

**From the President
Dr Olivia Carlton FRCP FFOM FFOMRCPI(Hon)**



To all members of the Faculty of Occupational Medicine

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Dear Colleague

As the year races on, with the Faculty's activities seeming to expand by the month, I am pleased to take this opportunity to update you on some of the current Faculty news and workstreams.

I hope you have enjoyed the Olympics and Paralympics as much as I have. I had the opportunity to do some shifts as a Travel Ambassador, wearing a pink tabard and helping people at Stratford and elsewhere with travel directions. It was fun to be out on the 'front line' and the mood of good cheer was remarkable. I was not a volunteer in the true meaning of the word, as I was being paid for my shifts, although I had volunteered to do them.

We are as lucky and as indebted to our volunteers at the Faculty as the The Games organisers have been. Without people stepping forward and volunteering for the multiple roles we have here, we could not sustain this busy agenda of education, policy and professional development. And so I am delighted and grateful to be announcing that we have recently made a number of appointments, including Dr Simon Sheard as the Director of Quality Improvement and Dr David McLoughlin as the Director of Assessment. Dr Rae Chang is joining the Board as the new trainee representative. Also, in view of the recent approval by the Department of Health of Aviation and Space Medicine as a recognised specialty, Professor David Gradwell is being co-opted to the Board for a period of two years, in order to ensure close working between aviation medicine and the Faculty during this time of change.

The Director of Quality Improvement is a new role which will concentrate on, and drive forward the Faculty's quality improvement work, including our ongoing work with SEQOHS and the Health and Work Development Unit. We are planning to develop a joint quality improvement strategy together with the Society of Occupational Medicine (SOM) and I will report further on this in due course.

A major focus of our work, in recent months, and one which will continue to grow over the next year, is revalidation and the development and implementation of the responsible officer role. I must take this opportunity to urge you to ensure that you are receiving our electronic newsletter as this now often carries important information about revalidation. The latest updates can be found on the Revalidation and Responsible Officer pages of the Faculty website. If you are not receiving the newsletters electronically, I suggest that you update your email address by contacting: membership@fom.ac.uk. Newsletters can also be found in the members' section of the website

The Board and Executive Committee will be holding their annual strategy day near Doncaster in October. We will be considering the work of the strategy group in the context of the many developments underway at the moment and I will be reporting back to you on this.

Finally I would like to draw to your attention to our forthcoming conferences and professional briefing days. As I write we have just held a conference which was run jointly with the Faculty of Travel Medicine (FTM): 'Should they stay or should they go?'. The feedback has been excellent and our thanks go to FTM for their support and co-operation on this venture.

You will find enclosed information about the launch of 'Guidance on ethics for occupational health practice' at a conference on 12 December and in 2013 we shall have two launches for the new edition of Fitness for Work, one in London on 5 March and one in Edinburgh on 5 September, the latter in collaboration with the SOM Scotland group. These launch events of our major publications are always well attended and so do make sure you book early.

Our first professional briefing day, on employment tribunals, is fully booked. The next one will be on audit in January 2013 and so look out for the booking details.

As ever, I am pleased to receive members' ideas and so if you would like to contact me, please email to: president@fom.ac.uk . Your views are always welcome.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Olivia Carlton". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above a horizontal line that extends to the right.

Olivia Carlton