



THURSDAY 16 SEPTEMBER 2010

Welcome to the FOM Newsletter.

In this issue...

Healthcare for healthcare practitioners: workshops for occupational physicians

The Faculty has been working in collaboration with the Royal College of General Practitioners, the Royal College of Psychiatrists and the Association of National Health Occupational Physicians to draw up a curriculum for doctors practising in this area. Further details of this project and **two associated workshops**, which are aimed primarily at those consultant occupational physicians who provide services, either in-house or out-sourced, to the NHS (and with some places reserved for Specialty Registrars) are set out in a letter from the President – see:

http://www.facocmed.ac.uk/library/docs/m_hhpinv.pdf.

Good Occupational Medical Practice

This specialty-specific interpretation of the General Medical Council's Good Medical Practice booklet, which supersedes Good Medical Practice for Occupational Physicians (published in 2001), which has been produced by a Working Group of the Faculty is now available, in electronic format only at:

http://www.facocmed.ac.uk/library/docs/p_gomp2010.pdf

Good Occupational Medical Practice contains detailed explicit statements about good occupational health practice, set out in words similar to those used by the General Medical Council. It will be of significance to practising Occupational Physicians and may represent a new benchmark in situations of professional accountability in Britain.

Ballot for President

Members and Fellows are reminded that the ballot for the next President is still open. If you have not already voted, please return your completed ballot paper to arrive at the Faculty by **5 pm on Thursday 30 September 2010**.

Fellowship

Members are reminded of the call for submissions for Fellowship and Honorary Fellowship of the Faculty. Full details are to be found in the members' section of the website <http://www.facocmed.ac.uk/login.jsp?rtn=/members/index.jsp>. The deadline for submissions is **Monday 18 October 2010**.

Approval of Curriculum

At the end of last year, the Faculty of Occupational Medicine was asked for its submission to the former PMETB's (now GMC) 'Formal review of the specialty and subspecialty curriculum and associated assessment system'. This consisted of a detailed, written submission, followed by a rigorous hearing in front of a panel, convened by PMETB, which was attended by our Academic Dean. Following the formal review, we are pleased to announce that the Faculty was granted full approval of its curriculum and assessment system.

Examinations taken outside approved training

In April, the GMC announced that examinations and assessments taken outside of training could not count towards a CCT (Certificate of Completion of Training). This came as a surprise and caused great consternation among Colleges and Faculties, the BMA and trainee representatives. We joined together with other Colleges and Faculties affected to voice our concerns and firm correspondence ensued between the Academy of Medical Royal Colleges and the GMC. Potentially, for the Faculty, this could have impacted on certain exemptions we allow, such as offsetting a recently acquired Diploma in Occupational Medicine against the Part 1 MFOM examination.

Fortunately, the GMC did listen to our concerns and has had a change of heart. It was originally acting on legal advice, but a second legal opinion has fortunately given the regulator scope to be more flexible. In a joint statement issued in July, by the GMC and other key stakeholders, it remarked that "doctors who are already in specialty training or who enter by 31 October 2011 will be able to have any valid passes in previously approved national professional examinations counted towards a CCT, even if they were obtained outside approved training".

It would however appear that the GMC, in consultation with its stakeholders is considering its future position on the issue of taking examinations outside approved training, as the statement continued "The GMC will develop proposals on examinations for potential future trainees, and, following a further meeting of key interests will issue guidance by the end of October 2010".

We plan to monitor further developments closely and we will provide further updates as they emerge. You can view further details on the GMC website, along with the GMC's joint stakeholder statement. <http://www.gmc-uk.org/news/7340.asp>.

Pre-employment health screening of NHS Staff

NHS Plus has commissioned a new report: *Review of pre-employment health screening of NHS staff* –see:

<http://www.tsoshop.co.uk/bookstore.asp?Action=Book&ProductId=9780113228638>.

This comprises a Delphi study on the purpose of pre-employment health screening and a systematic review of the evidence for its effectiveness.

Healthy Workplaces - Good for you, Good for Business

The European Agency for Safety and Health at Work has just launched its [Healthy Workplaces Campaign on Safe Maintenance](#). The Agency welcomes any help from individuals or organisations who have an interest in this topic.

With best wishes

Nicky Coates

Nicky Coates
Chief Executive

