

February welcome: Professor Mumtaz Patel

Welcome to the first 2026 edition of *Commentary*, the RCP's membership magazine. I hope you have all had a wonderful start to the year.

I am pleased to welcome Professor Ollie Minton as *Commentary*'s new clinical editor. He'll be leading a *Commentary* advisory group, which will look at planning interesting and exciting content for our readers over the year.

The RCP is also delighted to welcome our new CEO who started his role in January; Jonathan Brüün. It has been lovely to work with him so far, and you can read all about his vision for the RCP [in his *Commentary* interview](#) with Ollie.

This edition looks forward to some upcoming events, like the 2026 Excellence in Patient Care Awards – with some advice on what you'd need to put together an application – and [the Chief Registrar Programme](#).

This edition of *Commentary* also includes [a piece on the Peer's breakfast](#) held in December where I spoke to members of the House of Lords about our members reporting seeing increasing impacts of the social determinants of health. Huge thanks to our special advisors, Professor Sir Stephen Holgate who gave a short talk on air quality, Dr Kath McCullough on obesity and Professor Sanjay Agrawal on tobacco and vaping harm.

Dr Alexis Paton, Chair of the Committee on Ethical Issues in Medicine, medical sociologist and bioethicist, also explores the social determinants of health [in her interview about her new book](#) on the topic. I read her book before it was published at the end of 2025 and really appreciated the in-depth exploration of the vital links between health, society, politics and economic status – all of which she touches upon in her interview.

I also enjoyed hearing from my RCP colleagues, Dr Omar Mustafa and Dr Ben Chadwick, in their [joint interview](#) about the registrar and deputy registrar roles. They look back on 2025 and offer some insight into the RCP's work. Two other articles touch on completely different areas of RCP work – looking at [how to improve fracture care](#) and [the history and purpose of Munk's Roll](#).

Finally, looking globally, we have an interview with two resident doctors who took part in [an international exchange fellowship](#) between the East, Central and Southern Africa College of Physicians and the British Infection Association which has been a fantastic initiative. It sounds like an amazing experience. In [another article](#), a displaced doctor shares how support and mentorship have helped him find his feet in the NHS.

As we head into 2026, I would encourage you all to [fill in the publications survey](#) which will help us make sure that the RCP journals and *Commentary* magazine continue to feel useful, interesting and relevant to you. Thank you all for your continued support for the college.