

Wednesday 27 January 2010

Welcome to the FOM Newsletter.

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Members: your opportunity to help shape the future of the Faculty

Nominations are being sought for a number of key elected and appointed posts. These include: three elected posts on the Faculty Board (two universally elected members, and a constituency elected member for Wales) and the office of Director of Training. Further information is available in the members' area of the site at: <http://www.facocmed.ac.uk/members/index.jsp>

Ethics Committee

Committee membership

The following have been appointed to the Ethics Committee to fill the vacancies advertised to the membership in December 2009:

Employment lawyer: Diana Kloss

Technical Secretary for the 7th edition of the Faculty Guidance: Naomi Brecker

Affiliating Diplomat: Berend Rah

Guidance on Confidentiality

As indicated in the FOM/SOM Joint statement to members dated 12 October 2009 about the new GMC Guidance on Confidentiality, the Faculty's current advice (6th edition of Guidance on Ethics for Occupational Physicians) is under review. The Faculty's Ethics Committee will be meeting on 3 February 2010 and it is hoped to publish revised guidance immediately afterwards, together with a list of 'Frequently Asked Questions and Answers'.

Obituary - Sir Donald Acheson

It is with sadness that we note the recent death of Sir Donald Acheson, a long-standing Fellow of the Faculty.

Donald was best known for his work as Chief Medical Officer at the Department of Health, and in particular for his leadership in managing HIV/AIDS when it first emerged as a threat to public health. However, there were many other facets to his work, including several that impacted importantly on occupational health. When Director of the Oxford Cancer Registry, he was the first to establish the hazard of sinonasal cancer in furniture makers (hardwood dust) and in boot and shoe manufacturers (dust from vegetable-tanned leather). He also carried out important epidemiological research on the carcinogenicity of formaldehyde, asbestos, man-made mineral fibres, styrene and phenoxy herbicides. And he produced an influential report on control limits for asbestos in the workplace.

We can be justly proud of his association with the Faculty.

David Coggon

Regional Specialty Advisors and Deputies

We are pleased to announce the appointment of Dr Surinder Kumar to the post of Deputy Regional Specialty Advisor (Deputy RSA) in the North West region and Dr Elizabeth Murphy to the post of Deputy Regional Specialty Advisor post in the Scotland North region. We would like to thank them for taking on these roles.

Please note that there are still vacancies in these areas:

Regional Specialty Advisors - Northern region (from 31 March 2010); NW Thames; and Oxford

Deputy Regional Specialty Advisors - Northern region; NE Thames; SW Thames; and Wessex

If you are interested in taking on any of these roles or would like further information, please contact David Greening (Training Co-ordinator (Programme Support)) at davidgreening@facocmed.ac.uk.

Specialty/Specialist Registrar representatives needed

(This is a reminder advertisement, as sent to Faculty trainees)

The Health and Work Development Unit (formerly the Occupational Health Clinical Effectiveness Unit, or OHCEU) Steering Group and Audit Development Group is looking for StRs/SpRs to represent trainees on its Steering Group and Audit Development Group.

The Health and Work Development Unit is a partnership between the Royal College of Physicians and the Faculty of Occupational Medicine, with a remit to improve the quality of health care provided to the working population. Over the last two years the Unit has delivered two national clinical audits and a series of evidence-based guidelines. These can be found at <http://rcplondon.ac.uk/ohceu>.

1. Steering Group. The Health and Work Development Unit is looking for a trainee who would be interested to sit on the Steering Group. The aims of the Steering Group are to provide advice at a strategic level to Unit staff to ensure the relevance of its work programme to the national health and work agenda and to those delivering occupational health services within the UK. Project scoping forms part of this group's remit, as does review and sign-off all deliverables produced by the Unit. The Steering Group comprises representatives of professional bodies whose members are key stakeholders for the health and work agenda in the UK. This group meets twice a year in London.

2. Audit Development Group. The Health and Work Development Unit is looking for a trainee who would be interested to sit on the Audit Development Group. The aim of the Audit Development Group is to provide critical review of the audit design, process, tool, data and

reports for audits undertaken by the Health and Work Development Unit; and to sign off audit deliverables either through quarterly meetings or, occasionally, electronically. The group will work with audit project clinical leads, Unit project management staff and the clinical director. The group will meet approximately four times a year in London. This would be a good opportunity for anyone interested in learning more about national clinical audit within an occupational health context.

Applicants to these positions are required to submit their CV and a brief personal statement detailing:

- Any previous audit experience
- Any previous experience on review groups or committees
- Why you are interested in this role.

It is not necessary to have experience in these areas; however please use these points to shape your response. **The deadline for applications is 1st February 2010.**

Please direct all queries and applications to sarah.jones@rcplondon.ac.uk (Direct line: 020 3075 1583).

N.B. Basic travel costs will be paid in order to attend.

Re-audit of depression screening and management of staff on long-term sickness absence

The Health and Work Development Unit (formerly the Occupational Health Clinical Effectiveness Unit or OHCEU) has been commissioned to conduct a repeat of the 2008 depression screening and management of staff on long-term sickness absence audit across the NHS in England.

The process will be similar to the first audit round. The Unit is currently considering all the feedback received last year about the audit design and would welcome any further comments.

The Unit is contacting trusts and services during January with further details and registration forms. The data entry period will be from May to July; relevant cases will again be those seen in OH following absence of at least 4 weeks, and we encourage providers of OH to NHS trusts to begin tagging cases as soon as possible.

If you would like to provide any feedback from the previous audit round or have any queries please contact sarah.jones@rcplondon.ac.uk.

With best wishes



Nicky Coates
Chief Executive