

## **AHCS REGULATION BOARD SUMMARY**

### **2018, 2019, 2020, 2021**

The Regulation Board is part of the AHCS Governance structure supporting the Regulatory Framework. It has oversight of the Registration Councils and directories, will receive and respond to any appeals and equivalence complaints. Fitness to Practise decisions rest at Registration Council level via the Panels and Rules. The HCS Registration Council publishes the agendas and minutes of the public meeting.

The minutes of this Board are not published. However, it is important to maintain as much transparency as possible both within and outside the Academy, so this summary will be produced and disseminated after each meeting of the Regulation Board.

### **November 2021 Tenth Meeting**

The Board noted that registrant numbers were being maintained despite the recent surge in Omicron Covid numbers. The Higher Specialist Scientist register for experienced and senior level scientists' numbers are not increasing at the rate expected, the importance of this register to healthcare science and so patients is not as widely understood as hoped. Further work will be led by the CEO and Head of Standards. Communications and marketing remain a key area of development across all parts of the register.

The risk register was reviewed as usual, the issue of workforce leaving the NHS was added. The Patient Safety Workshop had been a very positive day, with a clear set of actions for the Academy to take forward.

### **July 2021 Ninth Meeting**

The Board noted that registrant numbers were being maintained and, in some areas, increased. RCCP had become a subsidiary in the Academy and so welcomed 6000 registrants. Directory numbers had also increased and the Clinical Research Practitioner register is fully open for applications. The Board noted that the annual workshop for Board and all Registration Councils would focus on patient safety drawing upon the CEO "Patient Safety Learning". The Higher Specialist Scientist register for experienced and senior level scientists continues to expand as a unique and UK wide register; the Academy will continue to evaluate and review to ensure good participation whilst maintaining standards.

The Professional Standards Authority had finalised the outcomes of their review of the accredited registers system and the Registers remain fully accredited. Registrant data focusing on Protected characteristics has continued to develop and expand, enabling the Board to monitor and take action where required in terms of diversity and inclusion.

### **March 2021 Eighth Meeting**

The Board noted that registrant numbers remain strong despite the Covid-19 pandemic. The Academy works with non-accredited groups and registers as well as PSA accredited registers, PSA ongoing accreditation remains in place. The Board noted with concern that several individuals had

notations on their DBS which employers appeared not to have checked, the CEO will continue to work with employers when this happens. A presentation by Patient Safety Learning CEO was welcomed, a memorandum of understanding will be put in place between this organisation and the Academy, the aim is to promote the registers as a tool for patient safety.

CPD expectations continue but all CPD audit is suspended during the pandemic to reduce the stress on registrants. The terms of reference for the Board were reviewed. The Protected characteristics of registrants was an important area for discussion by the Board, this data was examined by specialty for healthcare scientists and will be the basis to ask questions and assure action in terms of equality, diversity and inclusion.

### **October 2020 Seventh Meeting**

The Board welcomed the increase in registrant numbers across the Framework, particularly at the time of a pandemic. The Shared Temporary Register (STR) was fully functioning and enabled students and ex-registrants to join the STR and so contribute to the care and treatment of Covid 19 patients. The Board also welcomed that the Academy worked collaboratively with other national organisations to offer psychological and other support virtually for many health care professionals including scientists.

The Professional Standards Authority (PSA) consultation on accredited registers was discussed and a response agreed. The outcomes of the consultation and the decision of PSA should be known in the spring 2021.

The Board approved a proposal on the collected “protected characteristics” data that will enable the Academy Registration Councils and the Board to understand and analyse the registrant body’s data. This analysis will enable the issues of equality, diversity and inclusion for our registrants to be better understood and where the data indicates, take action to strengthen the Academy’s efforts in this regard.

A revised version of the Good Scientific Practice (GSP) will now be published in spring 2021.

### **July 2020 Sixth Meeting**

A revised version of the Good Scientific Practice (GSP) document was considered and the changes welcomed, the plan is to finalise and publish in the autumn. Timelines will be explicit for stakeholders including registrants as to when the new version GSP must be reflected in documentation and practice.

The Board discussed the PSA’s intention to review the whole Accredited Registers system, the Academy will provide formal written input to this consultation and review.

The Shared Temporary Register was agreed and running, enabling appropriate students and lapsed registrants to contribute to patient care during Covid19. The Academy has also contributed to the national initiatives on wellbeing and support for healthcare scientists, as well as the NHS Leadership “Common rooms”. The Board welcomed all such work to support registrants and so patients and service users.

The issues and implications of “Black Lives Matter” continue to be discussed and all aspects of our work will be evaluated so that action can be taken.

The Board agreed the revision and rationalisation of our committee structure within the Regulatory Governance Framework.

### **March 2020 Fifth Meeting**

The Honorary Fellowship Awards Ceremony had been held at the House of Lords in December 2019, a successful recognition of the healthcare science community.

Significant and detailed discussion was held on how to support the NHS, our registrants and our applicants during Covid19. The HCS Registration Council approved a process for a Temporary Shared Register (in conjunction with IPEM and RCCP), thus enabling students to join such a register and contribute directly to NHS care and diagnosis during the pandemic. The LSI Registration Council was working with a wide range of organisations to ensure life sciences equipment, registrants and other resources continue to be available to the NHS during the pandemic. The Board welcomed the communications put in place for registrants on the AHCS website.

The Risk Register was reviewed in light of Covid 19.

The consultation on Good Scientific Practice was considered and the changes welcomed.

### **September 2019 Fourth Meeting**

The Regulation Board meeting was postponed to September 2019 in order to implement a joint workshop with AHCS Councils, this Board and related education advisory groups. This Workshop occurred in July and focused on fitness to practise processes and issues, and to consider Sanctions with consent.

The Regulation Workshop produced a list of agreed actions to be taken and followed up; an important example is to produce user-friendly, plain language flow charts for all external stakeholders to better understand our processes.

This meeting concentrated on a discussion about DBS, the way we ensure patients and registrants are kept safe. Different NHS Trusts are asking for different levels of safeguarding information on our registrants, particularly LSI. The Registrar continues to clarify and ensure that the legitimate level of safeguarding is provided.

An update from each Registration Council including each professional group/in was received, numbers on the Parts of the Registers continue to grow.

The NIHR directory continues to grow and be seen as worthwhile by all participants. Work on developing an accredited register is moving ahead well.

Risks and issues were discussed and clarified. Risk management will occur at all Councils and at Board but the content not repeated.

### **March 2019 Third Meeting**

The Regulatory Framework was published on our website.

The Board's terms of reference were agreed and published on our website.

The directories are developing well, further increases in numbers are being achieved by the National Institute for Health Research (NIHR) and are expected in Decontamination Science. NIHR and AHCS are hoping to develop a PSA accredited register within our Framework.

An update from each Registration Council including each professional group/ing was received, numbers on the Parts of the Registers continue to grow.

The Board reviewed an updated list of specialties that is to be published in order to inform the public, service users and employers as to the range and title of those practising.

Risks and issues were discussed and clarified. Risk management will occur at all Councils and at Board but the content not repeated.

The Academy is an active member of the Accredited Registers Collaborative and reports were received on how we continue to encourage employers to draw upon all our registrants for posts, thus working towards improved patient safety.

### **November 1st 2018 Second Meeting**

The Regulatory Framework was revised in December 2018 and will be published on our website by April 2019.

The Board's terms of reference had minor revisions to reflect the significant and positive developments by the Academy.

The directories are developing, further increases in numbers are expected in both Decontamination Science and with the National Institute for Health Research (NIHR).

An update from each Registration Council including each professional group/ing was received, numbers on the Parts of the Registers continues to grow.

Risks and issues were discussed and clarified. Risk management will occur at all Councils and at Board but the content not repeated.

The Academy is an active member of the Accredited Registers Collaborative and reports were received on how we continue to encourage employers to draw upon all our registrants for posts, thus working towards improved patient safety.

### **JULY 4<sup>TH</sup> 2018 Inaugural Meeting**

The Regulatory framework document was discussed and with minor amendments approved. The process of communication between the Education Committee and advisory groups with the Councils and Board will be set out within these revisions.

The terms of reference were agreed: an equal number of lay persons will be on the Board to the number with a professional remit. Contracts will be provided for each member to ensure clarity of responsibilities of all parties.

Potential new directories were discussed, further information will be provided once these are live.

An update from each Council including each professional group/ing was received.

Risks and issues were discussed and clarified. Risk management will occur at all Councils and at Board but the content not repeated.

**Patricia Le Rolland**

**Chair Regulation Board**