

## 2025 Constitutional Changes

### 2. Objectives

#### Addition of our Mission

To promote the best clinical practice for people with colorectal diseases in Great Britain and Ireland through the provision of high quality patient care, education and research.

Strategic objectives

1. To act as the voice of coloproctology in Great Britain and Ireland, shaping and guiding current practice and policy, in collaboration with partner organisations and patients.
2. To develop, support and deliver the highest quality education and training in coloproctology.
3. To facilitate the engagement with and dissemination of research in coloproctology.
4. To improve the quality and outcomes of care for people with colorectal diseases.
5. To establish Colorectal Disease as the premier colorectal disease journal in the world.
6. To promote the safe adoption of AI, robotic and digital technology into colorectal surgery for patient benefit

### 6. Removal from the Membership List

Change from Council responsibility to Executive

#### Addition of Sanctions in a breach of the Code of Conduct (Appendix 13)

6.5 The ACPGBI promotes and enforces the standards specified within the Code of Conduct, adherence to which is deemed to constitute a condition of membership or appointed/elected role. Those individuals who are found to have breached the Code through non-compliance with any of its provisions may be subject to removal or suspension of membership or appointed / elected role.

6.6 If, on the basis of a completed investigation by an employer, the GMC or any other regulatory body or associated professional organisation, a member or organisation is found to no longer be in good standing with the ACPGBI, membership of the ACPGBI or appointed/elected role will be withdrawn.

6.7 Where an investigation by the GMC, any other regulatory body or associated professional organisation or employer is ongoing, the ACPGBI will withhold taking any formal decision until the investigation is completed and the outcome is known. Any members in elected roles, including the Executive and Council, may be stepped down from the role whilst the investigation is carried out, after ACPGBI Executive discussion. All decisions will be made by the ACPGBI Executive. Any action or outcome will be carried out with their full support.

### Events Code of Conduct

This document outlines our expectations of those participating in all events or event-like activities hosted by or on behalf of the Association of Coloproctology of Great Britain and Ireland (ACPGBI). It has been developed by the Royal College of Surgeons of England and adapted for use by ACPGBI with permission.

Participants include, but are not limited to speakers, chairs, attendees, staff, volunteers and sponsors at events and members of staff or representatives of venues or spaces being used by ACPGBI to conduct activities or events.

By agreeing to participate in and attending an event in person or online, all individuals agree to abide by this Events Code of Conduct and failure to comply will result in action by ACPGBI.

### Participation in events

#### Acceptable Behaviours

Acceptable behaviours include but are not limited to:

- treating everyone with kindness and integrity including fellow attendees, speakers, staff and volunteers
- demonstrating professionalism, being considerate, respectful and courteous to those in attendance
- respecting diversity of thought from fellow participants
- respecting individuals' protected characteristics<sup>1</sup> i.e. age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnerships, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex or sexual orientation and other characteristics
- being mindful of one's surroundings and fellow participants
- respecting the housekeeping requests of the venue where the meeting is being held
- respecting online meeting etiquette
- promptly alerting the event organisers if an individual notices a potentially dangerous situation or someone in distress
- intervening to help someone in danger or at risk from harassment or other poor behaviour, if safe to do so, and promptly alerting the event organisers
- reporting unacceptable behaviours to the event organisers
- demonstrating professionalism when using social media in relation to ACPGBI meetings and events and following GMC guidance <https://www.gmc-uk.org/-/media/gmc-site/ethical-guidance/mdg-2023/using-social-media-as-a-medical-professional-english.pdf>

All participants shall conduct their interactions at ACPGBI in compliance with all applicable laws, rules, and regulations. This includes the GMC's Good Medical Practice.

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<sup>1</sup> As defined by the Equality Act 2010: [Protected characteristics](https://www.equalityhumanrights.com/en/equality-act/protected-characteristics) | EHRC ([equalityhumanrights.com](https://www.equalityhumanrights.com))

## Unacceptable Behaviours

Unacceptable behaviours include but are not limited to:

- intimidating, harassing, abusive, discriminatory, derogatory or demeaning conduct, including conduct, both physical or verbal, intended to provoke
- offensive verbal comments, including, but not limited to, comments relating to protected characteristics: i.e. age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnerships, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex or sexual orientation.
- inappropriate use of nudity e.g. sexual or lewd images
- intimidation, stalking, inappropriate or unwelcome advances
- harassing photography or recording
- inappropriate or unwelcome physical contact or verbal advances
- sexual misconduct of any kind
- intentional disruption of the event, e.g. during presentations, networking, refreshment breaks
- physical, written, verbal or other abuse e.g., threats, annoyance, pushing, shoving or physical force whatsoever against any person, which in any way creates a disturbance that is disruptive or dangerous, or creates anxiety or apprehension in an individual
- boisterous, lewd or offensive behaviour or content such as profanity, obscene gestures or slurs
- possession of any item that can be used as a weapon, which may cause danger to others if used inappropriately
- possessing alcoholic beverages in areas not specifically designated for the consumption of alcohol
- possessing any illegal substance such as narcotics
- being under the influence of substances, alcohol or drugs, to the point of unseemly intoxication

## Making a Complaint

The ACPGBI takes all complaints and allegations regarding breaches of the Code of Conduct seriously

All participants in any role at ACPGBI events are encouraged to be active bystanders. Any participant who thinks they have experienced or seen activity which violates the letter or spirit of this Events Code of Conduct, should speak to a member of the ACPGBI administrative team who will escalate this as appropriate. For guidance on being an active bystander visit <https://www.breakingthesilence.cam.ac.uk/prevention-support/be-active-bystander>

Breaches of the ACPGBI Code of Conduct can be reported by contacting the administrative team at [admin@acpgbi.org.uk](mailto:admin@acpgbi.org.uk)

## Investigations

The ACPGBI will reserve the right to report allegations of sexual misconduct, including sexual harassment and other forms of bullying and harassment made against a member, to the alleged perpetrator's employer so that, where appropriate, an investigation can be conducted under the terms of employment. For the purposes of such investigations, the ACPGBI will cooperate fully with the relevant Investigating Officer.

## Consequences of breaking the code at a meeting

We expect participants to follow this Events Code of Conduct at any ACPGBI event. The policy may be revised at any time by ACPGBI.

Unacceptable behaviour will not be tolerated. Anyone engaged in unacceptable behaviour as defined in this code, is subject to expulsion from the event.

If it is decided that an individual should leave an event, this decision will be conveyed by a member of the administrative team. This will be non-negotiable, and any fees paid to the organisation will not be returned.

ACPGBI will enforce this code and expect cooperation from all participants to help promote a safe and enjoyable experience for everyone. ACPGBI is committed to diversity, equality and inclusion, and to providing a safe and productive environment that fosters open dialogue and the free expression of ideas, free from harassment, discrimination and hostile conduct.

We recognise a shared responsibility to create and maintain that environment for the benefit of all. We are committed to a culture in which there is zero tolerance for bullying and harassment including sexual harassment or misconduct of any kind.

## Sanctions including withdrawal of membership

The ACPGBI promotes and enforces the standards specified within this Code, adherence to which is deemed to constitute a condition of membership or appointed/elected role. Those individuals who are found to have breached the Code through non-compliance with any of its provisions may be subject to removal or suspension of membership or appointed / elected role.

If, on the basis of a completed investigation by an employer, the GMC or any other regulatory body or associated professional organisation, a member or organisation is found to no longer be in good standing with the ACPGBI, membership of the ACPGBI or appointed/elected role will be withdrawn.

Where an investigation by the GMC, any other regulatory body or associated professional organisation or employer is ongoing, the ACPGBI will withhold taking any formal decision until the investigation is completed and the outcome is known. Any members in elected roles, including the Executive and Council, may be stepped down from the role whilst the investigation is carried out, after ACPGBI Executive discussion.

All decisions will be made by the ACPGBI Executive. Any action or outcome will be carried out with their full support.

## 27. Amendment to the Journal Committee

27.1 The Journal Committee shall:

- have a close supervisory, non-editorial role in its financial management, contracting, remuneration and other matters relating to the Journal.
- advise Council and the publishing house on appointments to the publishing team.
- advise Council on the appointment of Editorial-in-Chief.
- advise Council on responsibilities and tenure of Editorial team members.

27.2. Membership of the Journal Committee shall consist of the President who is the Chair, the Honorary Secretary, the Honorary Treasurer, the President-Elect and the President-in-Waiting of The Association and the Editor-in-Chief.

## Appendix 6 Changes to the EGS Committee so it mirrors other MCC sub-committees

### Terms of reference for the Emergency General Surgery Sub-committee

#### Purpose

Emergency surgery and its provision within Trusts is of paramount importance. The purpose of the Emergency General Surgery Committee (EGS) is to represent ACPGBI members ensuring that emergency colorectal surgery is performed to the highest standard and that their contribution to the generality of emergency surgery is similarly recognised. This group mirrors IBD, peritoneal malignancy and endoscopy committees that similarly report through MCC.

#### Interactions

The subgroup reports to ACPGBI Council and Executive through the MCC Chair.

The nursing Allied Professionals Group, The Royal College of Anaesthetists Representatives of NELA/PQUIP, AUGIS, ASGBI, BSG

Charities and patient support groups Commissioning bodies

#### Objectives

Representation of views of professional and patient groups in shaping strategy for emergency colorectal and general surgery.

Provision of oversight, direction, governance and promotion of emergency surgery-related databases, audits, research and initiatives.

Address issues related to training and the performance of emergency colorectal surgery by non-specialists. Collaboration with other bodies and charities with shared interest in Emergency surgery, including but not limited to NELA and PQUIP.

#### Membership

The committee will consist of 6 members (a Chair and 5 elected members). The committee will be voted by Council following submission of an abridged CV. The Chair will be appointed by the members of the subcommittee. All members should be currently involved in the provision of emergency general/colorectal surgery in their Trusts. Three-year terms are encouraged to ensure continuity.

A patient representative will be nominated by the Patient Liaison Group. A trainee representative will be appointed by the Dukes 'Club. Other co-opted members will be recruited as required.

#### Accountability

The chair of the subcommittee will report to the Chair of the MCC.

### Meetings

Meetings will be held twice each year. At least one face-to-face meeting is encouraged each year either at the annual meeting of ACPGBI or at the Royal College of Surgeons of England in London with teleconferencing available. Other meetings will be held by teleconference. The agenda will be coordinated by the Chair and Honorary Secretary, but any member of the subcommittee may propose items for the agenda if the Chair agrees.

**Reimbursement of expenses** The ACPGBI will reimburse reasonable day travel expenses and second-class rail fares. Overnight accommodation and subsistence will not be covered.

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