



RACP

Specialists. Together

Candidate Weekly Updates - Friday 22 March

Election of RACP President Elect

Dr Sharmila CHANDRAN

Addressing Member concerns

Flexible Work

I have built my career and life around flexible work which allows me to take up many education and advocacy roles. As chair of the fellowship committee, I strongly advocated for the revision of the flexible policy in 2021. This is a great example of a trainee-led, member-focused initiative.

A lot more should be done, eg; streamlining the application for flexible training and make flexible training an accreditation-criteria for large training sites.

Written Examinations. It should not have happened, again! RACP needs to learn from overseas colleges as to what IT servers, resources and infrastructure are needed.

Clinical examinations. There can be unacceptable bias in clinical examinations. Short-term, more training is required for FRACP examiners. Long term, an independent review of FRACP assessments is needed and collaboration with international sister colleges with regards to innovation in medical assessment.

Faculties, Chapters and other smaller groups urgently need a more equitable access to college resources and a customized approach to meet their specific training and examination requirements. We need to adhere to our purpose of "One College"

CPD. There is an ongoing and urgent need for investment and innovation of the CPD platform as for many fellows, CPD is the only link to the college.

Wellbeing. There needs to be greater investment in wellbeing support for members and greater advocacy for healthy workplaces.

Please feel free to reach out and please watch the video for a more detailed response in view of wordcount.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JhipuoEdFdg>

<https://twitter.com/sharmilaramess1>

Sharmila Chandran

Dr George LAKING

As you know, I am seeking College governance by an independent professional Board. Every member should look at the AMC's response [AMC to our College's 2023 Monitoring Submission](#). We would usually expect to meet or substantially meet regulatory requirements for our training. Since 2022, Standard 3 (Specialist Medical Training and Education Framework), has been Not Met. The AMC said "loss of the [TRACC] enabling software for the training programs is a significant setback ... It is also concerning from a governance perspective that this situation arose late in the process with no apparent warning or sufficient contingencies in place." Such software is a standard and reliable part of global education practice. The AMC is telling us there is a problem with how we govern our business. This is despite our [extensive governance review](#) from 2019. That review said we should increase the independence of our Board – advice the College is well overdue to follow.

Improvements in governance will free us up to more effectively drive Policy and Advocacy. Physicians are trusted in society, and should be present in support of the disempowered. Although our Indigenous Health [Constitutional](#) Object focuses on Aboriginal, Torres Strait Islander and Māori, reference to the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples makes its reach global. The Australian foreign minister has at last identified a "humanitarian catastrophe in Gaza." Once the College accepts Palestinian Indigenous Health is within its objective scope, we can finally start to exert influence.

Professor Graeme MAGUIRE

Governance reform

Our College needs to grasp opportunities and proactively address risks. The world is far different to when the College was established 85 years ago. AI, member expectations, advocacy and regulation, and growth in numbers (and voice) are some of the issues we face. We also need to be ready for those that will confront us in the future. All require a system of governance, the ability to make and action decisions, to respond quickly and to ensure our College is front and centre. Our profession must be valued and respected.

I have the vision, expertise and drive to achieve governance reform. Two issues will need to be addressed. We require simplicity whilst ensuring, as a membership organization, that our members have ownership in our direction.

Our College has too many committees and groups and finite Members to be part of them, repeatedly calling on the same few. We need to efficiently utilise these Members to ensure when they freely give up their time they know it is making a difference. Decisions must be implemented. I will work to ensure this occurs by creating opportunities for both Fellows and trainees to be employed by the College to work with and expertly advise our non-medical College staff.

This simplicity need not occur at the risk a loss of Member voice. However, what we must ensure is that our voice is not that of the loudest and most extreme, but rather what has until now been the silent majority.



RACP

Specialists. Together

Candidate Weekly Updates - Friday 22 March

Election of RACP Member Director

Professor Nicholas BUCKMASTER

In the current election it is important that we look to stabilise our College. We have seen too many changes in our CEO, and too much focus on the past. I am determined that our Board must be seen to be more relevant to the membership, including trainees, and to society.

We must anticipate risks to our ability to provide the best possible health care and to continuously look to innovate, while respecting the past. Our Board must work with the management team of the college to drive rapid improvements, especially in our internal processes, which are still too clunky and slow. If I am on the Board I will continually seek to modernise our college with appropriately prioritised funding, and by ensuring strategies for change are well governed. I have strong experience in project and program management and strategic development so I know how to look for issues.

I have excellent knowledge of effective Board governance having done the AICD course for Board members, and having previously served on our own and other Boards

I am also very familiar with advocacy with jurisdictions from my periods as a Medical Union leader, as President of IMSANZ and from being on CPACEC

Dr Sharmila CHANDRAN

Addressing Member concerns

Flexible Work

I have built my career and life around flexible work which allows me to take up many education and advocacy roles. As chair of the fellowship committee, I strongly advocated for the revision of the flexible policy in 2021. This is a great example of a trainee-led, member-focused initiative.

A lot more should be done, eg; streamlining the application for flexible training and make flexible training an accreditation-criteria for large training sites.

Written Examinations. It should not have happened, again! RACP needs to learn from overseas colleges as to what IT servers, resources and infrastructure are needed.

Clinical examinations. There can be unacceptable bias in clinical examinations. Short-term, more training is required for FRACP examiners. Long term, an independent review of FRACP assessments is needed and collaboration with international sister colleges with regards to innovation in medical assessment.

Faculties, Chapters and other smaller groups urgently need a more equitable access to college resources and a customized approach to meet their specific training and examination requirements. We need to adhere to our purpose of “One College”

CPD. There is an ongoing and urgent need for investment and innovation of the CPD platform as for many fellows, CPD is the only link to the college.

Wellbeing. There needs to be greater investment in wellbeing support for members and greater advocacy for healthy workplaces.

Please feel free to reach out and please watch the video for a more detailed response in view of wordcount.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JhipuoEdFdg>

<https://twitter.com/sharmilaramess1>

Sharmila Chandran

Dr Ron GRANOT

This election is important to ensure the College returns to its core set of tasks of looking after physicians, both qualified and trainees.

I have been in fulltime private neurological practice for the last 15 years, on the State Committees of both the RACP and the AMA, as well as involved in software startups.

From this experience, I feel that the College needs to refocus on advocating for physicians against Government (including Medicare) and beaurocracy. It needs to focus on clinical excellence, rather than being internally focused or distracted by peripheral issues.

As a practising physician, I want to improve CME to be more helpful and targetted to our needs.

I have discussed these issues with various colleagues and am pleased to hear of wide support for these proposed changes.

I am keen to continue to hear and promote your voice on the Board of the College.

Sincerely,
Ron Granot

East Neurology
Tel: 02 9388 0615
Fax: 02 9389 2189

Professor Philip MORRIS AM

Dear RACP Colleague, I am standing for election as a Member Board Director of the RACP for two main reasons.

1. A Voice for the Chapters and Faculties

Firstly, I am an advocate for boosting the voices of our College Faculties and Chapters within the College Board. Over recent years, these entities have grown in vital importance.

While initiatives like the 'Future of the Faculty Progress Report' have acknowledged the necessity of granting more autonomy to these bodies, implementation has fallen short. It is essential that Faculties and Chapters strongly represent their members' interests. To achieve this, a robust presence on the College Board is indispensable. I pledge to be this voice.

2. A College that is accountable, transparent and serves all its members

Secondly, I am committed to fostering a culture of enhanced representation, accountability, and transparency within the College. We must welcome new ideas and leadership with open arms. This requires governance reform, prioritising the needs of our members over bureaucratic intricacies. As a Member Board Director, I will champion the perspectives of College members, forge partnerships with specialty societies, advocate for accessible, high-quality registrar training, and argue for the financial viability of members across all specialities.

I pledge to press for Continuing Professional Development that is pertinent to individual physicians' practice settings, devoid of undue bureaucratic burdens, at a reasonable price.

With your support, if elected, I promise to champion the voices of our Faculties and Chapters, foster a culture of inclusivity and transparency, leave the past prejudices behind, and advocate tirelessly for the betterment of our members and the communities we serve.

My qualifications and experience

My career journey reflects a steadfast commitment to excellence across clinical practice, academia, and medical leadership. I am eager to leverage my extensive experience and expertise to drive positive change and innovation within our College.

Prof Philip Morris AM
