

ECSACOP ANNUAL REPORT 2020/21



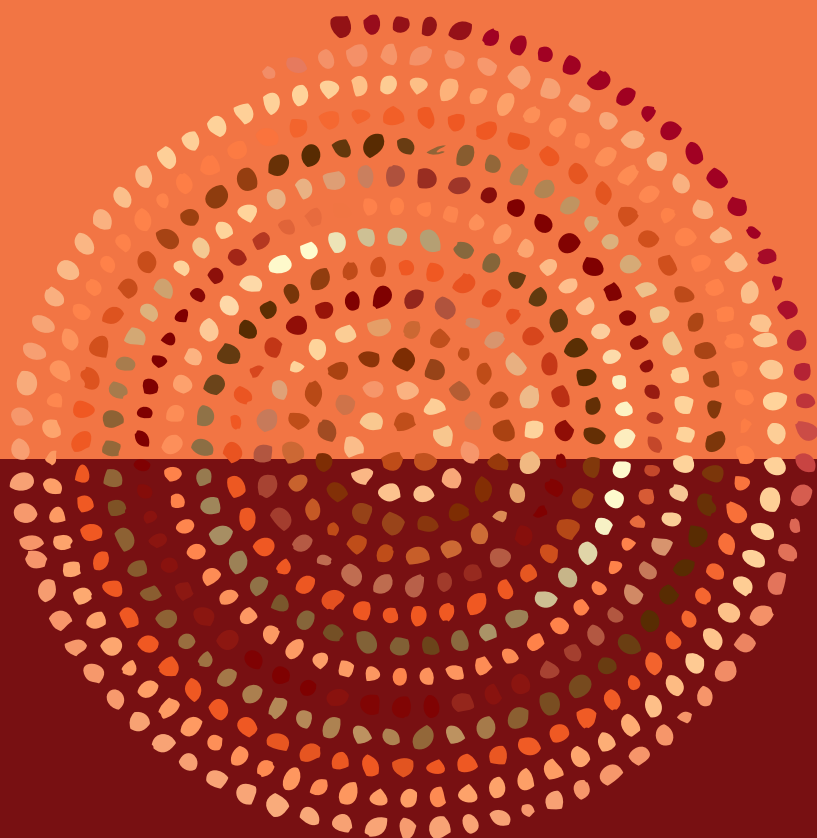
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The East, Central and Southern Africa College of Physicians (ECSACOP) is a professional training and membership organisation. It is a constituent college of the ECSA College of Health Sciences.

ECSACOP is responding to the variations in postgraduate training structure and content within the region. The College has developed a new internal medicine curriculum that encompasses the skills and competencies that physicians need to care for the health of their communities.

The training curriculum is delivered through an in-service, apprenticeship model in existing health facilities. Through this approach, ECSACOP will harmonise internal medicine training across the region, establishing regional standards and ultimately improving health outcomes for our population of more than 200 million people.



President's foreword

Greetings to ECSACOP fellows, friends and supporters of the College.

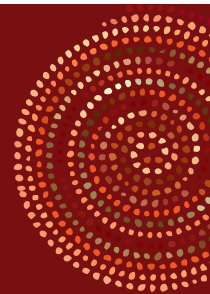
After navigating a period of uncertainty across the globe, I reflect on the past year (2020/21) with deep gratitude for the support that the College has received from its fellows, the national associations in the East, Central and Southern Africa (ECSA) member countries, partners and various stakeholders in the region and beyond. I would like to especially thank the ECSACOP clinical supervisors who are indispensable to the whole programme and perform this task without any remuneration. They provide excellent care and service across the region, and they continue to support trainees' learning activities/outcomes. I would also like to congratulate our trainees for the commitment to their growth as physicians through these uncertain times.

The COVID-19 pandemic has highlighted more than ever the value of working together as a community in order to overcome challenges as well as to maximise opportunities for the greater good. Over the past year, the College has continued to develop its virtual provision so that it could continue with uninterrupted delivery of core activity. Some of the key highlights of the year under review are illustrated on page 2.

The year has not been without its low moments, particularly the loss of friends and colleagues around the world, largely due to COVID-19. We lost, among many others, Professor James Gita Hakim, a member of the ECSACOP Academy, the College's principal quality assurance mechanism. Too many faculty members succumbed during this period, and we remember them fondly, and acknowledge their valuable contributions to the College and to the medical community at large. We take great comfort in the knowledge that James would absolutely expect us to continue in our efforts to deliver the vision of the College. May the souls of all our departed colleagues rest in eternal peace.



Innocent Gangaidzo
President, ECSACOP



In the face of the pandemic, we have lost many opportunities to gather in person in order to share ideas, clinical knowledge, and the fellowship that we have all so greatly enjoyed in the past. The ECSACOP Council and its committees have continued to hold meetings remotely, with the resultant challenge of sustaining the usual intensity of engagement. However, after a successful virtual conference last year, the College is looking ahead to another virtual conference in December 2021 with the theme 'Building resilience in health systems and exploring new frontiers beyond the COVID-19 pandemic'. The Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the College will also be held virtually this year to support wider information sharing and voting on important matters for the fellows of the College. As the world slowly returns to safe gatherings, we look forward to returning to an in-person conference and strategic meetings in 2022.

Many people have contributed to achievements of the College despite the harsh environment. I would like to especially recognise the work of the RCP Global team and the support of our donors. During the planning stages that preceded the rollout of the training curriculum, no one foresaw the pandemic and its impact on clinical care and training. This turbulent period continues to be a reminder of why the College exists: to scale up the output of well-trained physicians who are trained locally, and to translate this into improved care for our patients.

I believe that ECSACOP has a bright future ahead and will continue to play a pivotal role in addressing human resource requirements in the region and beyond.

I wish you all good health and growing success in the coming year.

Innocent Gangaidzo FRCP (London) FCP (ECSA)
President, ECSACOP

Key achievements



Regulatory approval was granted in Kenya, allowing for training to commence this year. Training is now taking place in five of the six member countries



The second FCP Part 1 examination was successfully held in four countries



Virtual case-based discussions and grand rounds took place online, rotating across training sites in the member countries



Continuous assessments of all trainees continued uninterrupted



A virtual 'Training of Trainers' session was successfully delivered to new and current clinical supervisors



Three new training sites were accredited in Kenya



Collaborative partnerships were extended, including with the Royal College of Physicians, WHO (AFRO Office) and DeckerMed Inc



Extensive improvements were made to the virtual learning environment to enhance its capabilities and content – including delivery of a 'weekly curriculum' and month-long modules



Over 300 ECSACOP fellows participated in COVID-19 capacity building webinars hosted by WHO resource experts

Training

In September 2020, the College admitted its third cohort of ECSACOP trainees in four countries. Applicants went through a rigorous selection process managed by the National Associations of Physicians with support from the College secretariat. In total, 17 trainees were admitted to the third cohort of the programme.

In September 2021, Kenya came on board with three newly accredited training sites:

- Moi Teaching and Referral Hospital
- Coast Provincial General Hospital
- Mater Hospital

This year, an additional 21 trainees were admitted in sites across ECSACOP's five member countries. As of September 2021, the College is managing four cohorts of trainees.

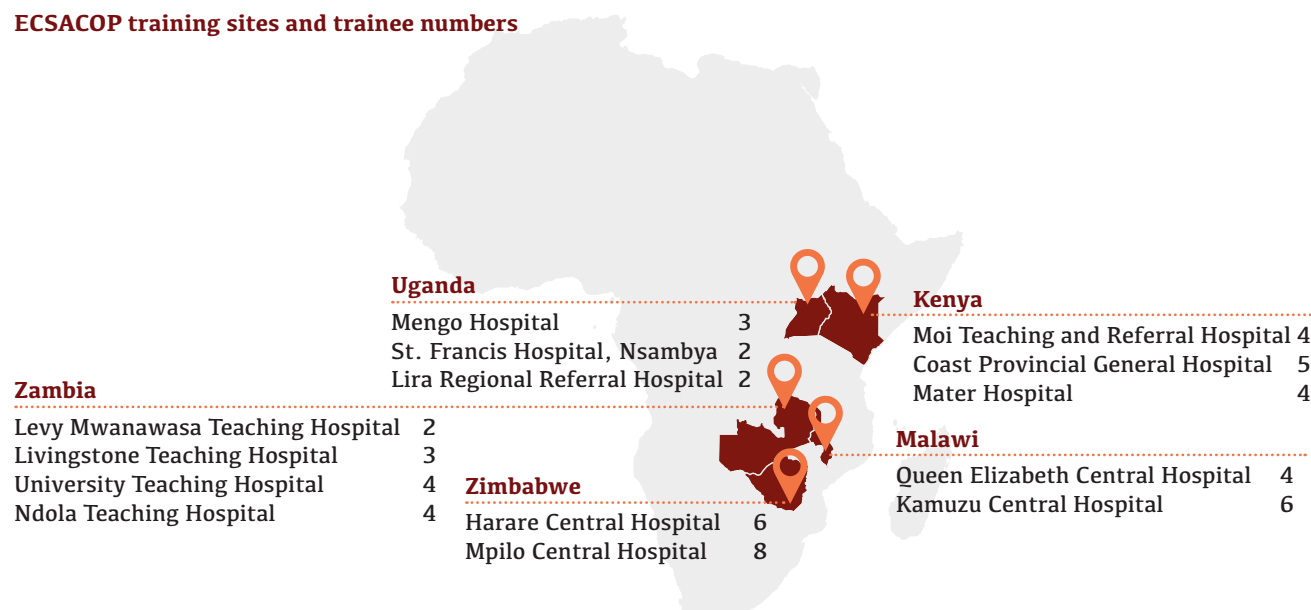
A total of 57 trainees are training in 14 operational training sites (as shown below).

The organisation of ECSACOP training remains workplace-based under the supervision of clinical supervisors with whom trainees work through assessments, which provide opportunity for continuous feedback. Through the National Training Boards (NTBs), the College continues to perform the Annual Review of Competence Progression (ARCP) to review evidence of training and assessment and make decisions on trainees' progression in the programme.

The virtual learning environment

The virtual learning environment (VLE) is the cornerstone of the College's digital learning approach and helps to supplement the learning that takes place in the ECSACOP training sites in each country. With many of the College's trainees and trainers engaged directly in providing clinical care during the pandemic, the VLE has become even more critical.

ECSACOP training sites and trainee numbers



Academy of Educators

The Academy of Educators continued to offer quality assurance for the training programme, despite travel restrictions that made physical site visits difficult. The Academy of Educators was involved in the quality assurance of the FCP exams, through an internal review of the papers, and participation in exam board meetings and national training board activities. The College would like to thank the Academy for their adaptive approach to work during this period.

ECSACOP FCP Part 1 examinations 2021

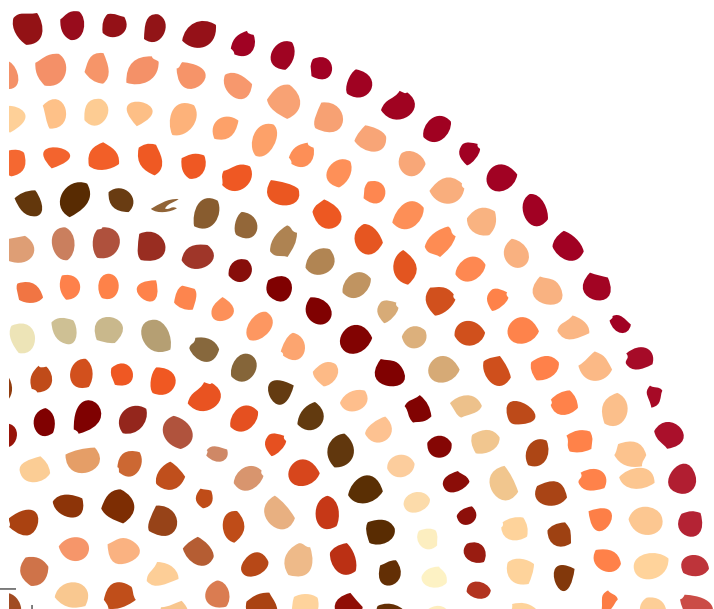
The College successfully conducted its second FCP Part 1 exam on 20 July 2021. Fourteen candidates from Zambia, Zimbabwe, Malawi and Uganda successfully took the examination. The exam was taken at five different centres in Bulawayo, Harare, Blantyre, Lusaka and Kampala.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the examination did not include a practical clinical component. However, the 2022 examinations will feature practical clinical examinations for both FCP Part 1 and Part 2.

The College congratulates its second cohort of trainees upon this successful achievement in their training journey.

Faculty development

In September 2021, ahead of the start of training, ECSACOP launched its first virtual Training of Trainers (ToT) course which was targeted at new and existing Faculty members. A needs assessment exercise was conducted ahead of the course to determine the topics of interest across the College's faculty. The online course comprised an online self-paced introductory segment which was hosted on the ECSACOP VLE. This part of the course covered the key concepts of being an ECSACOP clinical supervisor. A month later an interactive virtual session was held to support group discussion and experience sharing. The virtual session focused on how to give feedback, identifying and supporting underperforming trainees, how to perform the Annual Review of Competence Progression (ARCP) and a review of the role of the clinical supervisor.



Finances and fundraising

ECSACOP financial review 2020/21 Founding fellowship

The pandemic brought a halt to ECSACOP's physical activity and saw the College shift towards virtual events to support training and fellowship. This led to decreased expenditure in training and governance activities compared with previous years, such as ToTs, physical site visits for quality assurance and Council meetings. The operational costs of the College also registered a slight decrease compared with previous years. However, the highest proportion of expenditure went on this area due to the costs of maintaining the secretariat and general College operations throughout the year.

The statement of income and expenditure for the year ending June 2021 is shown below. Expenditure for the financial year 2020/21 closed at \$107,179, against a budget of \$201,150.

Statement of income and expenditure

For the year ending June 2021

INCOME (\$)

RCP grant funds*	156,338
ECSACOP fellowship subscriptions	4,854.43
WHO grant	20,000
Carry over funds	37,000
Trainee fees	11,210
TOTAL REVENUE	229,402.43

EXPENDITURE (\$)

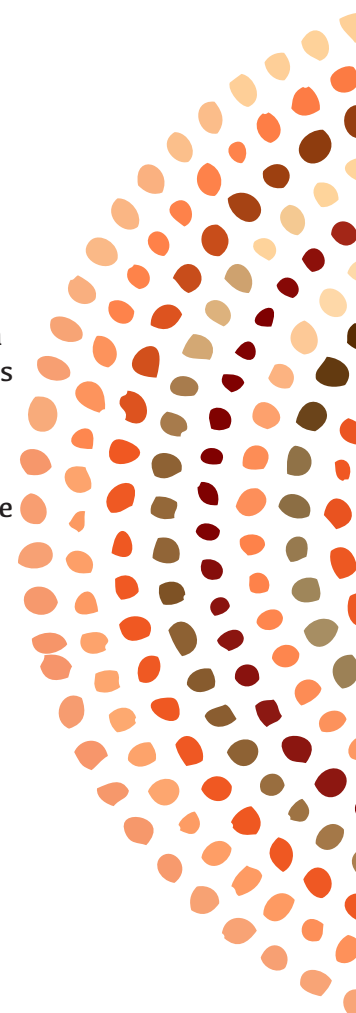
Operational costs	90,703.24
Development	400
Governance	2,519.90
Training	13,556.04
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	107,179.18

*RCP grant funds include consolidated sums received from external UK-based trusts and foundations

ECSACOP is currently functioning as a project within the IDI structures and as such our finances are included in their institutional audit process. IDI is currently audited by Deloitte.

Founding fellowship is open to all registered physicians in the region. In the last financial year, the founding fellows have continued to support the College financially through their annual subscriptions. By June 2021, ECSACOP had registered a growth rate of 6.6% in physician sign-ups in the region.

Staying connected to the College fellowship is a key priority and the secretariat sends out a quarterly newsletter to the fellowship to highlight key milestones and activities. Fellows and other stakeholders are also able to follow the College's latest news through the ECSACOP website at www.ecsacop.org.



Acknowledgements

The College would like to recognise the clinical supervisors and training directors, who, despite competing demands on their time, continue to give priority to the delivery of the programme and supervision of the trainees.

ECSACOP would like to express its sincere gratitude to the following partners and organisations for their ongoing commitment and support.

These include:

Royal College of Physicians (RCP)
Infectious Diseases Institute
Modiano Charitable Trust
RCP fellows and members through the Linacre Wall fundraising initiative
World Health Organization (AFRO Office)
Pfizer UK

Finally, a heartfelt thank you to the College fellowship who continue to support ECSACOP's growth through their diligent participation in College activities and renewal of their subscriptions. Their commitment allows the College to continue its work in the region.

East, Central and Southern Africa
College of Physicians (ECSACOP)

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Royal College
of Physicians

