



THURSDAY 6 JANUARY 2011

Welcome to the FOM Newsletter.

In this issue...

Faculty Prizes - could you be a winner?

LAST CALL FOR ENTRIES - DEADLINE 31 JANUARY 2011

The Faculty offers two annual awards and all members are encouraged to consider whether they might be eligible. For details see <http://www.facocmed.ac.uk/library/docs/prizes.pdf>.

The Wilf Howe Memorial Prize, which is a cheque for £500 and an engraved memento, is awarded in recognition of an outstanding innovation, initiative or intervention which has delivered a demonstrable health benefit for a defined working population. Previous winning entries have included: *A cross sectional study of the rates of ill health retirement in four public (fire, police, teaching and ambulance services) and two private (Rover and Post Office) employers*; *The assessment and validation of acclimatisation to a hot-dry climate in British Armed Forces personnel*; *Implementing and evaluating a successful condom promotion intervention project for brothel-based sex workers in Singapore*; and *Identifying and addressing occupational-related skin problems on a chemical industrial site*.

The Mobbs Travelling Fellowship offers an opportunity for doctors to travel to a centre of excellence to study a particular aspect of occupational medicine or to travel to a scientific meeting for which they have had a paper or poster accepted. Previous winning entries have included: a visit to Australia to study the Workers' Compensation System; abstracts accepted for the ICOH conference; and a study trip to Hong Kong hospitals affected by the SARS outbreak.

Pilot of externally assessed WBAs update - your views please

A study into the inter-rater reliability between the outcomes of the WBAs undertaken by External Assessors and Educational Supervisors (trainers) was undertaken this summer and feedback will be provided once evaluation is completed. As a result of the initial findings of the study, as well as the WBA training day in September 2010, the current assessment tools are being evaluated, with the main emphasis on SAIL (Sheffield Assessment Instrument for Letters) and DOPS (Directly Observed Procedures), in order to make them more fit for purpose. We would welcome any thoughts or constructive feedback (please send to david.greening@facocmed.ac.uk)

Lucia Batty, Deputy Chief Examiner, on behalf of the WBA committee

Healthcare for healthcare practitioners workshops

Members will be aware that 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 treating healthcare practitioners. Information about this project and two associated workshops were sent to members in September. The first workshop on 25 November was well attended and proved to be very successful.

There are still a few places available for the second workshop which takes place in Cardiff on 8 February 2011. If you should wish to apply, please click the link below which gives you access to the original invitation letter from the President and the registration form for the second workshop in Cardiff. There is no charge for attendance at the workshop.

<http://www.facocmed.ac.uk/library/index.jsp?ref=867>

BSRM Report on Neurological Conditions

We would like to draw members' attention to a report published by the British Society of Rehabilitation Medicine detailing recommendations for best practice for vocational assessment and rehabilitation for people with long-term neurological conditions. It can be downloaded from:

<http://www.bsrn.co.uk/Publications/VR4LTnCv45fl.pdf>

With best wishes



Nicky Coates
Chief Executive

