

## Terms of Reference

# Register of Clinical Technologists Management Panel

### NOTE:

The Register of Clinical Technologists (RCT) was set up in 2000 (then called the Voluntary Register of Clinical Technologists) as a collaboration of three professional bodies supporting the statutory regulation of the Clinical Technologist profession: the Association of Renal Technologists (ART), IPEM and the Institution of Engineering and Technology (IET). The RCT is now integrated into IPEM business, and managed by the RCT Management Panel, a sub-committee of the Professional and Standards Council, with partners operating under Memoranda of Understanding. The word 'Voluntary' was removed from the name of the Register in 2014 as it was seen as unhelpful to the Register's aim.

The aim of the register is to protect the public by setting standards for the training, competence and conduct of clinical technologists. Once accepted onto the register, after completing an approved training course or through an equivalence route, registrants are required to pay an annual renewal fee and confirm each year that they are carrying out continuing professional development (CPD) and that they will abide by the RCT Code of Professional and Ethical Conduct. The names of all registrants in good standing with the register (i.e. fees paid and not subject to any suspension or removal from the register) appear on a searchable online register on the RCT's website ([www.therct.org.uk](http://www.therct.org.uk)).

## 1 Purpose

The Panel is responsible for and will oversee the management of the Register of Clinical Technologists.

## 2 Functions

- 2.1 The Panel is responsible for and will ensure that RCT data, including the Register, is managed in a suitable manner which takes account of all legal and ethical issues which may prevail at the time.
- 2.2 The Panel is responsible for establishing a RCT Assessors' Group from within the Panel. The Group will be responsible for assessing and approving applications to join the Register of Clinical Technologists. Membership of the Group is restricted to RCT Registrants.
- 2.3 From time to time, the Panel is responsible for reviewing and updating the criteria for membership of the RCT including the entry criteria, the application form, application guidance notes, assessment criteria, other relevant documentation and the levels of the Registrant fees.
- 2.4 The Panel will ensure that an appropriate disciplinary procedure and code of professional conduct is in place and circulated to all Registrants of the RCT. The Panel will also ensure that there is a Professional Conduct Committee in place which acts appropriately to handle allegations of breaches of the code of professional conduct made against Registrants.
- 2.5 The Panel will actively promote registration with the RCT.
- 2.6 The Panel will actively promote the RCT and the desirability of statutory regulation, to Government, Government agencies and non-Governmental bodies, including the Department of Health, the Health and Care Professions Council, the Academy for Healthcare Science, the NHS, independent healthcare organisations, educational establishments, the medical device industry, other professional bodies and the voluntary registers of other professional colleagues.

## 3 Frequency and conduct of meetings

- 3.1 The RCT Management Panel meets 3 times a year, usually as set out below:

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Month	Key specific functions (in addition to other business)
February	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Review renewal of registration data</li> </ul>
June	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•</li> </ul>
October	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Set fees for following year</li> </ul>

- 3.2 A quorum is five members of the Panel which must include the Registrar or the Assistant Registrar.
- 3.3 The Registrar will chair all meetings of the Panel. In the absence of the Registrar the Assistant Registrar shall chair the Panel.
- 3.4 The Chair shall ensure formal minutes are made of the meeting.

## 4 Communications, decision making and records

- 4.1 An electronic or paper copy of the agenda and agreed minutes and key papers for each meeting shall be:
- sent to all committee members
  - sent to the IPEM National Office for archiving
  - placed on the committee's workspace on the IPEM website
- 4.2 During a committee meeting the Chair opens a discussion and will seek to achieve a unanimous agreement on each action/decision. If consensus can not be reached then decisions may be made by a "show of hands" using a simple majority decision, subject to a quorum being present. The Chair has the casting vote if there is a tie.
- 4.3 When electronic communications and decision-making are required prior to the next committee meeting:
- a. the discussion / decision will usually be initiated by the Chair sending an electronic communication (eg Email) simultaneously to all committee members. The message may initially seek advice. All discussion responses should be sent "reply all".
  - b. When the Chair judges it to be appropriate (eg a consensus view appears to be emerging) a specific proposal will be circulated electronically to all committee members requesting a vote (agree/disagree/abstain) and a deadline for responses will be set (usually a minimum of 3 working days after the request). All decision responses will be sent to the Chair only. The Chair has the casting vote if there is a tie. The deadline for decision may be extended if fewer than the quorum have responded. The resulting decision will be formally noted at the next committee meeting.
  - c. The electronic discussion / voting may be run by another person, on behalf of the Chair, however the Chair remains responsible for ensuring that the decision-making process is transparent, robust and accessible by all committee members.
- 4.4 The Secretary shall ensure that:
- a. all the committee's website communications to the general public and members are informative and accurate and are prepared and approved in accordance with relevant IPEM and RCT policies.
  - b. the content of the committee's web-pages are updated in line with the editorial policy and regularly reviewed for accuracy (at least every six months).

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- 4.5 The Chair shall ensure that a brief report of the committee's activities is provided annually (usually in February) to the External Relations Manager in the National Office, and the Chair of the Committee in 5.1, for inclusion in IPEM's Annual Review.
- 4.6 The Chair will make the committee aware of issues relating to Data Protection to ensure that the committee complies with the IPEM Data Protection Policy.
- Any queries relating to Data Protection will be referred by the Chair of the committee to the Data Protection Officer.

## 5 Reporting arrangements

The RCT Management Panel reports directly to Professional and Standards Council.

## 6 Membership

The Panel shall consist of -

- The RCT Registrar
  - The RCT Assistant Registrar
  - Two IPEM members as designated by Professional and Standards Council
  - Named representatives of any other professional organisation participating in the management of the RCT under the terms of a Memorandum of Understanding. Each partner organisation shall have an equal number of seats on the panel as IPEM members.
  - Two representatives elected from the RCT Registrant body.
1. The Registrar and Assistant Registrar must be Full/Corporate Members of one of the partner professional bodies.
  2. The Panel will elect, from amongst its membership, the Registrar and the Assistant Registrar. Following such election the vacancy created in the Panel shall be filled by another from the successful candidate's professional body or the RCT Registrant body.
  3. The tenure of the Registrar and Assistant Registrar shall be three years. Both may stand for re-election. If they are not re-elected they will be required to stand down from the Panel following the end of the meeting in which the election was held.
  4. The tenure of the named external professional body representatives will be at the discretion of the individual professional bodies.
  5. The tenure of the Registrant Representatives shall be three years. Both may stand for re-election. There will be an open election amongst Registrants for the two Registrant Representative places. If either or both elect to stand for re-election and are not re-elected they will be required to stand down from the Panel immediately following the election.
  6. The Panel will appoint a Secretary.
  7. Each member of the Panel (including the Chair) will have one vote. In the event of a tied vote the chair will have the casting vote.

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8. From time to time others may be invited to attend meetings of the Panel as invited observers or to provide information. These may include: representatives of the partner professional bodies or the Registrant body. Such attendees shall have no voting rights.
9. All members of the Panel who are RCT Registrants must be fully paid up members of the VRCT. Any Panel member who fails to pay the required RCT Registrant fee on time will be excluded from membership of the Panel until the said fee is paid
10. All members of the Panel who are professional body representatives or required to be professional body members must be fully paid up members of that professional body. Any Panel member who fails to pay the required professional body fee on time will be excluded from membership of the Panel until the said fee is paid.
11. If the conduct of a member of the Panel comes under investigation by the Disciplinary Panel of the RCT, one of the partner professional bodies or their employer, they are required to stand down from the RCT Panel, without prejudice, until the investigation has been successfully concluded.

## 7 Sub-committees and working parties

- 7.1 The RCT Panel may set up working parties for a limited period to assist in fulfilling its role, subject to Professional and Standards Council approval. The Panel will provide the terms of reference for such working parties, ensure appropriate resources and review their output.