



RCR Lead for the National Emergency Laparotomy Audit (NELA)

Contributor candidate pack



The Royal College of Radiologists

01 Welcome



It's a pleasure to welcome you as you explore the opportunity to contribute to the work of the Royal College of Radiologists. I'm delighted that you're considering joining our committed community of professionals who contribute their time, skills and experience to support our work.

At the RCR, colleagues like you are absolutely vital to the work we do. You play a key role in helping us support excellence in medical imaging, interventional radiology and cancer treatment - both now and in the future. In contributing your time, expertise, and perspective, your involvement strengthens our impact and supports the delivery of safe, high-quality patient care, which sits at the heart of everything we do.

As a Contributor, you will help us deliver the College's strategic priorities, including providing excellent standards and guidance for the workforce, delivery of high-quality professional learning, and being recognised as the experts in our fields. Your insight and involvement help ensure that our specialties continue to grow in both strength and influence.

Many of our Contributors have told us they choose to give their time because they want to make a real difference to our specialties. And by getting involved, they've also found opportunities to build lasting professional networks and stay connected with peers across the UK and beyond. The same will be true for you.

We're proud to be a college that works in partnership with its members. Our Contributors bring energy, ideas, and commitment that shape our work and our future - and we are stronger because of it.

I look forward to the opportunity to work with you.

With warm wishes,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Stephen Harden". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a horizontal line underneath it.

Dr Stephen Harden

President of The Royal College of Radiologists

02 Role Summary

Role title:	RCR Lead for the National Emergency Laparotomy Audit (NELA)
Time Commitment:	The role requires approximately one to two hours per week, plus attendance at scheduled committee and NELA meetings throughout the year.
Location:	Meetings are held remotely or at the RCR, with occasional attendance at other relevant events as required.
Closing date for applications:	16 January 2025

Why this role exists

The National Emergency Laparotomy Audit (NELA) plays a critical role in improving outcomes for patients undergoing emergency abdominal surgery. As imaging is central to timely diagnosis and decision-making, high-quality acute abdominal CT reporting is essential to the success of the audit.

This role exists to provide strategic leadership and expert guidance in radiology-specific quality improvement, ensuring that imaging data is robust, consistent and used effectively to drive national change. The post-holder will support local Radiology NELA Leads, influence national practice and help shape the future direction of NELA through active involvement in the Clinical Reference Group.

Your impact

In this role, your leadership will directly influence the quality and consistency of acute abdominal CT reporting across the UK. By identifying areas for improvement, supporting local Radiology NELA Leads and guiding national quality improvement initiatives, you will help ensure that imaging contributes effectively to better patient outcomes in emergency laparotomy care.

Your work will shape national recommendations, inform the NELA Patient Report and strengthen collaboration between radiology and the wider clinical community. The impact of your contribution will be felt both in improved clinical pathways and in the enhanced visibility and value of radiology within this vital national audit.

03 Key responsibilities and requirements

As the RCR NELA Lead, you will provide national leadership for quality improvement in acute abdominal CT reporting, ensuring that imaging data within the National Emergency Laparotomy Audit is robust, consistent and clinically meaningful. You will review national NELA data to identify priorities for improvement and work closely with local Radiology NELA Leads to support, guide and promote high-quality radiology-led quality improvement projects across the UK.

You will represent the RCR within the NELA Clinical Reference Group, ensuring radiology is fully integrated into national discussions and developments, and you will contribute to the delivery of the next NELA Patient Report, including involvement in the writing and review of radiology-related content. You will also report relevant recommendations and developments back to the Clinical Radiology Audit and Quality Improvement Committee (CRAQIC).

To be successful in this role, you will bring excellent communication and interpersonal skills, with the ability to influence, support and collaborate effectively with colleagues across disciplines. You will have experience in audit and/or quality improvement methodology, with a proven record of delivering meaningful audit or QI activity in clinical radiology.

Applicants must be Members or Fellows of the RCR in good standing, resident in the UK and in active clinical practice, holding a current licence to practise. A commitment to the RCR's Code of Conduct and its conflicts of interest policy is essential, as is the ability to contribute consistently to national meetings and working groups.

Knowledge, qualifications and experience	Essential (E) or Desirable (D)
Member or Fellow of the RCR in good standing	E
Holds a current licence to practise in the UK	E
Active clinical radiology practice	E
Knowledge of audit and/or quality improvement methodology	E
Proven track record of delivering audit or QI activities	E
Experience of contributing to or leading clinical meetings	E
Understanding of national audit programmes (e.g., NELA)	D
Experience of supporting or coordinating multi-site QI projects	D

Skills and abilities	
A commitment to abide by the Contributor Code of Conduct .	E
Excellent interpersonal and communication skills	E
Ability to influence, support and engage colleagues	E
Ability to initiate, develop and maintain professional relationships	E
Strong organisational and time-management skills	E
Ability to interpret and utilise clinical audit data	E
Effective meeting management and chairing skills	D
Ability to represent the RCR in national forums	D

04 Commitment and conditions

Contributors at the RCR play a vital role in supporting the College's initiatives and driving its progress. Although our Contributor positions are undertaken on a voluntary basis, each role has optimal impact when Contributors dedicate sufficient time to fulfilling the responsibilities entrusted to them.

The total time commitment required for this role is approximately one to two hours per week. The Clinical Radiology Audit and Quality Improvement Committee meets three times a year, requiring a commitment of six half-day meetings. In addition, the role involves attendance at NELA meetings (two full days per year). The RCR NELA Lead may also be asked to represent the Faculty and the College at other relevant meetings, requiring up to one further day; where this is required, sufficient notice will be provided.



05 Support and benefits of the role

Support provided to the role

The RCR will offer you strong support, ensuring that you are informed, feel valued, and are equipped to fulfil your role.

This includes:

- information and administrative support provided by an RCR staff contact
- regular engagement opportunities with RCR staff and fellow Contributors,
- RCR's Contributor Officer, providing high-level support for all Contributors,
- the opportunity to attend induction sessions, providing you with all relevant information to fulfil your role effectively,
- the [Contributor Code of Conduct](#) and [Contributor Handbook](#), which provide reassurance around our expectations of conduct and personal integrity.

Benefits of the role



Networking with a diverse community of Fellows and experts



Clear progression pathways to more in-depth roles



Wide variety of roles tailored to individual interests



Opportunities to advance Clinical Radiology and Oncology and improve patient care



CPD points available for many roles



Dedicated staff contact for personalised support

06 Application process

How to apply

Please email a short CV and a brief statement outlining your relevant experience and your reasons for applying to audit_qi@rcr.ac.uk.

An appointment will be made following consideration of the submitted applications by the Medical Director, Professional Practice (Faculty of Clinical Radiology) and the Chair of the Clinical Radiology Audit and Quality Improvement Committee. Interviews are not expected to be required.

Closing date for applications: 16 January 2025.

If you have any questions about the role, please contact us at audit_qi@rcr.ac.uk.

Our commitment to Equality, Diversity, and Inclusion

We are committed to actively fostering an inclusive culture at the RCR. We uphold a commitment to building a Contributor group that reflects the diversity of our global community, and therefore we actively welcome applications from individuals from under-represented groups and diverse backgrounds. We are also dedicated to making reasonable adjustments, for example, offering documents in alternative formats to accommodate neurodiversity. If you would like to discuss this further, please contact the Contributor Officer: contributors@rcr.ac.uk

Important information for Contributors

- We encourage you to explore the [Contributor Code of Conduct](#) and [Contributor Handbook](#).
- We request that all applicants complete our [EDI Monitoring Form](#). The information you provide anonymously will help us to understand how our Contributor group represents a diverse range of experience, views and backgrounds. Please complete the form by clicking this link: [EDI Monitoring Form for Applicants to Contributor Roles](#)
- All data will be handled in accordance with our data protection policy and membership privacy notice.
- Please note that you may be required to complete a 'Declaration of conflict of interest' form.
- For more general queries about the role of an RCR Contributor, please email contributors@rcr.ac.uk



“It’s a great network of colleagues and individuals who share similar interests in education and training.”

“One of the best things I do! Great group of colleagues.”

“An opportunity to work with some inspirational individuals & learn a lot about our specialty.”

“I found it interesting, personally developmental and hugely collaborative.”

The Royal College of Radiologists
63 Lincoln's Inn Fields
London, WC2A 3JW, UK

The Royal College of Radiologists
is a Charity registered with the
Charity Commission No 211540.

© The Royal College of
Radiologists, October 2025.

