

Monday 23 November 2009

Welcome to the FOM Newsletter.

In this issue...

LAUNCHED TODAY: KEEPING NHS STAFF FIT AND WELL - DR STEVE BOORMAN'S FINAL REPORT

The Government has accepted in full recommendations from an [independent report into the health and well-being of NHS Staff](#) which will help the NHS save up to £555 million, Health Secretary Andy Burnham announced today.

The recommendations could save up to 3.4 million working days equivalent to 14,900 extra staff and were made in a Department of Health commissioned report on NHS staff health and well-being led by Dr Steve Boorman FOM.

OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH SERVICE STANDARDS AND ACCREDITATION

The newly developed [Standards for Occupational Health Services](#) are now finalised. Our thanks go to the many members, and colleagues from other organisations, who have contributed. A [progress report](#) from Dr Paul Nicholson, who has led the project, together with the standards, are now available.

FACULTY WINTER CONFERENCE - RISKY BUSINESS - 2 DECEMBER 2009

The Faculty's Winter Conference will be held on the 2nd December 2009 at the Royal College of Physicians, London. There are still a limited number of places available and [information](#) can be found on the Faculty website.

REVALIDATION - UPDATE

An [update on revalidation](#) has been prepared by Dr Rob Thornton, Director of Professional Development. There are multiple strands of work recently completed or underway, including the development of standards, the move to on-line CPD, a new CPD framework, and the new role of Responsible Officers.

VACANCY FOR CHIEF EXAMINER - DDAM

Dr Moira Henderson, after many years of service, has decided to step down as the Chief Examiner for the DDAM examination. We would like to thank Moira for the dedication and enthusiasm that she put into this voluntary role. She has also retired from her work at the Department of Work and Pensions and we wish her well in her

retirement.

We are therefore looking for a volunteer to fill this role. If you would be interested in taking on this role, further details can be found [here](#). The [application form](#) should be returned to Rachel Briggs on rachel.briggs@facocmed.ac.uk.

VACANCIES FOR REGIONAL SPECIALITY ADVISORS AND DEPUTIES

We are pleased to announce that Dr Donald Menzies has been appointed the Regional Specialty Adviser (RSA) for the North West region. He previously filled the role of Deputy RSA and we are therefore seeking a replacement.

Dr Kate Venables has stood down as Regional Specialty Adviser (RSA) for the Oxford region and we wish to thank her for her service to the Faculty in this role. We are now therefore seeking a replacement RSA for this region.

Dr Julia Smedley has stood down as Deputy Regional Specialty Adviser (RSA) for the Wessex region and Dr Monika Watt has stood down as Deputy Regional Specialty Adviser for the Scotland North region. We wish to thank them for their service to the Faculty in this role. We are now therefore seeking replacement Deputy RSAs for these regions.

If you are interested in taking on one of these 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 on Monday 21 December 2009.

WILF HOWE MEMORIAL PRIZE

The Faculty announced, at the AGM in May 2005, the creation of the [Wilf Howe Memorial Prize](#). This was established in memory of Dr Wilf Howe, a Fellow of the Faculty and former Board member, who was an occupational physician who worked primarily in the oil industry. He was passionate about considering employees' occupational health issues in the wider, holistic context.

This Prize is to recognise an outstanding innovation, initiative or intervention which has delivered a demonstrable health benefit for a defined working population.

The prize is a cheque for £500 and an engraved memento.

MOBBS TRAVELLING FELLOWSHIP

As part of the Faculty's Silver Jubilee Celebrations in 2003, a [Travelling Fellowship](#) was established through the generosity of Sir Nigel Mobbs and Corporate Health Ltd. This Fellowship was seen as an excellent opportunity for individuals 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, but which they would otherwise not be able to attend.

ENCOURAGING DOCTORS INTO THE SPECIALTY

The Faculty has been actively working on ways to encourage doctors into the specialty. The Board's October Away Day was devoted to this topic and actions arising from this will be incorporated into the Faculty's plans for 2010. We were pleased to be able to help one FY2 doctor recently who was working in general practice and who wanted to get an idea of the work of an occupational physician. We would like to thank Dr Olivia Carlton of TfL, Dr Simon Sheard of Capita Healthcare Solutions and Dr Margaret Samuel of EDF Energy who arranged for this doctor to spend some time in their departments, getting a flavour of the specialty.

If any of you would be willing to help in this way in the future, please notify Jean Whaley on jean.whaley@facocmed.ac.uk.

BOHRF EVIDENCE REVIEW LAUNCH

BOHRF will be holding a one day conference on occupational allergies on Thursday 25 March 2010 at the Royal College of Physicians, London. This will feature the launch of the new systematic evidence review on occupational contact dermatitis and urticaria; and the update of the prizewinning systematic evidence on occupational asthma. Would members who would like to attend please register by emailing Anna McNeil at annamcneill2@aol.com.

PATHWAYS TO WORK

Members may be interested in new evaluation of the [Pathways to Work initiative](#) which has been rolled out more widely. Disappointingly, benefits seen in initial pilot work are not apparent. Reasons for this discrepancy are being investigated.

SCOTTISH TRAINING SITE

We have been asked to advise members that the [Scottish Medical Training website](#) is now live.

A GUIDE TO FINANCE FOR HOSPITAL DOCTORS

The Faculty has been alerted by the Academy of Medical Royal Colleges and the Audit Commission to their publication [A Guide to Finance for Hospital Doctors](#) and we have been asked to circulate the document widely.

NICE FELLOWS PROGRAMME

NICE has created the [NICE Fellows and Scholars Programme](#). NICE Fellowships and

Scholarships will recognise the achievement and promise of NHS health professionals, contribute to their professional development, and foster a growing network of health professionals linked to NICE who will help to improve the quality of care in their local areas.

BOHS CONSULTATION

The British Occupational Hygiene Society (BOHS) has just launched a consultation on the future of occupational hygiene, and welcomes input from any individuals involved in workplace health, spanning all relevant industry sectors and professions. An online survey via www.bohs.org is now open. A discussion document is also available from the survey opening page which provides important background information to the key questions which BOHS is asking its members and fellow professionals from peer societies, as well as other key stakeholders.

The survey closes on 8 December 2009.

FOOTNOTE

The Faculty is taking forward a multiplicity of projects at the moment including the development of revalidation systems, the new standards for occupational health services and the new Part 2 membership examination, which will become operational in 2010. I would like to express our thanks to those leading the new developments and also to the many RSAs and deputies and examiners for their vital and valued contribution to our ongoing work in training and examinations.

Please note too, the invitation to apply for the Wilf Howe Memorial Prize and the Mobbs Travelling Fellowship. You will see, in the information, the range of topics submitted in the past for these prizes, which have been won by both specialists and trainees. Do consider whether you might be eligible.

And finally, we are fast approaching our next conference, Risky Business, on 2 December 2009. There are a few places left, if you have not yet booked but would like to, click [here](#).

With best wishes

Nicky Coates
Chief Executive