



Clinical editor, *Commentary* – role description and person specification

Reports to – academic vice president

Working hours – Time commitment required of approximately 4 hours per week on average, can be carried out remotely

Location – UK

Remuneration – Voluntary (eligible expenses reimbursed)

The purpose of your role

The Royal College of Physicians (RCP) represents a global community of physicians spanning every career stage from medical student to consultant. *Commentary*, the RCP's membership magazine, delivers news from the RCP, thought-provoking features of interest to clinicians and updates on the engagement of the RCP with the wider community.

As the clinical editor for *Commentary*, you will hold strategic clinical editorial responsibility and oversight for the magazine. You will focus on the development of features of interest for members and fellows, discussing commissioning ideas and providing input concerning the relevance and interest of topics to the readership.

- You will set editorial direction and strategy for *Commentary* in association with publishing staff and other senior colleagues
- You will chair the newly formed *Commentary* advisory group, ensuring that it functions effectively and maximising the contributions of members
- You will collaborate with editorial staff in an advisory capacity
- You will horizon scan to identify opportunities to develop new features and functionality to meet the needs of RCP members, fellows and other key audiences
- You will support ensuring best practice and governance is in place for *Commentary* publishing procedures, including transparency and inclusivity
- You will lead on the appointment of and, if required, mentor new members of the *Commentary* advisory group
- You will represent the magazine in the wider RCP
- You will help to develop the online magazine platform, to ensure alignment with membership and digital strategy
- You will contribute at a strategic and advisory level to the marketing and general promotion of the magazine as a member benefit
- You will foster contacts in the wider medical community to identify potential collaborations
- You will represent the magazine at conferences and other medical events
- You will adhere and comply with the provisions of the RCP's Health and Safety Policy
- You will undertake all duties and responsibilities in compliance with the rules and regulations encompassing equal opportunities

Applicants to the position must have a track record of strong leadership, excellent communication skills and creativity, and be able to demonstrate knowledge of the role of the RCP in UK and international medicine.



How we'll measure your success

- Engagement with the magazine: as measured by increasing page views
- Profile of the magazine: as measured by increasing global reach, membership / reader feedback

Your experience includes...

Essential

- Qualified as a doctor and working as a physician
- A member or fellow of the RCP
- Demonstrates knowledge of the role of the RCP in UK and international medicine
- Has a track record of strong collaborative leadership
- Possesses excellent interpersonal communication skills (written and verbal)
- Able to manage own workload and to work to deadlines
- Has experience of working interdependently within a team
- Interested in the new publishing possibilities offered by technological innovation
- Able to advise the publications team and communications department on wider clinical and membership issues

Desirable

- Previous experience writing / editing for a medical audience
- Experienced in coordinating successful multidisciplinary team working.

Board and committee membership

- *Commentary* advisory group
- Influencing Board

Tenure of post

3 years in the first instance, with the possibility of extending for a further 3 years by mutual agreement.

Appraised by

Academic vice president

Financial aspects

The post is not remunerated. Appointees can claim reimbursement of eligible expenses incurred in carrying out their roles, in line with RCP policy.

Departmental support

- The RCP comprises five directorates. *Commentary* sits within the RCP publishing team, in the Communications, Policy and Research Directorate (CP&R). The department is headed by an executive director. The academic vice president (AVP) is the RCP senior officer linked with the directorate. The clinical editor of *Commentary* reports to the AVP and has overarching responsibility for the RCP membership magazine. The in-house *Commentary* team comprises a full-time content and commissioning editor, supported by the head of corporate communications and publishing and the executive director of CP&R. In addition, the *Commentary* advisory group comprises approx 15 members representing the diverse RCP



membership, who support the commissioning of features that represent a broad spectrum of member voices. As a representative of the RCP, you are expected to comply with all RCP data protection and security policies and procedures, the code of conduct, and to show a commitment to the mission, vision and values of the RCP.

Our values

We are committed to **taking care**, **learning**, and **being collaborative**. These values drive the way we behave, how we interact with each other, and how we work together to achieve our vision and improve patient care.

We value taking care

This means we behave respectfully towards people, whatever their role, position, gender or background. It means we act as representatives of the RCP and take decisions in the interests of the organisation as a whole.

We value learning

This means we continuously improve through active learning and honest reflection, so that we grow personally and as an organisation, while striving for excellence. We support learning and development opportunities.

We value being collaborative

This means we work together towards the RCP's vision in a collaborative and professional way, understanding that individuals bring different strengths and approaches to our work. We value diversity and each other's contributions.

The Royal College of Physicians (RCP) believes that equality of opportunity is fundamental in whatever way individuals become involved with the RCP, whether as physicians, physicians-in-training or staff. It welcomes and actively seeks to recruit people to its activities regardless of race, religion, ethnic origin, disability, age, gender and sexual orientation. The RCP aims to reflect the diversity of its members in all its committee, senior roles and staff.

Reviewed: October 2025

Next review: To be reviewed annually as part of annual appraisal