

WEDNESDAY 23 DECEMBER 2015

Welcome to the FOM Newsletter.

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## Merry Christmas and Happy New Year

I would like to wish you a very Merry Christmas and a prosperous New Year on behalf of myself and the Faculty. In this, the final Faculty of Occupational Medicine eNewsletter of the year, I would also like to thank all of you who contributed to the Faculty and the specialty of Occupational Medicine over the last 12 months. From sitting on the Board or one of our committees, to responding to a consultation, attending a Faculty event or kindly volunteering your time to man a stand at a conference or careers fair: the Faculty is a collaborative organisation and would not exist without the dedication and passion of its members. I look forward to working with you throughout 2016, and wish you the best of times over the Christmas break.

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## Fellowship and Honorary Fellowship Nominations—Reminder

As Christmas approaches I can't help but think about the quieter pockets of the festive period. This is likely because as lovely as the season is, it can also be terribly hectic. So while Christmas morning, *that* lunch and Boxing Day will all be wonderful, I find myself longing for the more stress-free festive pursuits like watching Doctor Who and taking a good long stroll.

If you're anything like me and are looking for a little respite, then I think I might have just the thing to sooth your weary head. The Faculty is still seeking nominations for Fellows and Honorary Fellows, so why not take a short break from the levity and propose one or more worthy individuals.

Fellowship is the Faculty's way of recognising those who have made a particularly significant contribution to the practice of occupational medicine or to the work of the Faculty. Therefore it is essential that those elected to Fellowship are appropriately exceptional. Please give careful consideration when applying for Fellowship or supporting applicants who will be considered for this award, which will be made at the Faculty's Annual General Meeting in 2016. Fellows and Members are invited to look over the information for [candidates, proposers and seconders for more details on the process](#).

Submission forms are available online for both [Fellowship](#) and [Honorary Fellowship](#) nominations, and additional information can be sought by contacting [Joanne.Leask@FOM.ac.uk](mailto:Joanne.Leask@FOM.ac.uk). Application forms should also be sent to Joanne by **Friday 8 January 2016**.

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## GMC Confidentiality Guidelines Consultation

Confidentiality is central to the trust between doctors and patients. Patients have a right to expect that information about their health will be kept in confidence by their doctors. But confidentiality is not absolute, and a balance needs to be struck between protecting confidential patient information and sharing information appropriately.

This can be a difficult balance to get right and confidentiality is one of the main topics that doctors, patients and others ask the GMC for advice about.

The GMC's current [Confidentiality Guidance](#) was published in 2009, and this is being reviewed to make sure that it is clear, helpful, relevant to doctors' needs and compatible with the law throughout the UK. The GMC is seeking the opinions of doctors while undertaking this review, and I would encourage any interested individuals to respond to the consultation by the deadline of **10 February 2016**.

Beyond this, the Faculty will itself be responding directly to the GMC via the Ethics Committee, who would appreciate the opinions of members. So alongside personally responding to the consultation, please send your thoughts on the matter to [Leigh.Harrison@FOM.ac.uk](mailto:Leigh.Harrison@FOM.ac.uk) by **4 January 2016**. More information about the consultation is available on the [GMC website](#) and the consultation itself can be found [here](#).

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## 'Risky Business' Winter Conference

Tuesday 15 December saw the Faculty's Winter Conference take place at London's Wellcome Collection. The day, which focused on a broad range of "risk factors in occupational health", was, I'm happy to report, a great success. Featuring seven fascinating presentations on topics as diverse as musculoskeletal disorders, workplace stress and obesity, the day-long symposium was awash with interesting discussions, research findings and a good dose of humour.

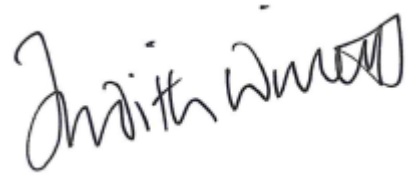
Our Communications Assistant Leigh Harrison has put together a splendid writeup

of the conference for the Faculty website, so please go and [take a look](#)—it should be of interest to those who attended, and whet the appetite of those who didn't for a future Faculty event!

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With best wishes

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Judith Willetts". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'J' and a stylized 'W'.

Judith Willetts  
Chief Executive

