



FRIDAY 27 NOVEMBER 2015

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Winter Conference Abstracts

We're just over two weeks away from the Faculty's conference on risk factors in occupational health, and what better way to get in the mood for it than to share some abstracts of the fascinating talks that will be taking place.

Dr Olivia Carlton – Occupational health risks in a large organisation

Dr Carlton's talk will cover occupational health risks old and new, the challenges of ensuring they are addressed appropriately in a large as opposed to a small organisation, the relationship with regulators and a consideration of the plus side of being large—organisationally speaking! The discussion will also cover the role of fitness for work assessment in a safety critical environment and consider how much this actually contributes to the management of risk.

Professor Jane Ogden – Obesity

Obesity is on the increase mostly due to overeating and lack of exercise in response to an obesogenic environment. Prof Ogden will explore the causes, consequences and solutions to obesity, with a focus on the possible triggers to weight gain and facilitators of weight loss within the workplace.

Professor Ralph Fevre – Workplace aggression and bullying

Studies of ill-treatment in the workplace suggest that, in the aggregate, risks to people's physical and mental health are often far greater than studies of workplace bullying suggest. These risks are particularly high in a minority of

'troubled workplaces' but they are also generally much higher for employees with disabilities and long-term health problems. Occupational health professionals can play a key role in reducing ill-treatment for these employees.

Professor Jane Armitage – Cardiovascular disease

Prof Armitage will discuss the burden of cardiovascular disease in the working population, the major risk factors and what Occupational Physicians might need to know. The talk will also give some background to the controversy about the use of statins for prevention of coronary disease.

I hope those tidbits have whetted your appetite for the conference, which will be taking place at the Wellcome Collection in London on December 15. But wait, there's more! We'll also be treated to talks from **Prof Sir Cary Cooper** on workplace stress, **Dr Karen Walker-Bone** on musculoskeletal disorders and **Prof John Taylor** on intellectual and developmental disabilities.

Tickets are available from the [Faculty website](#), so head over there to avoid missing out on the occupational medicine conference of the season!

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November Professional Briefing Day

On Tuesday the Faculty held another of its popular Professional Briefing Days, this time on personality disorders. PBDs are CPD events that provide occupational health professionals training on specialist topics, with a strong emphasis placed on collaborative learning led by experts in their field.

The strength of the days lies in their participatory nature, with all delegates encouraged to involve themselves as much as possible. Unlike many CPD training events, which can be heavily lecture-based, PBDs are interactive and collaborative. They involve discussion and debate on case studies, legislation and first-hand experiences, where each attendee—speakers included—takes away the invaluable knowledge of their colleagues.

The format is not just enjoyable—it also makes the day highly efficient from a knowledge-gathering perspective. First and foremost are the expert speakers, who each bring with them a careers-worth of expertise, but there are also all of the delegates, who also bring their own knowledge, opinions and stories to share. This means that every session is filled with the sort of unpredictable learning you simply can't find in a lecture, and Tuesday saw many tangents which led off into fascinating discussions that called upon the collective knowledge of the whole room, speakers and delegates alike.

Leigh, the Faculty's Communications Assistant, has written a [blog post](#) that further explores the day and PBDs in general, and I'd highly recommend you have a read of it, especially if you are yet to attend one of the days. There are already plans underway for the 2016 PBD calendar, so you shouldn't have to wait very long for the next event. We look forward to seeing you there!

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In Response to Anne Raynal

You may well have already read Anne Raynal's BMJ piece, [Occupational medicine is in demise](#), and I'd just like to draw your attention to a [response letter](#) written jointly by Faculty President Richard Heron and Society President Robin Cordell.

Suffice it to say that both the Faculty and Society do not wholly agree with many of Raynal's opinions, and approached the letter as an opportunity to positively discuss the future of the specialty and what both organisations are doing to secure its prosperity.

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Cardiff and Vale University Health Board Consultant Vacancy

Cardiff and Vale university health board is currently seeking a consultant in occupational medicine. If you are either on the Specialist Register or a Specialist Registrar within six months of your expected date of receipt of a CCT / CESR(CP) at the time of interview they are eager to hear from you.

The role is an exciting one, offering the opportunity for the successful candidate to make a significant and hands-on contribution to the strategic development of services that now place considerable emphasis on an integrated approach to the health and well-being of the workforce. Cardiff and Vale also boasts a fantastic collaborative relationship with occupational medicine consultants in numerous neighbouring health boards, and seeks to further nurture and grow these bonds in the future.

You will be able to take advantage of the excellent Consultant contract for Wales, with the basic salary range for the post ranging from £72,927 per annum to £94,679 per annum, plus a further £25,632 per annum available in Commitment Awards. Please see the full ad on the [vacancies page](#) of our website for more details. **The closing date for applications is Wednesday 9 December 2015.**

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Regional and Deputy Regional Specialty Advisor Vacancies on the Horizon

In the very near future the Faculty will be putting out a call for new Regional and Deputy Regional Specialty Advisors. The positions are vitally important to the specialty, performing both ambassadorial and clerical duties. RSAs and DRSA's act as points of contact for trainees, sit on interview panels for consultant vacancies, liaise with those running training posts and advise on the writing of job descriptions, alongside a variety of other diverse responsibilities.

We aren't quite ready to formally commence the application process just yet, but we wanted to make you aware so you can begin to think about whether you'd like to rise to the challenge. We'll provide much more information in a future newsletter.

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Judith Willetts

Judith Willetts
Chief Executive

