

Promoting Occupational Health in Medical Schools (POHMS)



Newsletter - July 2011



Welcome to the second e-newsletter for Faculty Leads and trainee assistants engaged in promoting occupational health in medical schools.

Thank you...

...to all volunteers who are helping in the promotion of OH teaching - both Faculty Leads and also to all the trainees who have come forward to assist them. Trainees have the additional incentive of their contributions to this work helping them gain teaching and educational supervision competencies as required by the curriculum.

Henry Goodall offer

Dr Henry Goodall, the Society of Occupational Medicine's President, would like to offer his services to Teaching Leads to promote OH/OM teaching. If interested please contact him on hngoodall@fsmail.net

Review of resources for undergraduates

An important part of what POHMS does is to maintain and develop the undergraduate resources on the Faculty's website. These are divided into six competencies, links to which can be found on this page:

http://www.facocmed.ac.uk/edtrain/ugresrce/r_compf.jsp

A review of these is currently taking place. If you wish to help in this review, please contact David Greening at the Faculty office (david.greening@facocmed.ac.uk)

A volunteer is already reviewing Competency 3.

POHMS and Foundation Year training

The Faculty's Executive has approved an extension of the POHMS remit to include teaching at FY1 and FY2 levels.

POHMS Chair

Thank you to Martin Tohill who is stepping down as the POHMS Chair having overseen the committee from its beginning as a group of four occupational physicians in 2007 to a sub-committee of the Faculty's Executive with blanket coverage of Teaching Leads throughout the UK's medical schools, often with more than one Faculty Member participating and some with occupational medicine trainees contributing as well.

Teaching Lead role

We would like to emphasize that the nomination of an individual as a 'Teaching Lead' for medical schools where there are more than one person volunteering as a POHMS helper is for ease of administrative contact between school and POHMS volunteers and between POHMS volunteers and the POHMS sub-Committee rather than an indication of a managerial or primary role.

What works in...King's College, London

Five steps to successful implementation of a medical student teaching programme - lessons learned.

1) Recruit your team. No-one has time to deliver a medical student teaching programme on their own. Our team includes consultants in OH, trainees, OH nurses and psychiatrists with an interest in occupational health.

2) Be passionate and decide on a clear message as to why medical students should be taught OH at an undergraduate level.

We used - the importance of assessing fitness for return to work

- return to work is an important outcome for patients after a period of illness
- public health implications of unemployment

3) Get buy in from the top. Have a face-to-face meeting with the undergraduate dean and head of medical student teaching. Also arrange face-to-face meetings with the lead person for each undergraduate year. This is time consuming, but important. Not only did we manage to get each year head on board, we also convinced the medical school to do a gap analysis on the competencies in OH required by Tomorrow's Doctors and what is currently taught at KCL.

4) Use any opportunities that you can to deliver OH teaching, but before you promise anything be sure that you can deliver. We teach in the public health module, the GP module (use of the new fit note), special study modules, clinical, non-clinical and research.

5) Have at least six monthly meetings with the OH teaching team. This allows a review of how the teaching is going and of the time commitments of each member of the team. It also allows the pool of potential teachers to increase; we have one or two extra people at each meeting. We encourage teleconferencing for those who can't attend. Keep brief minutes of the meetings and send copies to those in point three, so that OH doesn't fall off the radar.

Ira Madan

About POHMS

The POHMS group was formed in September 2007 and is now a sub-committee of the Faculty.

We meet by teleconference approximately every 2-3 months with the aim of maintaining the network of Faculty Leads, the FOM resources and seeking new ways of promoting the teaching of occupational medicine.

The group is chaired by Martin Tohill and comprises:
Malcolm Braithwaite
Gillian Fletcher
Fiona Page
David Greening (secretary)
Nerys Williams

If you have found ways of influencing and delivering OM teaching that you are willing to share with the network please contact David Greening on david.greening@facocmed.ac.uk