



RACP

Specialists. Together

Candidate Weekly Updates - Friday 12 April

Election of RACP President Elect

Dr George LAKING

I confess I had not anticipated the departure of our College CEO and President this week. It looks like governance will be an unavoidable focus for the College in the next months. One of the best lessons I had from governance training was to keep a copy of the [Constitution](#) to hand at meetings. A focus on the objects of the organisation is invaluable for shaping decisions. The RACP Constitution is a work in progress and could benefit from further change in terms of how we select and structure the governing board. But the objects are well formed. Working in health gives Physicians a natural sense of direction. The question is how to get there.

Many of the themes in this election relate to how we deal with relationships of power, especially the experiences of those with less power. Examples in our own house include the experience of trainees, of women, of people in marginalised and colonised communities, of our staff. Negotiating such relationships is part of our skillset as Physicians. It's a skill we should carry into the outside world, especially where unequal power decides the health of entire populations. For some reason as a College we've been unable to find our voice in support of the disempowered people of Gaza, in one of the defining conflicts of our age. I do hope we can make a change after this election. Nāku iti noa, sincerely yours, George.

Dr John O'DONNELL

Resignations of CEO and President citing governance concerns.

We do not need more reports to define what is going wrong with governance. That has already been well defined repeatedly in the multiple commissioned reports and regulator intervention since May 2018.

Members need to take ownership of the problem. There are legislative secrecy requirements for regulators – ACNC and ASIC. There needs to be transparency and accountability so members can be better informed about why appropriate constitutional change is necessary.

What needs to change?

- Constitutional changes along the lines recommended by Effective Governance Dec 2019
- An independent chair for the Board
- Re-establishment of a functional peer review process for Code of Conduct reports
- Allow individual or craft groups that feel the College no longer meets their needs to leave.

- Focus resources on delivering the Constitutional objects (training and education) and not devote resources to social issues that are tangential to the objects.
- De-emphasise the Presidency. American style elections are not what is needed.

The Board has two primary roles.

1. Set the strategy to deliver the Objects.
2. Appoint the CEO to deliver the strategy and measure performance against agreed KPI's.

Sounds straight forward except a Board of just 10 in a membership organisation needs everybody's support.

John O'Donnell

Professor Graeme MAGUIRE

Value for money and member value proposition

Over the last three weeks I have focused on:

- governance reform
- excellence in education
- wellbeing and flexibility.

All of these are important in ensuring your College Board can get things done and make our College something you're proud to say you're a member of.

In this final update I wanted to focus on the importance I will place on ensuring we have a clear concept of our member value proposition and deliver on this to you my colleagues and our members.

You pay your dues and expect our College to deliver.

- I will work to ensure our College and Board identifies and responds to:
 - what is important to you
- what you can expect to receive as a member of our College
- why the RACP is the preferred provider of what is important to you

I will ensure our College remains focused on its vision and mission and has a clear strategy.

I will prioritise the development and delivery of a clear and responsible member value proposition that aligns with our charitable purpose.

You and our College deserve and require this.



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Candidate Weekly Updates - Friday 5 April

Election of RACP Member Director

Professor Nicholas BUCKMASTER

In the last week there have been further disturbing news about our College's governance. While the details have not been shared it is clear that there continues to be serious issues. I will bring governance experience, integrity and my longstanding commitment to our professions and our communities to the College Board in order to address the issues urgently. I shown myself as someone who can work to achieve consensus solutions to difficult problems. I feel strongly that we must ensure that our College is governed for the current and future needs of our members and have always focussed on this. We must get into a position where the Board is trusted by the membership to be strategic rather than always being subsumed with crises around governance. If elected to the Board my first priority is to ensure that we have a clear plan to present to our members for whatever reforms are needed to ensure that we can stabilise the governance of our College into the foreseeable future.

Professor Philip MORRIS AM

Dear College Colleague.

Proposals for Enhancing the Functioning of the Royal Australasian College of Physicians.

As dedicated stewards of our valuable College, it is incumbent upon us to continuously strive for excellence and effectiveness in our operations. With this in mind, I propose several key improvements aimed at restoring stability, enhancing collegiality, and fostering a culture of professionalism within the College.

First and foremost, it is imperative that we prioritise the restoration of stability and maturity to the Board. This entails fostering an environment of mutual respect, open communication, and collaborative decision-making. By cultivating a culture of professionalism and accountability, we can ensure that the Board operates cohesively and effectively in fulfilling its mandate.

Furthermore, let us focus our efforts on constructive initiatives that promote the advancement of medical education, research, and patient care.

In addition, it is essential to bring Chapters and Faculties and interest groups to their rightful place in college affairs. These constituent bodies play a crucial role in representing the diverse interests and needs of our members. By empowering Chapters and Faculties to actively participate in decision-making processes, we can ensure that the voices of our members are heard and respected.

Lastly, we should support the appointment of a professional CEO with integrity to lead our College. A capable and ethical leader will provide strategic direction, promote transparency and accountability, and uphold the highest standards of governance. By entrusting the leadership of the College to a qualified individual of integrity, we can inspire confidence and trust among our stakeholders.

In conclusion, by implementing these proposed improvements, we can enhance the functioning of the Royal Australasian College of Physicians and position ourselves for continued success and impact in the years to come.

Philip Morris AM
Board Director Candidate
