



MONDAY 27 JUNE 2011

Welcome to the FOM Newsletter.

In this issue...

Members invited to join Strategy Group

Now I have stepped into the Presidential role, I am keen to hear members' views and ideas about the future direction of the Faculty. I am therefore planning to establish a Strategy Group and would very much like to involve members in that. I envisage that the group will run for about six months and will meet (not necessarily in London) probably three or four times, with other work being done remotely. I would like to appoint to this group some members who will bring a broad range of expertise, so that we can benefit from the wide spectrum of experience that makes up occupational medicine.

If you are interested in joining this group, please email me (president@facoccmmed.ac.uk) by **9 00 am on Monday 11 July** with a very brief CV and a short explanation of why you want to be part of the group and what you consider you have to offer, along with any initial thoughts you have about the future direction of the Faculty. If we receive a lot of responses, we will have to have a selection process; we'll be looking for a mix of skills, experience and approach.

I anticipate that part of this group's role will be to survey all members for their views, so this is not your last chance to have your say. But please do think about whether you might be the right person to bring some fresh ideas and to help shape the Faculty's future.

Olivia Carlton
President

Getting back to work: what works?

12 September, Royal College of Anaesthetists, Red Lion Square, London
BOOK BY 18 JULY FOR THE EARLY BIRD RATE

This conference addresses one of the core issues for occupational health services: helping people get back into work.

The conference will consider the support needed by people with mental health problems and also the special issues that apply to health professionals and to military personnel getting back to work.

It will also discuss the evidence base and hear how one occupational physician has developed a comprehensive return to work policy and how another has worked with secondary care specialists on their return to work policies.

Programme and booking form:

<http://www.facoccmmed.ac.uk/library/docs/confformsep2011.pdf>.

Board member and key appointments

Applications are being sought for the following roles within the Faculty. Further details can be found by following the links:

Co-opted affiliating Diplomate on the Faculty Board - *NEW POST*

<http://www.facoccmmed.ac.uk/library/docs/jobbrdaffdad.pdf>

Deputy Director of Professional Development - *NEW POST*

<http://www.facoccmmed.ac.uk/library/docs/jobddpdad.pdf>

Chair, POHMS Sub-Committee

<http://www.facoccmmed.ac.uk/library/docs/jobpohmschad.pdf>

The new Faculty of Medical Leadership and Management - would like to hear your views

Plans are moving ahead for the development of this new Faculty and we have been asked to seek our members' views.

The FMLM will be a new UK-wide membership organisation working on behalf of doctors and medical students providing a professional home for all those with an interest in management, leadership and quality improvement.

The FMLM is keen to hear your views and would be grateful if you could spare the time to complete their online survey in complete confidence **before 7 July**. The survey should only take about 10 minutes to complete and can be accessed now at:

<http://ashridge.orsl.co.uk/fmlm>.

Please contact Kirsten Armit, Project Manager at the FMLM, if you have any further questions about the Faculty or this research on 020 3075 1241 or at Kirsten.armit@aomrc.org.uk.

Publications

The Health and Work Development Unit, a partnership between the Faculty of Occupational Medicine and the Royal College of Physicians, has published:

Implementing NICE public health guidance for the workplace: a national organisational audit of NHS trusts in England. This is the first national audit within the NHS of National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) public health guidance for the workplace. Implementation of the NICE guidance was recommended by the Boorman Review which found clear associations between better staff health and wellbeing and reduced MRSA rates, lower standardised mortality rates and increased patient satisfaction.

The audit report found only 15% of NHS trusts have a policy or plan to help combat staff obesity and that trusts were failing to follow NICE guidance on physical activity, with only 32% of the participant organisations having a plan or policy to encourage and support staff to be more physically active.

The audit, funded by the Academy of Medical Royal Colleges and the Faculty of Occupational Medicine, assessed data from 282 NHS trusts responsible for close to

900,000 NHS employees in England. When NHS trusts had engaged staff and assessed their needs, the audit found they were more likely to have taken actions to improve employee health and wellbeing.

The report is available at:

<http://www.rcplondon.ac.uk/resources/nice-public-health-guidance-workplace-organisational-audit>.

Members are reminded that the **Royal College of Surgeons** and the **Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists** have each published **leaflets on recovering from surgery** to advise patients what to expect after certain types of surgery, how soon they might return to work and so on. Faculty Fellow, Dr Tony Williams, worked with the colleges on this guidance, and he will be speaking about this at the Faculty's September conference on rehabilitation on 12 September. The leaflets are to be found at http://www.rcseng.ac.uk/patient_information/get-well-soon

and <http://www.rcog.org.uk/recovering-well>.

Launch of new NHS Health at Work Network and appointment of Chair

NHS Plus has announced the launch of the NHS Health at Work Network and the appointment of the Network's first Chair.

The NHS Health at Work Network is dedicated to improving the health and well being of the NHS workforce. The mission of the new Network reflects the Government's new context for the NHS, following the Boorman Review into health and wellbeing in the service and in the light of the new Public Health White Paper.

The network will inform Government on occupational health matters and promote best clinical and business practice in the delivery of health and work services to NHS staff. Comprising 165 NHS occupational health teams it will also act as a forum for the exchange of information, expertise and best practice and help co-ordinate service delivery to meet customer need.

The Network's first chair will be Dr Ursula Ferriday, Consultant in Occupational Medicine at Worcester Acute Hospital Trust, and the Vice Chair will be Dr Gordon Parker, Consultant at Lancashire Teaching Hospitals.

With best wishes



Nicky Coates
Chief Executive

