



THURSDAY 27 JUNE 2013

**Welcome to the FOM Training Newsletter.**

### **In this issue...**

## **From the Director of Training: Dr Jayne Moore**

Welcome to the fourth Training Newsletter from the Faculty of Occupational Medicine. The newsletter is aimed at trainees, who are working towards the award of MFOM, and trainers (Educational Supervisors and Clinical Supervisors).

In this edition, the newsletter includes guidance on planning and completion of the dissertation, an update on examinations, and we hear from the Trainee Representative.

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As you will be aware Dr Ian Aston stood down as Director of Training at the AGM in May and has taken up the role of Academic Dean of the Faculty. I have taken up the position of Director of Training having been the Deputy Director for the past 5 years. It has given me some insight into the role and, in a time of rapid change in Postgraduate Medical Training, prior knowledge is a definite advantage. Hopefully we will be able to keep things moving in a positive direction not least with discussions on the single Deanery (for those unaware, we are in discussions with the Lead Dean and GMC about creating a single deanery to better support trainees).

The Faculty seeks to be as helpful as possible to you throughout your training and so please do ask Thuy Vuong, Training Co-ordinator ([thuy.vuong@fom.ac.uk](mailto:thuy.vuong@fom.ac.uk)) if you need information or advice. As Director of Training, I am happy to respond to

questions about any aspect of training; please email Thuy Vuong who will forward the messages to me.

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## Dissertation timetable

The Chief Examiner (Research Methods) has created a dissertation timetable to guide trainees planning their dissertations. There has been a high number of dissertations submitted later than is recommended, and this in turn has a knock-on effect of delayed CCT dates. Please see link below:

<http://www.fom.ac.uk/education/speciality-training/dissertations-2>

Educational supervisors should be monitoring the progress of trainees against this timetable, and trainees are advised to plan their research project and dissertation submission accordingly. ARCP panels will be judging trainees' overall progress with this dissertation timetable in mind.

**Please note due to the current financial climate, extensions to training time as a result of late submission of dissertations will be subject to greater scrutiny from ARCP panels. Trainees who fail to submit their dissertations on time do not have the right to an automatic extension. Therefore, you will be expected to meet the milestones of progress with your dissertation throughout your training.**

### **Dissertation guidance – the Trainee perspective**

The following link contains useful guidance on requirements for the dissertation, plus presentations from the Trainee and Assessor workshops in 2012:

<http://www.fom.ac.uk/education/speciality-training/membership>

Dissertation FAQs from trainees, and replies compiled from emails with Dr Venables and Sara Shortt can also be found at:

<http://www.fom.ac.uk/education/speciality-training/dissertations-2/dissertation-faqs>

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## Changes to Part 2 Examination: photographic/hygiene station

The photographic/hygiene station is one part of the OSPE component of the Part 2 MFOM examination. The Faculty has decided to administer this station on the same day as the Part 2 MFOM written examination components (MCQ and MEQ papers), rather than on the same day as the other OSPE stations. It was felt that this station would sit better with the written examinations given that the station also requires written responses. Marks obtained for the photographic/hygiene station will still be allocated to the candidate's overall mark for the OSPE.

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## Provisional dates for the Part 2 MFOM examinations in 2014

### **January/February 2014**

Written examination papers: 29 January 2014

OSPE: 18 February 2014

Closing date for entry: 4 December 2013

### **September/October 2014**

Written examination papers: 29 September 2014

OSPE: 14 October 2014

Closing date for entry: 4 August 2014

Please note that these dates are provisional only. Finalised dates will be available on the Faculty website once confirmed at:

<http://www.fom.ac.uk/education/speciality-training/part-2-mfom-examination>

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## **New limit to maximum number of attempts at examinations and dissertations**

The GMC has introduced two new requirements on all Colleges and Faculties:

1) to limit the number of examination attempts leading to CCT to a maximum of 6; and

2) to introduce a time limit regarding the eligibility of qualifications taken outwith specialist training reckonable towards a CCT, to a maximum of 7 years before enrolment.

<http://www.gmc-uk.org/education/postgraduate/9813.asp>

The Faculty is implementing these changes with immediate effect in respect of specialist training, and at the same time limiting the number of attempts to 6 across all of its non-specialist postgraduate examinations. Changes to the MFOM Regulations and the Core Regulations governing all Faculty examinations were approved by the Board in January 2013. The amended regulations and guidance can be found at:

<http://www.fom.ac.uk/wp-content/uploads/MFOMregs2013.pdf>

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## **GMC request for examination data**

Last year the GMC asked for individual examination results to be made available to them as part of the Annual Specialty Review. We, the Faculty, had some reservations about this and so consulted with the Information Commissioner. The GMC have the right of access to this information and henceforth this will be made available to the GMC.

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## **Changes to entry into occupational medicine**

The GMC has ruled that success in the MRCP (neither the part 1 nor the full examination) will not be a pre-requisite for trainees coming from Core Medical

Training, wishing to start specialist training in occupational medicine.

An updated Person Specification for Occupational Medicine is available at:

<http://www.mmc.nhs.uk/pdf/PS%202013%20ST3%20Occupational%20MedicineX.pdf>

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## ARCP forms

Trainees are required to return a signed Form R, as part of their end of year ARCP submission, which includes a self declaration on probity, or will receive an outcome 5 at their ARCP.

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## Trainee e-portfolio

The Faculty aims to have the trainee e-portfolio ready by the end of 2013. The aim is to have a more reliable and less cumbersome system for trainees to document their training. The Faculty will be in touch with login details once the trainee e-portfolio goes live.

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## New trainee e-forum

A trainee e-forum has been set up by the Training and Deputy Training Representatives, Rae Chang and Dan Ashdown. This will provide an opportunity for trainees to discuss training issues, and share relevant information such as regional worksite visits and examination resources. Thanks to Dan's hard work with administering the forum 25 trainees have already joined as of June and contributed threads.

If you wish to join, please email Dan Ashdown ([danashdown@doctors.org.uk](mailto:danashdown@doctors.org.uk)) who will send you an invitation. Please note this forum is strictly for trainees and any views published in the forum are those of the individual and do not represent the views of the Faculty. The forum is also an opt-in group; it is not a requirement of training to join. Trainee information will continue to be disseminated from the Training Co-ordinator by the e-mailing list.

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## From the Trainee Representative: Dr Rae Chang

I wish to acknowledge the significant support Dr Ian Aston and Professor Keith Palmer have provided to trainees during their terms as Director of Training and Academic Dean respectively. Fortunately we will not lose momentum as Ian Aston is now the Academic Dean and Dr Jayne Moore has moved from Deputy to Director of Training.

I would encourage you to read the recently published GMC Small Specialties Report, for which trainees from the West Midlands and West of Scotland were interviewed about their training experience. This was positive overall, and the Faculty has responded to the points raised. A proposed central deanery would address many of these and work is continuing on this project.

<http://www.fom.ac.uk/wp-content/uploads/GMC-Small-Specialty-OM-Report.pdf>

Professional briefing days have been held by the Faculty with topics including employment tribunals and clinical audit, and future sessions include alcohol misuse and mental health. Trainees are more than welcome to attend and if you have proposed topics for future days, please contact Sara Shortt.

Website: <http://www.fom.ac.uk/events/forthcoming-faculty-events>

Recently I attended the AFOEM (Australasian) annual training meeting in Perth. This intensive 3 day programme was arranged by a trainee committee with consultant lead and included mock examination stations, occupational hygiene scenarios, a selection of 8 worksite visits, including Rio Tinto Operations Centre and Huntley mine site, and medical report writing presented by a panel of OP/solicitor/HR/insurance officer. The Trainee Dinner was a great opportunity to network with colleagues from around Australia and overseas. I will use the e-forum to gauge interest in adding some specific training elements and social event to FOM or SOM conferences. I have really enjoyed meeting colleagues in training at the Army CPD meeting and SOM conference so if you're interested in an annual get-together let me know - [rae.w.chang@gmail.com](mailto:rae.w.chang@gmail.com).

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## Academy Trainee Doctors Group update

The Academy Trainee Doctors Group (ATDG) meets four times per year, but undertakes a significant amount of work via email. The group is made up of trainee representatives from all the Royal Colleges as well as the BMA, and other key stakeholders in medical training. Most of the issues discussed relate to hospital trainees; however a substantial amount of work has been put into a response for the "Shape of Training Review" that is currently ongoing.

The subject of undermining and bullying of trainees seems to be a particular problem amongst O&G trainees, and has been picked up by the GMC trainee survey; it not clear how much of a problem it is in other smaller specialties such as occupational medicine.

At the most recent ATDG meeting, Paul Brindley, Director of Training for the GMC, came to discuss a number of issues including the plan the GMC have to collect examination and progression data individually for all trainees; apparently they already monitor ARCP data. The GMC feel the data would allow them to identify trends for certain groups that had difficulty progressing through training. There is however some concern that poor examination success may trigger a fitness to practise investigation; however Paul Brindley said it would not.

I am sure the fact that the GMC is already collecting individualised ARCP data about individuals is something most of us are unaware of.

Dan Ashdown  
Deputy Trainee Representative

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## Regional roundup

**Defence Postgraduate Medical Deanery**

There are currently 16 military occupational medicine trainees, from all three Services - Royal Navy, Army and Royal Air Force. Although relatively large in number, we are dispersed throughout the UK, with the majority currently in the south of England.

In order to improve communication and peer support within our geographically dispersed group, we have recently established a web-based portal, to share training information and ensure that new trainees can benefit from the experience of their more senior colleagues, even if physically remote from them.

In the past year, many of us have also benefited from establishing links with our civilian counterparts, particularly in the Oxford and South West Deaneries, enabling us to participate in workplace visits and MFOM teaching sessions, and we are actively exploring ways to reciprocate, potentially through workplace visits to military establishments.

There have also been opportunities for military trainees to gain experience in the NHS, through attachments to NHS Trusts in various regions, including the East of England.

Should any NHS or industry trainees wish to make contact with military StRs in their region, please contact Dr Jo Halford at: [tssbomstr@gmail.com](mailto:tssbomstr@gmail.com).

Jo Halford  
Army OM StR

## **Wales Deanery**

In Wales the local CPD meeting programme for trainees (2) and specialists has been successful in recent years and has included a workplace visit to the TATA steelworks in Port Talbot and a specialist update on current rheumatologic treatments and their work effects.

Where visits and external speakers were not possible the meetings have consisted of relevant presentations and case discussions. 2013 started with a talk from Dr Lever, Medical Adviser for the DVLA (based in Swansea), about the recent and upcoming changes to the medical standards of fitness to drive and a very interesting visit to NATS at Cardiff Airport arranged with the help of Dr Rae Chang. The multidisciplinary Welsh NHS OH forum continues to meet regularly as does the Association for National Health Occupational Physicians (ANHOPS). More recently we have attached ourselves to the active South West programme coordinated by Dr Joyshri Sarangi.

Shuja Din and Jennifer Hopkins  
Wales Deanery

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With best wishes



Jayne Moore  
Director of Training

