



international community of physicians



ROYAL
COLLEGE of
PHYSICIANS of
EDINBURGH

Impact Report 2025

In our 2025 survey of
Fellows and Members,
we asked what
being part of
our community
means to you.



It offers invaluable opportunities for professional development, networking, and mentorship, fostering a sense of collegiality and shared purpose with peers both locally and internationally.



It holds deep professional and personal significance for me. It represents a commitment to the highest standards of clinical excellence, ongoing learning, and ethical practice.





“

Feeling part of the voice that shapes the future, with a modern inclusive college.



“

It provides me with valuable resources for professional growth, opportunities for collaboration, and a platform to contribute to advancements in patient care.



“

Pride at being part of this historical institution, which is very outward looking and relevant today.



About the College

At the Royal College of Physicians of Edinburgh (the College), our core purpose is to advance the science and practice of medicine. For over 343 years, this unwavering commitment has been central to our global success, and it continues to drive everything we do today and for the future.

The College is a registered charity, which helps qualified doctors to pursue their careers in specialist (internal) medicine through medical examinations, education and training. Our 2023–2025 strategy prioritises our involvement in shaping healthcare policy, delivering lifelong learning, growing our community and setting and maintaining standards in healthcare. As a truly global College, with around 15,000 Fellows and Members, our purpose is to deliver this worldwide.

This report covers a period of great geopolitical uncertainty and economic challenges in 2024/25. Despite this, the College has continued to focus on growth, as we extend our reach and services coupled with our strategy to deliver our services as cost effectively as we can and to the highest possible standard.

All of our work is enriched by the voluntary leadership, contributions and expertise of our global community of healthcare professionals. Our thanks go to the doctors at all stages of their careers who have freely given up their time and expertise to help support the College, and therefore our community of health professionals around the world.

This impact report is intended to share some highlights of the past year in a concise and visual way. To see our full Annual Report and Accounts for the year ended 31 January 2025, please see our website:
www.rcpe.ac.uk/college/strategy-and-reports



A few highlights of the past year

May 2024

Museum accreditation

The College's Physicians' Gallery was awarded Museum Accreditation status by Museums Galleries Scotland. This demonstrates that our collection care, public access and management consistently meet national museum standards.

Find out more about our free museum and library exploring the science and humanity of medicine
www.rcpe.ac.uk/heritage





September 2024

November 2024

Improved governance structure

The annual meeting approved a series of changes to strengthen the College's governance. For the first time, this included the introduction of a Board of Trustees to act as the governing body with general control and management of the administration of the College. Council continues to have oversight of all clinical, professional and health policy matters affecting our Fellows, Members and the profession more widely.

The College's new governance structure came into effect from summer 2025, when the amended Royal Charter was approved by the Privy Council.

New website

Our new website www.rcpe.ac.uk was launched with the focus on an improved user experience – introducing a 'Single Sign On' across all College sites, a simplified application process for new members and a streamlined experience for booking educational events.

The navigation was made more intuitive and we enhanced the view and functionality of the website for those using tablets and mobile devices.

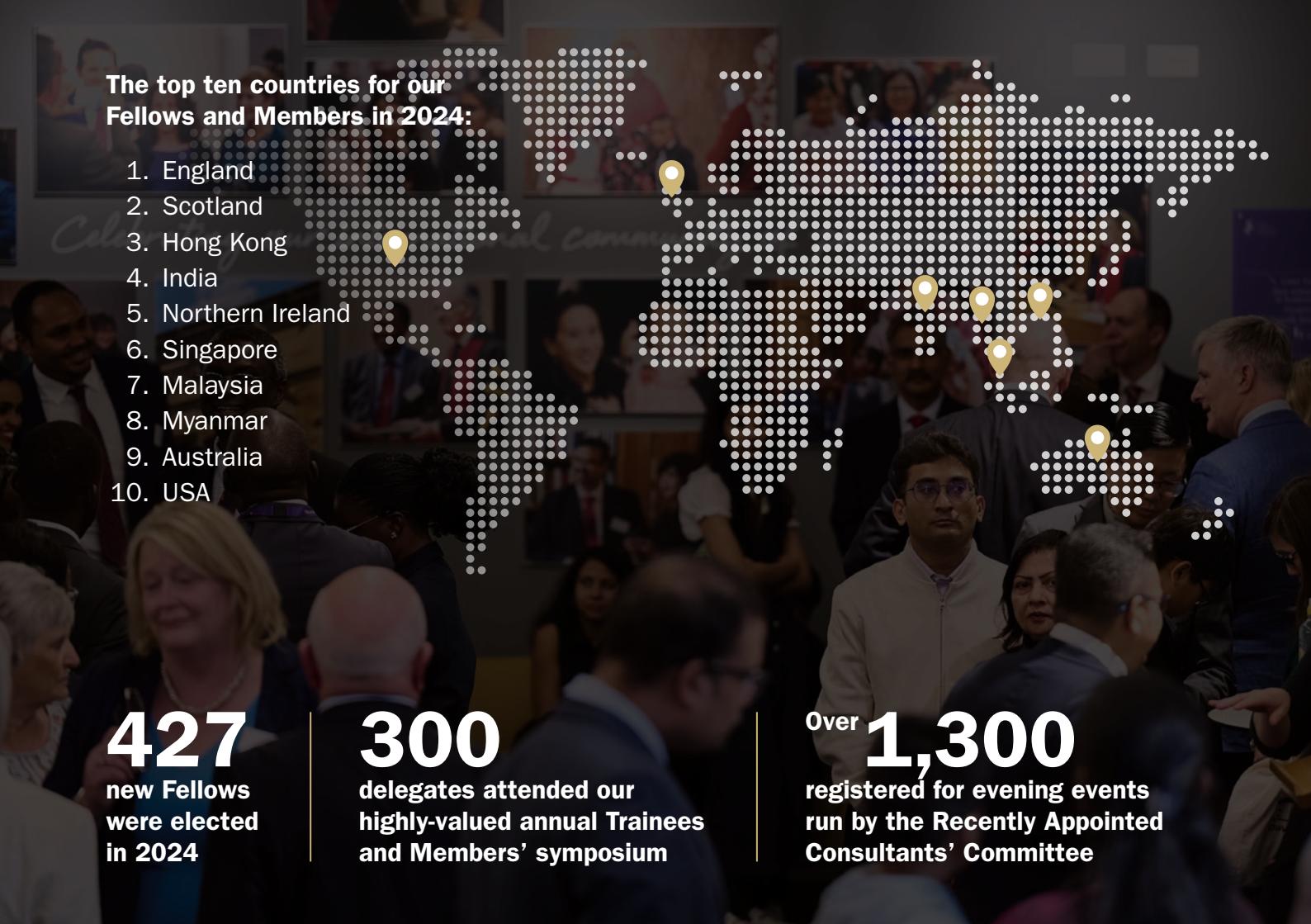
Our Global Community of Physicians

Our 15,000 Fellows and Members across the UK and internationally are the driving force of the College. Based in over 100 countries around the world, in 2024 the top ten countries for our Fellows and Members were: England, Scotland, Hong Kong, India, Northern Ireland, Singapore, Malaysia, Myanmar, Australia and the USA.

Regional Adviser elections were held and new Advisers were appointed for the West Midlands; Mersey; Grampian; Northern Ireland; Eastern Canada; Iraq – excluding Kurdistan and Southern Area; Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Kerala & Telangana; East and North East India; Tamil Nadu; South Australia, Tasmania & Victoria; Nepal; Malta; Myanmar; Hong Kong; Zambia; and USA – Midwestern States.

We continue to progress projects and activities with our College Advisory Forum on the Environment (CAFE) and Air Pollution Working Groups as well as our Equality, Diversity & Inclusivity (EDI) Committee.





The top ten countries for our
Fellows and Members in 2024:

1. England
2. Scotland
3. Hong Kong
4. India
5. Northern Ireland
6. Singapore
7. Malaysia
8. Myanmar
9. Australia
10. USA

427

new Fellows
were elected
in 2024

300

delegates attended our
highly-valued annual Trainees
and Members' symposium

Over 1,300

registered for evening events
run by the Recently Appointed
Consultants' Committee

Education, Training and Assessment

The College continues to deliver a diverse educational offering, to over 17,000 delegates, through established specialist Symposia, a range of Courses, Evening Medical Updates focussing on the Internal Medicine Curriculum, and International Medical Updates, all developed with the support of Fellows and Members.

International Medical Updates featured webinars from our international Fellows and Regional Advisers in Australasia, Hong Kong, Iraq, Kenya, and Oman.

Highlights of our in-person events included the flagship St Andrew's Day Symposium, the Edinburgh International Course on Medicine for the Older Adult, as well as regional events in Aberdeen, Cardiff and Northeast England.

We worked with our Federation partners to provide postgraduate training, continuing professional development and the global delivery of the MRCP(UK) examination. In the past year RCPE delivered over 800 PACES exam places, at 24 centres across the UK.

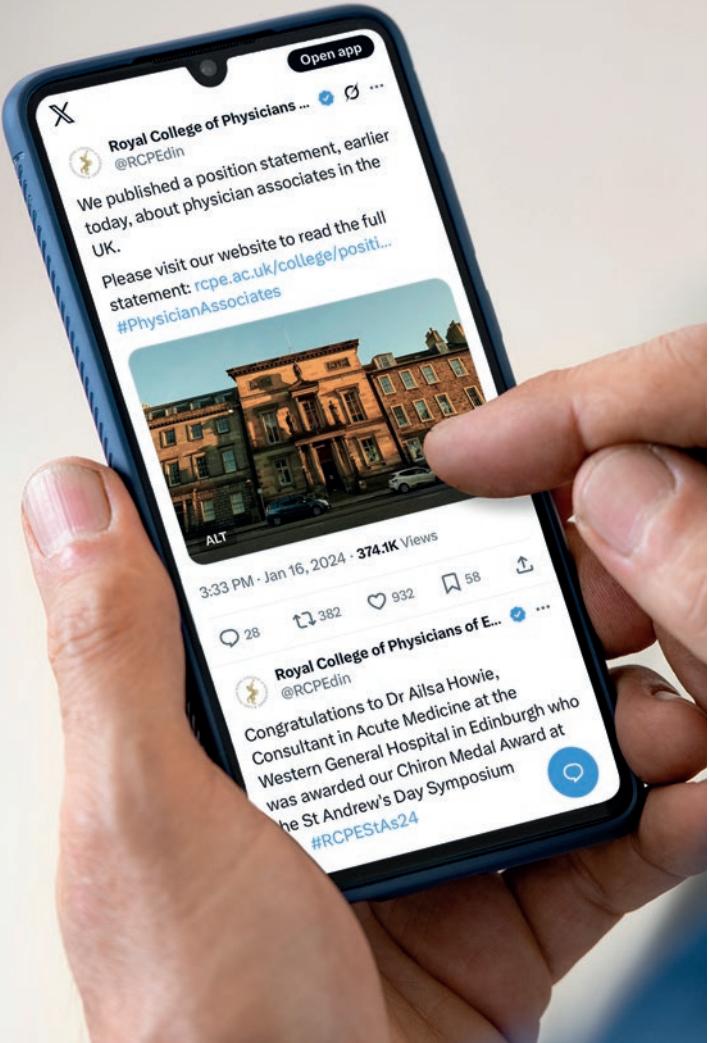
Over
17,000 delegates
attended our educational events
either online or in-person





Through our continuing collaboration with the University of Edinburgh we awarded scholarships for our joint MScs to postgraduate students from Bangladesh, Ireland, India, Kenya, Malaysia, Singapore, Tanzania and the United Kingdom.

Influence



The most recent annual UK Physicians' Census reported a rise in the number of patients that physicians are seeing with ill health caused by the wider determinants of health, such as living in mouldy or damp homes, environment, poor air quality and education – sparking calls for government to address the 'avoidable social causes' of ill health.

During 2024 mentions of the College in the media increased by 386%, and our views on topical issues saw some posts on social media reaching over 300,000 views.

The College held a programme of meetings over the past year with key political and policy stakeholders across the UK to discuss healthcare and wider policy issues relating to the medical workforce and ongoing challenges within public health and medicine.

Ahead of the UK parliament election in 2024, the College's manifesto focused on four main themes of workforce, delayed discharges and patient flow, adult social care, and tackling ill health. The manifesto made 20 specific recommendations that the College called on the UK Government to introduce, in order to improve conditions for health and social care workers, and patients.

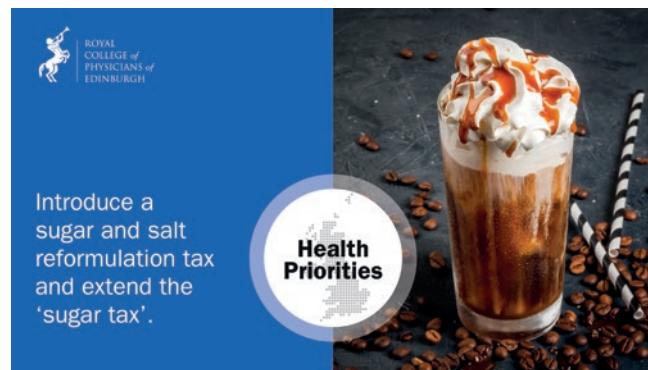
One of the highlights of our global impact in 2024 was being awarded a UK Government grant to fund a healthcare partnership with the Kenya Association of Physicians (KAP). The project was funded through the Global Health Workforce Programme, financed by the UK Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) for the benefit of the UK and partner country health sectors. Its aim is to advance universal health coverage by strengthening the health workforce in Nigeria, Kenya and Ghana.



“Get the basics right” to improve healthcare worker wellbeing and morale.



Ensure that older people presenting to A&E receive the right care as quickly as possible.



Introduce a sugar and salt reformulation tax and extend the ‘sugar tax’.

Income and expenditure

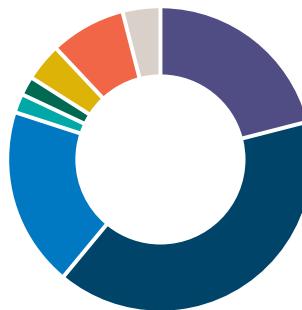
All of our work is enriched by the voluntary leadership, contributions and expertise of our global community of healthcare professionals. Without the time and commitment freely given to the College by our Office Bearers and other volunteers, we would not be able to operate.

Income

Our total income in 2024/25 was £9,909,385, an increase of £754,171 (8%). This reflects increased College activity such as education events, examinations, commercial events held in our building and membership activities.

Resources expended

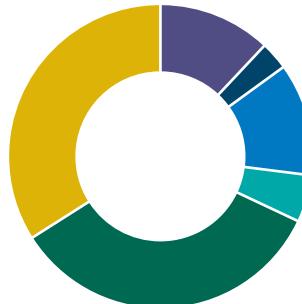
Overall, costs increased by £616,590 to £9,651,314 across the College. In part this reflects higher income and was also against a continuing backdrop of higher than average inflation and overhead cost increases. The College employed 72 FTE staff during 2024/25.



Income

% breakdown of £9,909,385

- Subscriptions £2.1m (21%)
- Examinations £3.9m (40%)
- Education and training £1.9m (19%)
- Grants £0.2m (2%)
- Other £0.2m (2%)
- Donations and legacies £0.4m (4%)
- Other trading activities £0.8m (8%)
- Investments £0.4m (4%)



Resources expended

% breakdown of £9,651,314

- Rooms and facilities £1.2m (12%)
- Other £0.2m (3%)
- Membership services £1.2m (12%)
- Heritage £0.5m (5%)
- Examinations £3.3m (34%)
- Education and training £3.3m (34%)

The Royal College of Physicians of Edinburgh is a registered charity, operating independently from political and governmental influence. By becoming a member, donating, or leaving a legacy to the College, you will support the professional development of physicians both in the UK and globally.

Find out more: www.rcpe.ac.uk/college/donations



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