



FRIDAY 6 AUGUST 2010

Welcome to the FOM Newsletter.

In this issue...

Guidance on Ethics – your chance to shape the next edition

The most recent (6th) edition of the Faculty of Occupational Medicine's Guidance on Ethics for Occupational Physicians was published in May 2006. The document is now due for a major review and the timetable is for the 7th edition to be published in late 2012. The Ethics Committee is overseeing the project and Dr Naomi Brecker has been appointed as secretary for the production of the new edition.

Input and comments from members

The Ethics Committee is keen to canvass views on the content of the next edition. In particular, we would welcome comment on perceived gaps and deficiencies in the current guidance as well as areas which may be considered of less relevance than in the past. We are actively seeking the views of external stakeholders and we would wish to mirror that with input from the Faculty membership. Consequently, all members are invited to send me their thoughts via the Faculty office so that they can be considered at this early stage in the production of the guidance.

Ethics Committee vacancy

The Ethics Committee is a standing committee of the Faculty Board and, in addition to producing new editions of Guidance on Ethics, advises the Board, individual members of the Faculty and members of the public on any ethical matters that may arise relating to occupational medicine.

After nearly 6 years' service, Dr Shriti Pattani has resigned from the Faculty's Ethics Committee, to pursue other commitments, and this gives rise to a vacancy for one of the four Members/Fellows on the Committee. Committee members must be able to commit to two half-day Committee meetings per year (with the possibility of an additional meeting on the new guidance) usually in London, with occasional email correspondence/consultation with Committee members between meetings and on parts of the new guidance.

Applicants for this vacancy should submit a CV, together with a statement (maximum one A4 side) on why they would be suitable for this role.

Applicants will be considered by an appointment panel and it is hoped to make an appointment during October. The Faculty will meet reasonable travel and accommodation expenses in attending meetings of the Committee, but will be unable to cover any locum costs. Applicants may wish to note that the next meeting of the

Ethics Committee is likely to be on Thursday 9 December from 10 30 am to 2 00 pm in London.

Input and comments from members

Finally, a number of Faculty members have expressed an interest in ethical issues but the size and composition of the Committee, which are set out in the Faculty's Governance Regulations, limit opportunities to serve. In support of the production of the guidelines, we would therefore like to set up a consultative group of Faculty members who are prepared to offer comments on specific issues or draft text for the evolving guidance. It is envisaged that this would be a virtual group communicating electronically and not convening physically at any point. Members who are interested in supporting the project in this way should set out their areas of interest and relevant experience and also forward those to me via the Faculty office.

Comments on the content for the revised guidelines, applications to join the Committee and expressions of interest to serve on the consultative group should be submitted to Frances.Quinn@facocmed.ac.uk by **5 October 2010**.

Dr Paul Litchfield
Chairman - Ethics Committee

Nominations for President

As recently posted on the members' area of the website, nominations for the office of President have now closed, with two candidates having submitted nominations: Olivia Carlton and Mike Gibson.

In accordance with Standing Order 3.3, the President shall be elected by ballot of all Members and Fellows. Ballot papers, with supporting information about each candidate, have just been mailed out to these two membership classes, for return by 30 September. The result will be announced on the website on 4 October 2010 and the successful candidate will join the Board as President-Elect on 1 November 2010.

With best wishes



Nicky Coates
Chief Executive

