

Members are medically qualified physicians, or doctors whose work is related to medical specialties.

5. The Fellows collectively form the corporate body of the College, and have rights and responsibilities which include the ability to vote on Bye-Law changes, to vote for the President and other Officers, and to be elected to Offices. There are approximately 9,000 Fellows, world-wide. New Fellows are elected each year by Council of the College, and except in certain particular categories the overwhelming majority have previously passed the Membership examination (see below). Fellows in active practice pay an annual subscription, and are involved in the running and communication processes of the College. They may use the post-nominal letters FRCP (Fellow of the Royal College of Physicians).
6. In addition to the Fellows, the College has approximately 7,000 active Collegiate Members. These are physicians who have not yet been elected to the Fellowship, but have passed the Membership examination. Approximately 50% of those who pass the Membership examination choose to become Collegiate members. By paying a subscription and registering as Collegiate Members, they are able to play a role in the activities of the College, including representation on the Council of College. As a result, they have rights and responsibilities although these are different in detail and scope from those of the Fellows. There is no qualification abbreviation which a Member may use to designate Collegiate Membership.
7. The principal examination of the College is the Membership of the Royal College of Physicians examination, generally known as MRCP(UK). This Membership examination is sponsored by this College jointly with the Royal College of Physicians of Edinburgh

and the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Glasgow. Candidates who have successfully passed the MRCP(UK), and then paid a diploma fee, are entitled to style themselves MRCP(UK), but do not necessarily have further active contact with the College, unless they choose to become Collegiate Members. It is, therefore, a qualification status rather than an indicator of continued involvement, although this policy is currently subject to review. Throughout the period of interest to the Inquiry it, alongside a few recognised alternates, has been a mandatory pre-requisite for commencing Specialist Training.

### **Sources of Funding**

8. The College has five main sources of funding. These are Membership and Fellowship subscriptions, examination fees, Department of Health grants in aid, investment income, and income from the letting of facilities for conferences and similar meetings. The College is a registered charity, and publishes its accounts annually.

### **Entry to and Membership of the Profession**

9. Membership and Fellowship are generally recognised as levels of professional status. They are not compulsory for employment in relevant posts, but they are commonly accepted as evidence of professional achievement, progression, and status. MRCP(UK) is a recognised route of entry to Specialist Training at Registrar level and is now a sine qua non for entry to the specialties in internal medicine covered by the College.