



July 2009 Newsletter

Welcome to the FOM E-newsletter.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

1 October 2009:	FOM Autumn Conference – “Confidentiality and Consent”, Manchester - NOW BOOKING - http://www.facocmed.ac.uk/events/index.jsp#event40
2 December 2009:	FOM Winter Conference – “Risky Business?”, London
27 May 2010:	FOM Annual Scientific Meeting, London
1 October 2010	Joint Conference with FOM, Ireland: “Doctors in Difficulty”, Newry, Northern Ireland

VACANCIES FOR REGIONAL SPECIALTY ADVISERS (RSAs) AND DEPUTY REGIONAL SPECIALTY ADVISERS

Applications are invited for the posts of:
Regional Specialty Adviser, North West Thames
Regional Specialty Adviser, North West region
Deputy Regional Specialty Adviser, South West Thames
Deputy Regional Specialty Adviser, Northern region

Fiona Page has stood down as RSA for the North West and John Cartwright has stood down as RSA for North West Thames. We wish to thank them both for their service to the Faculty in this role. We are now therefore seeking replacement RSAs for these regions.

Also, we are still seeking replacement Deputy RSAs for the Northern region and for the South West Thames region.

If you are interested in taking on one of the roles or would like further information, please contact David Greening (Training Coordinator (Programme Support)) at david.greening@facocmed.ac.uk.

The closing date for applications is 9.00 am on Monday 17 August 2009.

SWINE FLU CAMPAIGN RESOURCES NOW ONLINE

The Department of Health has posted a range of materials on their website to help communicate the public health information contained in the national Swine Flu campaign. The information can be found at the following link:

http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publichealth/flu/Swineflu/DH_098802

The NHS Choices website also has some useful information which can be found at:

<http://www.nhs.uk/news/2009/04April/pages/Swineflulatest.aspx>

The Faculty's own guidance for employers can be found at:

<http://www.facocmed.ac.uk/news/index.jsp?ref=270>

PRIVATE HEALTH SECTOR PRACTITIONERS NOTIFYING AS DATA CONTROLLERS

The Faculty has received a notice from the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) advising that after conducting a small survey, they have found that only 25% of doctors who treat patients privately have a current registration under the Data Protection Act 1998.

As health records often contain particularly sensitive information and because it would appear that many such doctors are not aware of their obligations in this area, the ICO is launching an awareness campaign about the requirement to notify.

It is possible that many doctors who carry out private work believe that their processing of personal data is covered by the registration of either the hospital that they practise from or their local NHS Trust. This is not necessarily the case and a separate registration is required to cover the processing of all personal data relating to any private treatment.

Notification can be made by either visiting the website at

http://www.ico.gov.uk/Home/what_we_cover/data_protection/notification.aspx

or by contacting the Notification Helpline on 01625 545740.

NEW GUIDELINE ON UPPER LIMB DISORDER FROM THE OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH CLINICAL EFFECTIVENESS UNIT

The Occupational Health Clinical Effectiveness Unit (OHCEU) has continued to develop national evidence-based guidelines in occupational health. The latest completed guideline is the management of Upper Limb Disorders in the workplace. Further information can be found on the OHCEU website at:

<http://www.rcplondon.ac.uk/CLINICAL-STANDARDS/OHCEU/Pages/OHCEU-guidelines.aspx>

CURRENT CONSULTATIONS

We would like to remind members of the two active consultations on the website:

- 1) Standards and Voluntary Accreditation for Occupational Health Services – <http://www.facocmed.ac.uk/news/index.jsp?ref=274> - deadline 31 August 2009.

A response form is available on the website. Responses should be sent to standards@facocmed.ac.uk.

- 2) Future Directions for Occupational Health in the UK –
<http://www.facocmed.ac.uk/news/index.jsp?ref=275> - deadline 31 August 2009.

Responses should be sent to nationalstrategy@facocmed.ac.uk.

GMC WEBSITE - REVALIDATION

Faculty members may like to know that the GMC has added a list of frequently asked questions relevant to revalidation to its website. They can be found at the following link:

http://www.gmc-uk.org/doctors/licensing/faq/faq_revalidation.asp

NEWS FROM NHS SCOTLAND

Eugene Waclawski, FFOM, has asked us to highlight the work undertaken recently in Scotland by the Occupational Health and Safety Policy Advisory Group. The outputs include a clinical governance and risk management framework based on that used by NHS Quality Improvement Scotland (QIS) for health services and an action plan to assist occupational health departments with implementing a Corporate Governance (CG) & Risk Management (RM) Strategy. In addition there are guidance/standards for use and/or benchmarking in relation to health surveillance, immunisation, TB control, follow-up after BBV exposure and other documents related to health and safety such as guidelines on violence and aggression, slips trips and falls and a link to clinical audit resources.

The site will continue to be updated.

<http://www.staffgovernance.scot.nhs.uk/improving-employee-experience/working-well/occupational-health-and-safety-standards/>

FOM members may also be interested in the concept of staff governance which is enshrined in legislation in Scotland:

<http://www.staffgovernance.scot.nhs.uk/what-is-staff-governance/>

There is a specific section of the standard where employers have to evidence that the staff are provided with an improved and safe working environment.

IIAC COMMISSIONER SCIENTIFIC REVIEWS

The Industrial Injuries Advisory Council (IIAC) have asked us to advertise expressions of interest in two commissioned reviews. The adverts can be found via the following link:

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

The deadline for expressions of interest is 7 August 09.

After 7 August, depending on the interest from the expression of interests, the IIAC would then invite proposals for systematic reviews of the evidence relating to occupational cancers in commercial painters and occupational health risks in firefighters. The reviews are intended to assist the Council in its work of advising the government on the prescription of industrial diseases.

MASTERS IN MEDICAL LEADERSHIP

The Royal College of Physicians is launching a cross-specialty Medical Leadership programme and we have been asked to raise awareness of this new initiative. Further information can be found at the following link:

<http://www.rcplondon.ac.uk/education/qualifications/medicalleadership/Pages/Overview.aspx>

FOOTNOTE

This is a very buoyant and busy time for the Faculty. We are currently consulting members on the draft Standards for Occupational Health Services and on Future Directions for Occupational Health in the UK. Please do let us have your views.

We are also continuing the work to establish the new system of revalidation for occupational medicine and are looking towards developing systems for on-line CPD and e-portfolios for trainees.

The Faculty is considering, with both the Royal College of General Practitioners and the Society of Occupational Medicine, the potential for a one-stop web portal on health and work for GPs.

And in addition to this, some of our many valued volunteer members who contribute to the Faculty's education work, are working hard at developing the new Part 2 Membership examination which goes live in 2010, and at refining the new system of Workplace Based Assessments.

So, can I take this opportunity to say thank you to the many members who take on these vital honorary roles. Your work is essential and hugely appreciated. If you are not currently involved in the Faculty's education work, but would be interested to be so, please do email me on nicky.coates@facocmed.ac.uk.

If you are about to go away on holiday, I hope you have a relaxing break.

With best wishes



Nicky Coates
Chief Executive

Faculty of Occupational Medicine, 6 St Andrews Place, Regent's Park, London NW1 4LB
www.facocmed.ac.uk Tel: 020 7317 5890 Fax: 020 7317 5899
Registered Charity No. 1035415 Scottish Charity No. SCO440060 VAT Registration No. 798 6604 62