advanced roles in surgery. It is an honour to be the first MFPCEd and I am looking forward to working closely with the many colleagues who will follow and join the Faculty in the coming months and years.

Mr John Stirling RGN MFPCEd, NORS Workforce Transformation Project Lead, ODT Commissioning, NHS Blood and Transplant

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Professional Development Courses to Support Perioperative Practitioners

Since the Faculty of Perioperative Care (FPC) launched, it has developed and successfully run a number of bespoke courses targeted specifically at perioperative practitioners.

It is important to recognise that attendance and signing off at three of these courses, in addition to a PG diploma (or evidence of an education or training role for the more established practitioner) could qualify perioperative practitioners for full Faculty membership and postnominals MFPCed. (See website for details.)



Basic Surgical Skills (Edinburgh)

UK and internationally: Birmingham, Edinburgh, Liverpool, Manchester and more

This two-day course aimed at SCPs, FY1 and above, is designed to instil core surgical skills at the very start of a surgeon's training by teaching the correct basic techniques. These courses are run from our Surgical Skills Centre in Edinburgh eight times per year and from centres across the UK and internationally.

Perioperative Care Practitioners Intraoperative Non-Technical Skills (PINTS)

Run twice a year: Birmingham and Edinburgh

This one-day course enables perioperative care practitioners (PCPs) and surgical first assistants (SFAs) to improve their intra-operative performance and help them observe and rate intra-operative non-technical skills. After completing this course you will recognise the importance of nontechnical skills of all team members during operative surgery; discuss the underlying principles of the nontechnical skills which underpin good surgical performance as it relates to scrub practitioners, surgical first assistants, surgical care practitioners.

Leadership and Development

Run twice a year: Birmingham and Edinburgh

This course will help participants to develop self-awareness of their learning styles, individual strengths and development needs. It will also discuss service improvement including writing business cases and discuss areas such as time management and work life balance. (This course has been accredited by the AfPP Education Reference Group.)

Care of the Critically Ill Surgical Patient (CCrISP)

UK: Edinburgh, Cardiff and more

The CCrISP course is primarily aimed at CT1 or early CT2 and also welcomes surgical care practitioners (SCPs). It provides instruction in the practical management of critically ill surgical patients of all types. The course emphasises a systematic approach to the assessment and management of these patients and their problems that, if used in conjunction with clinical expertise and appropriate attention to clinical detail, should ultimately help prevent the development of serious complications and multiple organ failure. The course is delivered by lectures, practical/active workshops and group discussion.

Perioperative Key Skills Course

Run twice a year: Edinburgh

Basic surgical skills are fundamental to the practice of safe surgery. The surgical first assistant is an extremely important member of the operating team who needs to be familiar with the basic procedures in open, laparoscopic and robotic surgery as well as the dynamics of the theatre environment.

Principles of Surgical Anatomy

Run annually in Edinburgh

Excellent course run in the past but awaiting appointment of new Wade Professor of Anatomy. For the latest course dates and locations, please visit fpc.rcsed.ac.uk.

As the Faculty continues to grow, we will develop and expand our portfolio of courses. We welcome your suggestions and feedback on what professional development support you would like to see the Faculty offer.

Cutting Edge Membership Benefits to Help You Succeed

By joining The Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh's Faculty of Perioperative Care (FPC) as an Affiliate, Associate, Member or Fellow, you become part of a prestigious network of some 25,000 professionals in over 100 countries across the world and gain access to a range of personal and professional benefits to help you in your career.

Benefits of membership includes:

Career Progression Recognition with Your Surgical Colleagues

All Faculty members receive a certificate of RCSEd Faculty of Perioperative Care affiliation for your portfolio and full Faculty Members gain the use of the post-nominals MFPCed upon being conferred at one of The Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh's prestigious diploma ceremonies.

Access to Networking Events with the Complete Surgical Team

The College regularly hosts forums and networking events across the UK to allow the College membership to get together and discuss surgical and workforce issues. Attendees at these events have the opportunity to meet with the College President and key College leaders over refreshments and have informal discussions about the topics raised.

Acland Anatomy

We are pleased to offer our membership free access to the high quality online anatomy resource, Acland Anatomy. This dynamic online training resource is an excellent learning resource. The filming technique used provides a very helpful three-dimensional perspective of real anatomical specimens. This allows users to focus in on the structures and movements they are studying. Intelligent search and navigation tools make it easy to find the content needed to learn, revise or review.

Webinars

In addition, Faculty members have access to a wide range of webinars across a variety of surgical specialties which have been recorded and are available on the webinar archive.



Library Services

By joining our College, you gain access to our College Library, which holds works dating back to the 1400s and provides access to over 30,000 books and journals. Our membership are eligible for free full-text access to thousands of electronic journals, books and databases through the Knowledge Network of NHS Scotland. Fellows and Members of the College can email the Library and will be sent a brief pdf guide to registration for an Athens username and password for these excellent resources.

Free Entry to our Surgeons' Hall Museums

Our award-winning Museums are open to the public seven days a week, 10am to 5pm and are home to one of the largest and most historic pathology collections in the world. The Museums reopened in 2015 after a major £4.4 million Heritage Lottery Funded redevelopment project. As one of the oldest Museums in Scotland, the collections grew from 1699 after 'natural and artificial curiosities' were publically sought, with the Playfair Building opening in 1832 to house the Barclay and Bell collections.

Surgeons' News and eCommunications

All Faculty members receive quarterly copies of the College's award-winning publication Surgeons' News to which you can contribute. You will receive a weekly RCSEd newsletter and a Faculty newsletter informing you of the latest news and developments with the Faculty.

Discounted Accommodation at the College's Ten Hill Place Hotel and Venues

All Faculty members have access to discounted rates at the College's award-winning Ten Hill Place Hotel in the heart of Edinburgh. Discounted rates are accessible on meetings, events and celebrations at the College's venues, as well as discounts on food and beverage in all College restaurants and cafes.

Surgical Assistance Survey



The Faculty of Perioperative Care conducted a survey of surgical assistance across the UK. Against the backdrop of anecdotal evidence of strain in the system, the survey aimed to capture how assistance is being provided across the UK and where any problems and solutions may lie. The survey of surgical consultants, specialty doctors and senior trainees across all specialties received 332 responses for analysis. The survey suggests the theatre workforce is under pressure and that high quality assistance from the surgical care practitioner, surgical first assistant and physician associate workforce may form part of the solution.

The survey identified that across the UK 25% of surgeons are currently unsatisfied with the level of assistance they are receiving in theatre and 43% of respondents stated that a second assistant was not always available for major cases if required. Rota problems, staff shortages and working time regulations were common reasons given for inconsistent teams. 61% of survey participants stated that non-medical practitioners were working within theatres in their hospitals; with regular involvement in assisting major cases. In keeping with previous studies the survey suggests that, where employed, the non-medical workforce provide a standard of work comparable to that of experienced surgical trainees.

The survey does suggest ongoing uncertainty about the potential impact the non-medical workforce could have on surgical training but it is clear that specialties with more established programmes such as cardiothoracics and orthopaedics have a more favourable outlook than less well established programmes. Similarly, surgeons appear to see more of the beneficial aspects as they become more senior in training. Going forward, the Faculty of Perioperative Care plans to work to develop guidelines for effective and mutually beneficial cworking.

Alistair Geraghty
Scottish Clinical Leadership Fellow



Specialty Exams for SCP's

RCSEd is leading the way in the development of a national specialty exit exam for SCP's. The cardiac exam for SCP's has been developed under the chairmanship of Norman Briffa, Consultant Cardiothoracic Surgeon, Sheffield and this has been fully supported by the Society of Cardiothoracic Surgery.

Perioperative Care Webinars

A webinar series for non-medical practitioners brought to you by The Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh in association with the RCSEd Faculty of Perioperative Care.

CPD is important for all non-medical practitioners in the surgical team (eg. SCP, ACP and SFA) to ensure their knowledge, technical and non-technical skills are kept up to date with current practice. RCSEd is the first College to develop a series of webinars specifically for this group which will complement the courses and the annual conference already run by the Faculty of Perioperative Care at the College.

Webinars include:

- Auditing my Surgical Practice as a practitioner.
- COVID-19: The value of the advanced practitioner in the surgical team.
- Assessment of risk in the Surgical patient: what the practitioner should know.
- Enhancing nursing and AHPs: The Cardiothoracic Journey.
- Enhanced recovery for advanced practitioners in surgery.
- How can non-medical practitioners get started in surgical research?
- Research career paths for non-medical practitioners in surgery.

**Scan here and
take your next
steps with FPC**



*The archived webinar recordings are a RCSEd member benefit resource for all Fellows, Members and Affiliates.

Get In Touch at:

FPC@rcsed.ac.uk
fpc.rcsed.ac.uk
+44 131 527 1555



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