



Election of President-elect

Dr Matthew REMEDIOS

The College exists to produce excellent physicians and support them throughout their careers. Everything else is secondary.

The Japanese concept of *Muda* resonates. Toyota is an example of Japanese MVP – Minimal Viable Product philosophy – a lean business model where *Muda* means waste: anything that consumes time, resources, or executive bandwidth without contributing to the product. **Applied to the RACP, the product is clear:**

- **Well-trained, well-supported Fellows** delivering outstanding patient care.
- If a committee, process, or initiative cannot demonstrate contribution to that product, it should not exist. This is not austerity, it is clarity.
- **Training is core business.** Our trainees are not a pipeline to be managed; they are the College's primary obligation.
- Every governance decision must be measured against one question: does this make training better? If the answer is no, why we are doing it?
- **CPD must deliver genuine value.** It should strengthen practice, not satisfy bureaucratic process. Fellows deserve CPD frameworks that are relevant, efficient, and respectful of their time.
- Fiduciary responsibility demands simplicity. **Member funds exist to serve members.**
- **Responsible governance** means transparent reporting, disciplined resource allocation, and leadership that resists institutional tendency toward complexity. Complexity is often the loudest form of *Muda*.

Trainees deserve a president who listens. The trainee experience has become burdened with administrative friction. I will strip back what does not serve learning and protect what does. **Everything that matters. Nothing that doesn't.**

The RACP does not need more strategy documents, more working groups, or more rebranding. It needs a President committed to the minimum viable College: **one that trains brilliantly, supports Fellows meaningfully, and governs responsibly.**

That is what I will deliver.

Dr Julian KELLY

Dear Colleagues,

Last week's developments, namely:

- the Safe Work NSW Mandatory Improvement Notice;
- the ACNC notification;
- the removal of a Director from the recent Board meeting for alleged lack of civility;

demonstrate more than ever the need to break from past alliances, feuds and poor behaviour.

As someone completely independent of past and current members of the Board my candidacy offers the first step in this direction.

The College and its Board need to focus on core business rather than infighting.

In this update as President Elect I will work towards three things:

1. Raising the threshold to convene an Extraordinary General Meeting to the conventional standard of 5% of membership (i.e. 1600 votes from 100), preventing frequent costly and vexatious EGMs.
2. Despite the three key leadership positions in the College and Paediatrics Division being held by women, no women nominated for this election. Highly publicized Board dysfunction and acrimonious infighting may have played a role in this, and I will dedicate myself to removing this impediment to female participation.
3. Provide greater value to the general membership via:
 1. Improving ease of CPD documentation
 2. Reducing part-time physician and trainee fees/exam costs
 3. Acknowledging the increasing burden of more intensive trainee supervision requirements and implementing a solution that will allow for appropriate remuneration for this.

As you consider your vote, please take the time to reflect on each Candidate and ask whether they are likely to represent the future the College desperately needs or the past it should leave behind.

Best wishes

Julian

A/Prof Martin HISCOCK

Proposed by: Professor Paul Komesaroff AM

Seconded by: Dr Sharmila Chandran

Going forward, we need to move out of this cycle of in-fighting and governance collapse and lead by example to our impressionable Trainees and the wider communities in Australia and Aotearoa, New Zealand.

I want to challenge the status quo and re-think College processes.

Members now deserve:

- A collegial & responsive Board
- Strong leadership

and....

- Less bureaucracy
- No high-handed behaviour
- Value with lower fees
- Advocacy for Supervisors, Examiners
- Proper support of Trainees
- Tailored CPD Apps

I will make sure the College delivers a quality service to all Members.

A NEW DAWN FOR THE RACP

Professor Philip MORRIS AM

A Steady Hand, A Clear Strategy

The **Royal Australasian College of Physicians** is at an important moment. What we need now is not promises to be all things to all people, but **clear strategic judgement**, strong governance, and a renewed focus on our core business: supporting physicians to deliver excellent care.

As President-elect, I will ensure the College is unmistakably **run by its Members**, as required of charities regulated by the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission. As a founder and member of the Faculty of Addiction Medicine, I believe Faculties, Chapters, trainees, and Fellows all must have a strong voice in the College's direction, especially now.

We must prioritise what matters most:

- Workforce and workplace conditions
- High-quality training and supervision
- Practical CPD, including a modern CPD app
- Reliable IT that makes life easier
- Better value for members' fees
- Filling rural and regional rotations

I will work to ensure the College thinks strategically, builds effective relationships with governments and regulators, and protects the integrity of college training and assessment pathways, particularly in relation to IMG recognition.

I will encourage Trainees at all stages and pathways to be active as educators, policy contributors, advocates and voters in College elections.

I have a proven record of delivering strategic initiatives (including establishing a national PTSD centre and comprehensive programs of rehabilitation), working constructively with physician colleagues, as well as governments and medical bodies, and building strong relationships across specialties and sister Colleges. With your support, the Board can return to an even keel. My focus will be unwavering:

Member satisfaction. Training excellence. Practical support for physicians. A College run by its Members.

Philip Morris AM

MBBS, BSc(med), PhD, FACHAM (RACP), FRANZCP

Election of RACP Member Director

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Dr Sundar VEERAPPAN

Dear members,

I seek election as a Member Director of the RACP to represent the voice of Fellows and trainees with integrity, clarity, and purpose.

My focus is on three key priorities. First, strengthening engagement between the College and its members by improving transparency, communication, and opportunities for meaningful input. Members should feel heard and valued, not distant from governance changes and surprise EGMs.

Secondly, I want to support training and workforce sustainability. This includes advocating for high-quality, equitable training pathways, addressing burnout, and ensuring we attract and retain the next generation of physicians. Our relationship with the college starts when we are trainees and I want to foster a positive interaction with them from the start.

Thirdly, I think our College has to be robust and adapt to a rapidly changing healthcare landscape. The College must remain forward-looking—embracing innovation, supporting diverse thought and being a strong advocate for all its members.

I bring experience in leadership, collaboration, and service, with a strong commitment to respectful dialogue and thoughtful decision-making. I value diverse perspectives and believe better outcomes are achieved when we listen to and learn from one another.

If elected, I will represent you with professionalism, accountability, and a genuine commitment to ensuring the stability of our College for the future.

I would be honoured to have your support.

Kind regards, Sundar

Dr Vikram PALIT

Hi everyone, I am Vikram Palit, paediatric respiratory physician, A/Prof in Health Systems at UNSW, and CEO of an Australian digital health company.

I am standing for an RACP Board Director position to advance a more transparent, accountable, and future focused College that delivers actual value to Fellows and trainees. My platform, priorities are below:

Educate

- Introduce formal recognition and reimbursement for supervisors, including protected time and incentives such as a proportional reduction in annual Fellowship fees based on supervision commitment
- Simplify CPD requirements, particularly for Fellows in private practice, including recognition of routine clinical work, fewer mandatory categories, and streamlined digital logging
- Recognise diverse physician career pathways and develop accredited training in private practice to strengthen the workforce and expand trainee opportunities

Advocate

- Strengthen the College's role as a clear, credible, and independent advocate for Fellows, trainees and patients, including taking principled positions on major humanitarian issues where our clinical and ethical responsibilities require a voice
- Deliver transparent reporting on Fellowship fees, including where funds are spent and what value Fellows and trainees receive
- Advocate for national alignment of provider numbers, credentialing, and scope of practice to make it easier to work across systems

Innovate

- Establish a digital RACP identity for every Fellow and trainee, with verifiable credentials, clear recognition of Fellowship and scope of practice, and tangible member benefits
- Work with regulators and health system partners to advance national, interoperable digital credentialing that reduces duplication and makes it easier for clinicians to work across jurisdictions
- Build a modern workforce engagement approach that connects Fellows and trainees to opportunities in clinical work, supervision, education, and leadership across the health system

This is the kind of College I believe we can build together. If this resonates with you, I would value your vote and support.

Thank you.

Professor Philip MORRIS AM

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Dr Surjit TARAFDAR

Dear Dr,

Hope you are well.

I am seeking election to the Member Director position at the Royal Australasian College of Physicians because I think the dignity of our college is at stake.

As you know, the college has been in the headlines recently with allegations of bullying and harassment, and along with the multiple EGMs, this has created an atmosphere of distrust among our members. I hope to contribute to ending this atmosphere and create a work culture based on trust and respect. Also, I think that many of us are not aware of how our annual membership fee is utilised; I would focus on rationalising the membership fee and ensuring complete transparency around the funds.

Like many of my physician friends and colleagues, I feel frustrated at the state of events in the last few months. Through my nomination, I hope to reinforce a collaborative and transparent approach to governance, and create an environment where every member's voice is heard clearly.

Voting is open and I would like to request you to vote for me.

<https://netvote.com.au/auth?vac=692>

I would also request you to share this message with like-minded friends and colleagues.

Warmest regards

Surjit

Dr. Surjit Tarafdar

Nephrologist and General Physician, Blacktown Hospital, Sydney, NSW 2148

Conjoint Senior Lecturer, School of Medicine, Western Sydney University
