

Dear Society and Faculty members,

As Presidents of the Society and Faculty, we recently met to discuss and reflect on the outcome of the vote.

In both organisations, approximately 60% of those who voted were in favour of forming a new single organisation. However, because the Society's constitution required a two-thirds majority the resolution was not carried. We need to recognize that the majority of those who expressed an opinion were 'for' the proposals whilst at the same time understand the concerns and needs of those who were opposed.

Irrespective of the outcome, there is clearly a need for the Society and Faculty to work together, to avoid unnecessary duplication, save costs and provide a unified voice to the external world.

We have therefore agreed that we will work together to explore the potential for:

- A shared exhibition stand at the 2015 NEC Health and Wellbeing @ Work event
- Forming a new joint Society-Faculty educational panel that is responsible for assessing the education and training needs of members, developing a shared strategic approach to the delivery of future national and regional CPD and considering the use of e learning and other innovations
- Joint annual scientific educational meetings
- Shared accommodation
- Joint operational efficiencies which provide for economies of scale
- Joint media statements and meetings with Government
- Working together on a coordinated recruitment drive to attract new doctors into the specialty and increase membership

We would like to thank all of the members who voted and also all of those who have been in touch since the vote with comments and ideas about the future direction of our two organisations and the specialty.

We both believe that we need to understand more about why people voted in the way that they did and to find out what members see as the strategic priorities for the Society and Faculty over the next five years. To this end, we will shortly be sending a further survey to members.

If you have any comments or ideas please get in touch to president@fom.ac.uk and/or president@som.org.uk.

Yours faithfully,

Dr Alasdair Emslie
President
Society of Occupational Medicine

Dr Richard Heron
President
Faculty of Occupational Medicine