



# Status of training summary report

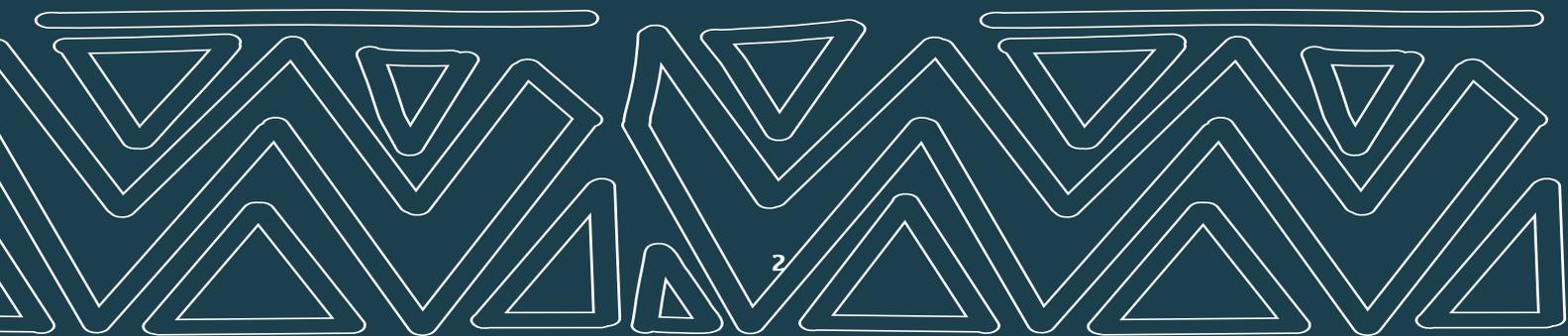


# Introduction

The East, Central and Southern Africa College of Physicians (ECSACOP) is a non-profit professional body that provides post-graduate training in internal medicine at accredited training centres in the ECSA region: Kenya, Uganda, Zambia, Zimbabwe and Malawi. The College has made tremendous progress toward ensuring that Tanzania, Rwanda, South Sudan, and Botswana embrace and recognise the training programme. The Tanzania Medical Council, in particular, has been extremely receptive to this issue – the College continues to support Tanzania’s attempts to recognise and approve the ECSACOP programme in the country.

Through the training programme, the College has achieved the following:

- Recruitment of 34 trainees.
- Accreditation of two new training sites (Nchanga South Mine Hospital, Chingola and Nkonkola Mine Hospital-Zambia), bringing the total to 21.
- Online virtual learning platform successfully running.
- Delivery of content through online case-based discussions.
- Delivery of FCP Part I examinations and FCP Part II examinations (2024).
- Entered a successful exchange programme partnership with British Infection Association (BIA).
- Re-accreditation of 13 training sites.
- Successful graduation ceremony of the eight trainees in the 2020 cohort.



# The graduation ceremony

On August 28, 2024, the College celebrated the graduation of its second cohort of eight trainees at the Mestil Hotel and Residences in Nsambya. This ceremony commenced with a presentation by Dr Phillip Gothard on 'How to introduce innovations into clinical care delivery in low- and middle-income countries (LMIC)', who stressed the use of technology to improve health care delivery. He presented innovative approaches that have been used in LMICs to improve clinical care delivery.

The graduation ceremony proceeded satisfactorily and the trainees were awarded graduation certificates of completion.



The 2020 graduate cohort poses for a group photo on 28 August 2024 after receiving their certificates.



On the left, 2020 cohort trainees stand for a group photo with ECSACOP council members on 28 August 2024 after graduation. On the right, ECSACOP registrar Dr Tamara Phiri is photographed with Dr Samantha Munsasa, the 2024 best trainee.



# Admissions/recruitment of trainees

The training programme has now admitted its seventh cohort of trainees and has seen an increase in the number of trainees enrolled. The 2024 call for applications yielded a total of 44 new applicants, with 34 successful applicants from the five countries. The training commenced on 18 September 2024 and an orientation seminar took place on 22 September 2024. The second cohort admitted in 2020 successfully completed their FCP Part II clinical exams on August 27, 2024 at St Francis Hospital in Nsambya, Uganda, and graduated on August 28, 2024 at Mestil Hotel and Residences.

The College hereby recognises the efforts of the Uganda Association of Physicians of (UAP) towards a successful FCP Part II clinical exam.



Dr Leo Katsidzira, the ECSACOP Examinations Committee chairperson giving trainees instructions for the FCP II clinical exam on 27 August 2024 at St Francis Hospital, Nsambya.

## Trainee admissions over the year

Academic year	Countries	Number of candidates admitted
2024	5	34
2023	5	42
2022	5	30
2021	5	21
2020	4	18
2019	3	18
2018	2	16
<b>Total admissions</b>		<b>179</b>

Reasons for reduction in programme admissions:

- Financial challenges
- Deferrals due to concurrent courses
- Failure of ARCP or examinations
- Failure to obtain release letters from employers.

## Active trainees per year

Year of training	Number of trainees
2024	34
2023	41
2022	26
2021	17
2020	10
<b>Total admissions</b>	<b>128</b>

## ECSACOP training sites

The college currently has 22 accredited training sites with 16 active sites. Two additional sites (Nchanga South Mine Hospital, Chingola and Nkonkola Mine Hospital) were fully accredited in Zambia in 2024. All original training sites were re-accredited in 2018. Accreditation certificates were awarded to all, apart from two in Malawi.



Kisule Ivan (third from left,) the registrar of Uganda Medical Practitioners Association (UMGPA), poses for a picture at St Francis Hospital, Nsambya with a group of council members and the ECSACOP secretariat, following the training center's re-accreditation on 19 July 2024.

# Status of accreditation for ECSACOP training sites 2024

Number	Country	Training sites	Date of accreditation	Status of accreditation
<b>1 Kenya</b>				
		Coast General Teaching Referral Hospital (CGTRH), Mombasa	1 Sep 2021 – 31 Aug 2025	Active
		Jaramogi Odinga Teaching and Referral Hospital (JOOTR), Kisumu	1 April 2023 – 1 April 2027	Active
		Kenyatta University Teaching Research and Referral Hospital (KUTRRH), Nairobi	1 Sep 2022 – 31 Aug 2026	Active
		Mater Misericordia Hospital, Nairobi	1 Sep 2021 – 31 Aug 2025	Active
		Moi Teaching and Referral Hospital (MTRH), Eldoret		
		The Karen Hospital, Nairobi	1 April 2023 – 1st April 2027	Active
<b>2 Zimbabwe</b>				
		Mpilo Central Hospital, Bulawayo	1 Sep 2018 – 31 Aug 2022	Re-accredited
		Pariirenyatwa Hospital, Harare	1 Sep 2019 – 31 Aug 2023	Re-accredited
		Sally Mugabe Central Hospital/Harare Central Hospital, Harare	1 Sep 2018 – 31 Aug 2022	Re-accredited
		United Bulawayo Hospital, Bulawayo	1 Sep 2019 – 31 Aug 2023	Re-accredited
<b>3 Zambia</b>				
		Levy Mwanawasa Teaching Hospital, Lusaka	1 Sep 2018 – 31 Aug 2022	Re-accredited
		Livingstone General Hospital, Livingstone	1 Sep 2018 – 31 Aug 2022	Re-accredited
		Ndola Central Teaching Hospital, Lusaka		
		University Teaching Hospital, Lusaka	9 April 2018 – 9 April 2022	Re-accredited

Number	Country	Training sites	Date of accreditation	Status of accreditation
4	Uganda	Lira Regional Referral Hospital, Lira	1 Sep 2019 – 31 Aug 2023	Pending Re-accredited
		Mengo Hospital, Kampala	1 Sep 2019 – 31 Aug 2023	Re-accredited
		St. Francis Hospital, Nsambya, Kampala	1 Sep 2019 – 31 Aug 2023	Re-accredited
5	Malawi	Kamuzu Central Hospital, Lilongwe	1 Sep 2018 – 31 Aug 2022	Pending Re-accreditation
		Queen Elizabeth Central Hospital, Blantyre	1 Sep 2018 – 31 Aug 2022	Pending Re-accreditation
<b>New training sites</b>				
1	Zambia	Nchanga South Mine Hospital, Chingola	N/A	Accredited
		Nkonkola Mine Hospital, Chililabombwe	N/A	Accredited
1	Tanzania	Mbeya Zonal Referral Hospital (MZRH), Mbeya	N/A	Pending accreditation
2	Uganda	Rubaga Hospital, Kampala		Pending accreditation

## 2024 ECSACOP trainees actively training by site

Training site	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Totals
1 Harare Central Hospital	4	6	3	0	13
2 Queen Elizabeth Central Hospital (QECH)	2	4	2	0	9
3 Kamuzu Central Hospital	2	1	1	4	8
4 Nsambya Hospital	0	1	2	0	3
5 Lira RR Hospital	0	0	0	0	0
6 Mpilo Central Hospital	2	4	3	2	11
7 Moi TR Hospital	2	1	4	3	10
8 Coast GTR Hospital	5	4	3	3	15
9 Mater Hospital	2	2	2	4	10
10 Mengo Hospital	4	1	0	0	5
11 Levy Mwanawasa Teaching Hospital	0	2	0	0	2
12 Ndola Central Hospital	1	3	0	1	5
13 University Teaching Hospital	0	2	0	0	2
14 Livingstone Central Hospital	0	0	0	0	0
15 Parirenyatwa Hospital	0	0	0	0	0
16 United Bulawayo Hospitals	0	0	0	0	0
17 Kenyatta University TRR Hospital	4	4	2	0	10
18 The Karen Hospital	2	2	0	0	4
19 Jaramogi Odinga Teaching and Referral hospital (JOOTRH)	2	4	0	0	6
20 Defence Forces	2	0	0	0	2
21 Nchanga South Mine Hospital	0	0	0	0	0
22 Nkonkola Mine Hospital	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>114</b>

# Training of clinical supervisors

ECSACOP clinical supervisors play a central role in the supervision and delivery of the ECSACOP training programme. Clinical supervisors provide regular day-to-day teaching, mentoring and supervision of trainees. In order to prepare them for this vital role, the College provides a structured 2–3-day workshop during which physicians are taken through the fundamental basics of clinical supervision. The themes covered during these workshops include:

- the mission and strategic vision of the College
- the ECSACOP curriculum and the difference between a time-based and competency-based curriculum
- the ECSACOP assessment framework
- the importance of feedback and ongoing support to trainees
- the principles of effective mentorship



Training of clinical supervisors at Jaramogi Oginga Odinga Teaching and Referral Hospital

# Faculty development (status of the training of trainers' (TOT) model)

The ECSACOP faculty development programme employs a 'training of trainers' model that is centred on engaging master trainers to prepare physicians in their roles as clinical supervisors. In 2024, ECSACOP, in collaboration with the Uganda Association of Physicians, and with support from the Royal College of Physicians, planned to host a 'training of trainers' workshop in Kampala, Uganda which did not materialise due to limited funding. The College is working to ensure that a future training can be conducted in Mombasa, Kenya. The workshop is anticipated to accommodate a total of 40 physicians from the accredited training sites in the five member countries.

The 2-day workshop usually employs different modes of delivery, including:

- interactive participatory sessions
- virtual pre-recorded sessions
- PowerPoint presentations
- break-away focus groups
- experience sharing

## Delivery of training

The FCP (ECSA) qualification is awarded through instruction and examinations. A large component of training is work-based, under the supervision of clinical supervisors. Workplace-based assessments (WBAs) take place throughout to allow trainees to continually gather evidence of learning and to provide formative feedback. These WBAs are used in the assessment of knowledge, skills and attitudes, as well as to monitor progress and provide guidance on areas for improvement. Despite the challenges of the pandemic and disruptions to healthcare across the globe, ECSACOP trainees were able to continue their training and adapt to virtual learning.

## E-learning

The College offers a virtual learning environment (VLE) platform that is an important tool in facilitating training in various ways, including:

- formative assessment tools and other key training documents
- an e-Portfolio (e-log book) training record which trainees use to present evidence in an organised way to enable the training director and the relevant College committees to determine whether satisfactory progress is being achieved
- access to an online library including e-textbooks, journals and other clinical reference resources.

ECSACOP trainees interact across the five countries through weekly case-based discussions hosted by local experts from the ECSACOP region. These virtual sessions provide a platform for trainees to connect, present clinical cases and share practices at their various hospitals under the guidance of an expert. The college extends appreciation to all local experts who have responded positively to host the weekly case-based discussions. In addition to the clinical and virtual learning, the College through its partnership with DeckerMed, has continued to provide trainees with high-quality internal medicine content to supplement clinical, virtual and peer learning through the weekly curriculum resource.

# Learning schedules

## ECSACOP case-based discussion schedule (June – August 2024)

Date	Topic	Training site	Content expert / moderator	Case presenter
17 June	Principles of cardio –respiratory arrest	Ndola Teaching Hospital	Dr Peter Kavuma Dr James Kayima	Dr Elias Kangwa
24 June	The patient in shock (Sepsis)	Mpilo Central Hospital	Dr Erasmus Okello Dr Agaba Peter	Dr Awar Majok
1 July	Approach to the patient with joint pains and joint swelling (Rheumatology)	Coast General Teaching and Referral Hospital	Dr Njobvu	Dr Arnold Luhumyo
8 July	Approach to the patient with asthma and COPD exacerbation	Mater Hospital	Dr Wincelas Katagira	Dr Zephania Oyugi
15 July	Approach to the patient with acute kidney injury	Queen Elizabeth Central Hospital(QUECH)	Dr Kenneth Kapembwa	Dr Moustapher Sande
22 July	Approach to the patient with CKD	Kamuzu Central Hospital	Dr Ogavu Joseph	Dr Matthews Mulenga
29 July	Management of acute coronary syndromes	University Teaching Hospital	Dr Mark Dixon	Dr Richard Joseph Ngulube
5 August	Approach to the patient with pulmonary embolism	Harare Central Hospital	Dr Mateyo	Dr Kanoerera P Kusuta
12 August	Approach to the patient with delirium tremens	Levy Mwanawasa Teaching Hospital	Dr Erasmus Okello	Dr Kristo Chanda
19 August	Approach to the patient with hematemesis	Kamuzu Central Hospital	Prof Kumwenda Johnstone	Dr Faith Ellah Nyirongo
26 August	Approach to the patient with severe headache	Mpilo Central Hospital	Dr Gift Ngwende	Dr Enia Chitiyo

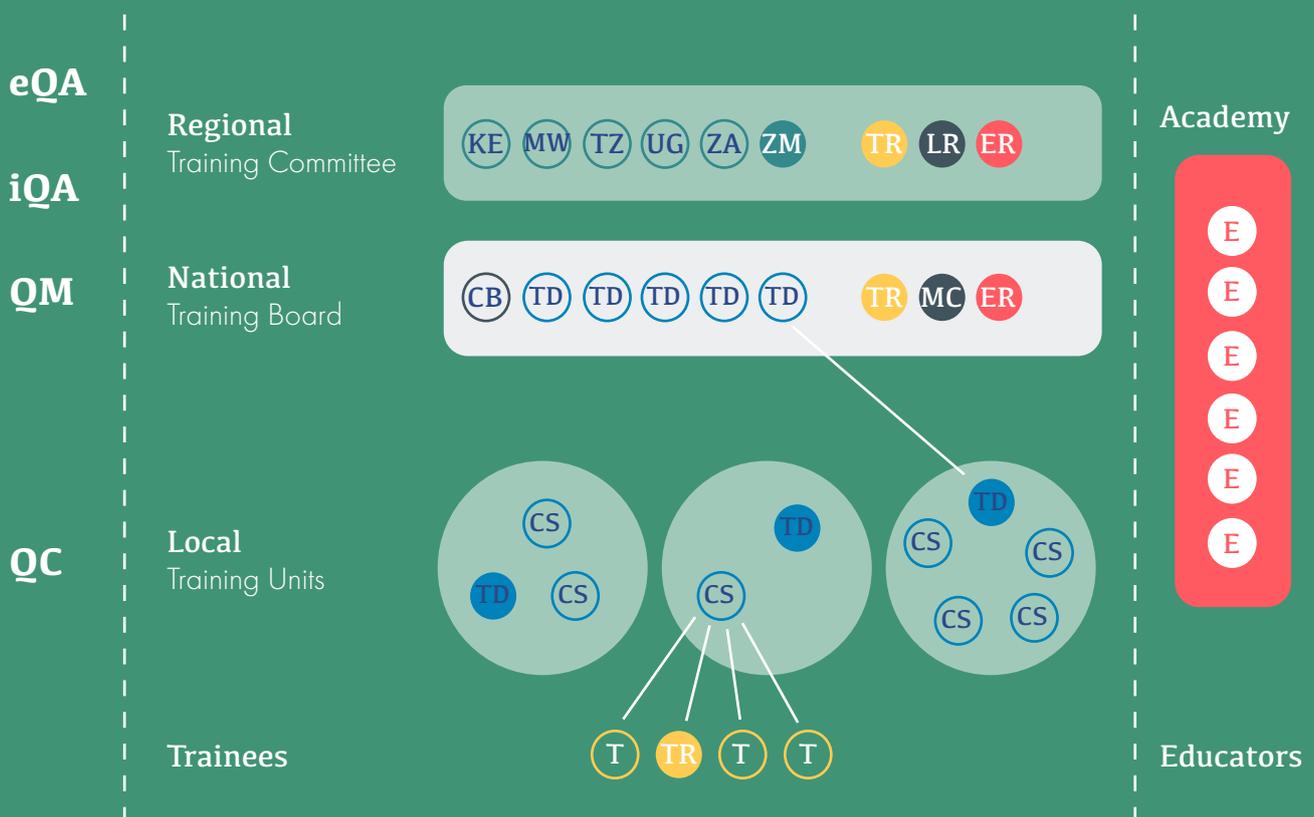
# The annual review of competency progression

The annual review of competence progression (ARCP) is the formal method by which a trainee's progression through the training programme is monitored and recorded. ARCP is not an assessment – it is the review of evidence of training and assessment. The national training boards in the five countries are responsible for organising and conducting ARCPs and forwarding the results to the Training Committee at agreed intervals. The College extends its appreciation to the national training boards for their cooperation and dedication towards the success of the programme so far.

## Review of quarter one assessments 2024

- CBD – 81 entries out of 81 (Year 2,3,4)
- ACAT – 84 entries out of 115 (All years)
- MINICEX – 84 out of 115 (All Years)
- QSAR – 84 entries out of 115 (All years)

### The ECSACOP training model



# Collaborations

## The Royal College of Physicians (RCP) London

The College has strengthened existing collaborations with the RCP and through a Tripartite Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) that came into effect in 2021. The MoU outlines the principles governing the working partnership between the ECSACOP, IDI and the RCP London. The RCP continues to support the College's fundraising activities, as well as playing a key role in the College faculty development programme. In 2024, the RCP provided financial support for the College's clinical examination process, and was part of the 9th Annual Scientific Conference activities.

## West African College of Physicians (WACP)

The West African College of Physicians, established in 1976, is an association of medical specialists in community health, family medicine, internal medicine, laboratory medicine, paediatrics and psychiatry. The College's formal engagements with the West African College of Physicians, through a MoU outlining the terms of partnership, have seen Professor Victor Ansa play a great advisory role as an external examiner in various college clinical examinations, including the recently concluded exam in 2024. The two colleges have committed to establish close collaboration in all relevant fields including training and teaching activities, examinations, assessment, monitoring standards and appraisal.

## Infectious Diseases Institute (IDI)

ECSACOP's secretariat is currently housed within the Infectious Diseases Institute's HQ on the Makerere campus in Kampala, Uganda. ECSACOP benefits from IDI's expertise, networks and technical support. We also utilise IDI's financial, IT and human resource functions. In addition to hosting the college secretariat, the IDI hosts the college accounts and ensures that funds received are transferred in their entirety and in a timely manner. Through the IDI, ECSACOP is subjected to an annual audit process to ensure transparency and proper stewardship of funds

## ECSA-HC

The East, Central and Southern African Health Community (ECSA-HC) is an inter-governmental health organisation that fosters and promotes regional cooperation in health among member states. Member states of the ECSA health community are Kenya, Lesotho, Malawi, Mauritius, Swaziland, United Republic of Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia and Zimbabwe. In the previous year, the ECSA-HC spearheaded various initiatives to ensure that the college prepares its annual workplan and annual report – both of which are critical in the college's day-to-day operations. There have also been discussions about training the secretariat's workers in website maintenance and functionality, which the College truly appreciates.

## College of Surgeons of East, Central and Southern Africa (COSECSA)

The College of Surgeons of East, Central and Southern Africa (COSECSA) is an independent body that fosters postgraduate education in surgery and provides surgical training throughout the region of East, Central and Southern Africa.

## National Associations of Physicians

The National Associations of Physicians in our six member states (Uganda, Kenya, Tanzania, Zimbabwe, Malawi and Zambia) are our principal collaborators when it comes to the identification and recruitment of training sites and trainers, curriculum design, accreditation and quality control. The national associations are also instrumental in organising the College's annual scientific conferences.

The Uganda Association of Physicians deserves special recognition for organising the 9th Annual Scientific Conference in Uganda, which took place at the Mestil Hotel and Residences in Nsambya on 29–31 August 2024. The 9th Annual ECSACOP scientific conference brought together over 170 scientists, physicians, physicians-in-training, policymakers and practitioners mainly from East, Central and Southern Africa, as well as attendees from across the globe. The main themes of the conference revolved around patient-centred approaches in healthcare delivery, new innovations in clinical care, emerging disease outbreaks, use of data science in clinical care, and geriatric-centred care in Sub-Saharan Africa.



Panellists discussing key issues relevant to collaborative, equitable and enhanced health care delivery in Sub-Sahara Africa on 30 August



The Associations of Physicians have also played a critical role in ensuring that the In - country site re-accreditation processes and the running of In - country FCP Part I examinations are fully arranged, delivered and marked by examiners supplied from the Associations of Physicians.



Trainees and examiners pose for a photo after the FCP Part I examinations in Zimbabwe.

## Specialists societies

**British specialist societies:** The College continues its engagement with British specialist societies, including the British Society of Haematology and British Infectious Association. Areas include CPD and curriculum adaptation.



Right to left: Dr Joanna Whittington – president BIA, Professor James Jowl – president ECSACOP, Professor Mumtaz Patel – president RCP, Dr Tamara Phiri – registrar ECSACOP, and Dr. Apollo Epuwatt – Physician@Klinics of St. Francis Hospital at the 9th ECSACOP scientific conference.

**Novo Nordisk:** There exists a MOU with NovoNordisk to provide diabetic modules. The diabetic modules were not conducted in 2024 because certain modules were deemed irrelevant to the trainees and were removed. The training committee will determine which modules will be provided to the trainees in future.

# Academy of Educators

The ECSACOP Academy of Educators serves as the principal quality assurance organ of the College. The Academy determines the level of attainment that defines a fellow of the College at any given time and provides direction in setting standards of training and evaluation. The academy has been established as part of the operationalisation of ECSACOP's training model. Members of the Academy of Educators are nominated by their respective physician associations.

The College extends deepest appreciation to the members of the academy for the unwavering support and dedication to their duties.

## Proposed regulations governing the award of ECSACOP fellowship by nomination

### 1.1 Introduction

Membership of the East, Central and Southern Africa College of Physicians (referred to as the College) is open to eligible physicians of the East, Central and Southern African (ECSA) community. This by-law document is intended as a guideline to all stakeholders regarding the award of ECSACOP fellow by nomination.

This document should be read in conjunction with the College constitution, as well as existing regulations and by-laws.

Items stated in this by-law document may be changed by majority vote of council.

The College reserves the right to revise/amend these regulations and shall not be liable for varying representations of the same.

### 1.2 Mission and vision of the college

#### **Vision statement:**

Healthy communities through access to well-trained physicians.

#### **Mission statement:**

To improve standards of healthcare throughout the region by providing specialist training for physicians committed to life-long learning.

Physicians who wish to join the College membership must demonstrate a commitment to the mission and vision.

### 1.3 Disclaimer

- i. These regulations only pertain to the admittance of new members/fellows to the College by nomination.
- ii. Only physicians whose countries of origin have been granted membership to the College are eligible for fellowship.
- iii. Individual physicians wishing to become fellows of the College and subsequently use the FCP (ECSA) nominal must fulfil all the criteria outlined in this document.

### 1.4 Eligibility for nomination

The following criteria will be met by all prospective candidates to be considered for fellowship by nomination:

- i. A registered physician in any of the ECSACOP member states.
- ii. Resident in the ECSACOP members states.
- iii. Successfully subjected to a peer review by a formally appointed Fellowship Review Panel.
- iii. Individual physicians wishing to become fellows of the College and subsequently use the FCP (ECSA) nominal must fulfil all the criteria outlined in this document.

### 1.5 Constitution of the Fellowship Review Panel

- i. The Fellowship Review Panel shall comprise of two members nominated by the Association of Physicians in the respective member states.
- ii. The term of office of the Fellowship Review Panel shall be 3 years.
- iii. Members of the Fellowship Review Panel will hold a maximum of two terms in office.

## 1.6 The fellowship nomination process

The process of fellowship nomination shall be as follows:

- i. A letter of nomination and motivation will be submitted to the ECSACOP secretariat office by a proposer. The nomination must:
  - a. be signed by the president of the local Association of Physicians affirming that the nominee is a member of the Association of Physicians.
  - b. Be accompanied by the curriculum vitae of the candidate.
  - c. Be endorsed by two existing fellows of the college from any of the member states
- ii. The ECSACOP Fellowship Panel shall consider the application at a scheduled panel meeting with the following accompanying tasks:
  - a. The panel shall, on behalf of the College, undertake due diligence to ensure that the requirements stated in section 1.6 (i) above are met.
  - b. The panel shall, on behalf of the College, undertake due diligence to ensure the authenticity of all documentary evidence provided by the applicants in fulfilment of the requirements stated in section 1.6 (i) above.
  - c. The panel shall deliberate on the application, which should receive at least more than 75% of affirmative votes by sitting panel members.
  - d. Following a favourable consideration of the application, the panel shall recommend the application for consideration of membership by the council at the next meeting.
- iii. Membership shall become effective on the date that the application is approved by council.
- iv. The new member shall be issued a membership certificate upon payment of the membership fee in the amount of 250 USD.
- v. Non-successful applicants will receive notice of the same within 21 days of the decision of council.

## 1.7 Termination of membership

Membership may be terminated on the grounds of any behaviour by the physician that is likely to bring the College into disrepute.

# Key calendar events

Training Committee meeting dates (2025):

- 2 January
- 12 March
- 7 May
- 25 June
- 1 October

## Key annual calendar events

Activity	Date	Responsible committee
FCP Part I OSCE (In country and in person)	5 August 2025	Examinations
2-day clinical supervisors training	25–26 August 2025	Training
FCP II OSCE (In person)	26 August 2025	Examinations
Examinations Board meeting	27 August 2025	Examinations
Send examination FCP I and FCP II exam results to candidates	27 August 2025	Examinations
Council meeting (In person)	27 August 2025	Council
Graduation	28 August 2025	All
Annual scientific conference (In Person)	28–30 August 2025	All
Annual General Meeting	31 August 2025	All
19 August	Approach to the patient with hematemesis	Kamuzu Central Hospital
26 August	Approach to the patient with severe headache	Mpilo Central Hospital
Submit quarterly financial report	30 August 2025	Secretariat



## For more information find us at

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