



ROLE OF THE PRESIDENT

The role of the President is part of a continuing story in the life of the Royal College of Physicians of Ireland. The new holder of the office will lead the strategic development of the College through unprecedented challenges and build on the outstanding work of past Presidents over the past four centuries.

Candidates should be well informed about the role of the President Designate and the President and the related duties of both in order that they are aware of the extent of this important commitment, and agree to fulfil this role, if elected.

The mission of the Royal College of Physicians of Ireland is *“To empower, develop and support our community of learners, trainees, members, fellows and society to improve health through training, education and advocacy.”*

The President as the Chair and a member of Council is a trustee of the College and as such has legal duties and responsibilities.

The President shall provide leadership to the Royal College of Physicians of Ireland as a whole, at both a national and International level. In his/her capacity as Chair of Council, Executive Board, the President shall lead College affairs on behalf of the Body Corporate and their duties shall include:

Leadership

- a. Provide strong leadership to the Fellows, Members and staff of the College as a whole including members of Council and the Executive Committee and work with them to enhance the skills and knowledge of Trainees, Learners, Members and Fellows, to safeguard the role of the profession in education and training to enhance the standard of patient care;
- b. Ensure that Council’s strategic direction is agreed and set.
- c. Encourage openness, transparency and accountability in everything the College does.
- d. Ensure that Council works collectively and that each member puts the interests of the College above other outside interests.
- e. Ensure that Council and Executive Committee members understand their role and responsibilities including reserved and delegated authorities.



- f. Chair Council and Executive Committee meetings effectively, ensuring that required decisions are taken, agendas are appropriate to the business of Council or the Executive Committee and support the achievement of strategic and business plan objectives.
- g. Ensure that the Council and Executive Committee carry out their functions effectively so that:
- All planned business is dealt with and each item of business has reached a conclusion as far as is practicable or possible.
 - Council delegates sufficient authority to its committees and the Executive Committee to enable the business of Council to be carried on effectively between meetings.
- h. Communicate effectively with Council and Executive Committee members between meetings to ensure that business is taken forward and effective contributions made by members
- i. Establish and maintain a close working relationship with the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) and through the CEO communicate with the senior management and staff as appropriate.

Governance

- a. Ensure that Council and the Executive Committee monitor their performance on an annual basis
- b. Ensure that Council focuses on governance rather than management
- c. Ensure that the College's Code of Conduct and other relevant policies are adhered to by Council and Executive Committee members
- d. Ensure that any complaints or concerns about members who may be in breach of the Code of Conduct are handled in line with agreed procedures
- e. Assess the College's performance relative to its strategy, vision, mission and annual business plans
- f. Serve as a member on the Governance and Nominations Committee of Council.

Internal relationships

- a. Account for Council's performance when called upon to do so at meetings of the College



- b. Act as an internal ambassador for Council, to staff, Trainees, Learners, Members and Fellows
- c. Work closely with the CEO, Office Bearers and staff in identifying and discussing emerging issues and other matters that may impact on the College
- d. Manage the performance of the CEO by setting and assessing annual performance targets in consultation with the Office Bearers.

External relationships

- a. Promote and uphold the public interest in all aspects of the College's operations
- b. Maintain a positive and meaningful dialogue between the profession and the public
- c. Represent the College as appropriate at various stakeholder engagements including meetings with the Department of Health, HSE, HIQA, Medical Council and other training bodies, specialist societies, patient and other representative groups
- d. Engage with the media on the College's behalf as appropriate and in accordance with College communications policies and processes
- e. Engage with Trainees, Learners, Members and Fellows in Ireland and overseas to ensure that the College is representing them effectively and responsibly and to encourage their ongoing participation in the College.

Time Commitment and Remuneration:

The role of the President although not full-time, requires a strong commitment. Furthermore, Trustees of the College do not receive remuneration for their services to the College other than reimbursement of associated expenses .

The role of President is approximately 2 days per week. Due to the strong time commitment the College will pay for backfill, which will be paid directly to the relevant hospital upon confirmation that the backfill consultant post has been secured.



ROLE OF THE PRESIDENT DESIGNATE

The principal role of the President Designate is to support the President for the period from his/her election in July 2026 before formally taking up the Office of President at the Annual Stated Meeting in October 2026.

The President Designate is expected to deputise for the President where necessary, such as officiating at Fellowship Admission Ceremonies and other College events.