

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY OF THE MEETING OF THE ACADEMY OF MEDICAL ROYAL COLLEGES ON 1 JUNE 2005

The Postgraduate Medical Education & Training Board (PMETB)

The Chairman reported that eight Colleges had nominated candidates to fill the vacancy on PMETB following the resignation of Professor Sian Griffiths. These nominees were sent to Mr Andrew Foster at the beginning of May and all had been invited to apply for the post. Formal interviews would take place in due course.

Secretary of State for Health

The Chairman reported that he had had a brief meeting with Patricia Hewitt, the new Secretary of State for Health. It was agreed that she should be invited to meet the Academy, as a group.

Specific items to be discussed would be agreed.

Meeting with Foundation Trust Chief Executives to discuss a proposed Concordat

The Academy considered the draft Concordat that had been prepared following a meeting with a number of Chief Executives of Foundation Trusts. The Concordat would signify the commitment of the Academy and the Foundation Trust Network to work together on the appointment of consultant medical staff to ensure that the highest standards of professional medical practice in Foundation Trusts were maintained in the interests of patients and the quality of care provided by the Trusts.

The Academy endorsed the Concordat.

The Academy also received a tabled guidance document that had been prepared by the Foundation Trust Network, which they would be disseminating to their members. It was suggested that this document should be appended to the Concordat and published in College Newsletters and Bulletins.

Professor Black tabled the Royal College of Physicians of London's draft document on services it could offer to the Foundation Trusts. The Chairman suggested that this document be taken back to each College or Faculty to discuss in order to ascertain if it could form the basis of a generic document of services. It was further suggested that a code of conduct for College/Faculty nominees should be produced and the Chairman asked members of the Academy to consider this suggestion

Common Approaches to Appraisal and Revalidation – Commission by the General Medical Council

The GMC had asked the Academy to help in the work that they were doing around revalidation. The Colleges and Faculties were asked to identify:

- The sorts of evidence that doctors in their specialty might collect in their portfolio
- The standards to be met by individual practitioners
- Key early indicators of poor performance
- The definition of 'in good standing'.

The Chairman reported that Dr Alastair Mason had agreed to undertake this piece of work for the Academy.

Dr Lakhani indicated that Colleges and Faculties had an important role to play in ensuring that standards improved and were shown to be of the highest order for the protection of patients.

The Academy's Rural Issues Subcommittee

The Chairman reported that the above short-life subcommittee had been convened under the chairmanship of Dr Ian Mungall to look at the issues surrounding medicine in remote areas. Professor Allan Templeton, President of the Royal College of Obstetricians & Gynaecologists, agreed to represent the Academy on this subcommittee to ensure good channels of communication.

The Postgraduate Medical Education and Training Board - Service Level Agreements with the Colleges and Faculties

The Academy received, for information, a copy of a letter dated 26 May 2005 to Chief Executive of PMETB regarding key issues that had emerged during recent discussions in respect of service level agreements. All Chief Executives of the Colleges and Faculties had signed the letter, and the Academy supported this initiative.

During the ensuing discussions, members of the Academy stated that it was vital that doctors be released from their Trusts to undertake the evaluation work for Article 14 and the Chairman agreed to write to Sir Nigel Crisp regarding this issue.

MMC UK Advisory Board on 13 April 2005

A report of the above meeting was received from Mr Nick Astbury, who is the Academy's representative on this Board. Mr Astbury reported that the MMC UK Strategy Group had agreed that there should be one UK-wide curriculum.

Dr Sarah Thomas submitted a paper on behalf of COPMeD, on the struggling trainee, which included automatic referral to the General Medical Council if standards were not consistently met. This would be included in the Operational Guide.

There would be no SHO contracts beyond August 2007 and, after August 2005, appointments would be for one year only. There would be no automatic 'transition' and jobs would be open to everyone. It was likely that this would create legal and ethical difficulties.

The Academy's Postgraduate Education Committees

The Academy received, for information, the Minutes of the Postgraduate Education Committee on 11 April 2005. Professor Douglas reported that the aim of this committee was to bring together representatives from the Academy, including lay representation, General Medical Council, the Conference of Postgraduate Deans and the Postgraduate Medical Education and Training Board to ensure good channels of communication, prevent duplication and ensure there was no unnecessary overlap. The Chairmen of the Foundation Years Training Committee and the Specialty Training Subcommittee were also members.

The Academy also received, for information, the Minutes of the Specialty Training Subcommittee on 5 April 2005, which had concentrated on selection into ST1. Dr Andrew Havers from *Modernising Medical Careers*, who was a member of the subcommittee, had tabled a suggested list of ST1 streams. Professor Douglas reported that the notion of streams had subsequently been abandoned. However, it was expected that each specialty would ensure that its first year was not too specialised in order to facilitate transferable competences.

The European Working Time Directive

The Academy considered a request from the Department of Health who wished to establish a Working Time Directive National Stakeholder Group for England. The Academy agreed that this group should include representatives from the Royal College of Anaesthetists, Royal College of Obstetricians and

Gynaecologists, Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health, Royal College of Physicians of London, Royal College of Psychiatrists, Royal College of Radiologists and Royal College of Surgeons of England.

Possible Joint Workshop between the Academy, Healthcare Commission and the Postgraduate Medical Education and Training Board

The Academy considered a paper presented by Professor Sir James Underwood, who is the Academy's representative for the Healthcare Commission, regarding a symposium to facilitate communication and encourage action in response to the changes relating to quality assurance of medical education.

It was proposed that the symposium would be facilitated by the central team leading implementation of the Concordat between the bodies inspecting, regulating and auditing healthcare. It was further proposed that there should be joint ownership between the Academy, Healthcare Commission and the Postgraduate Medical Education and Training Board.

The relevance of this symposium to Wales was queried, although it was noted that in paragraph 4.4 of the proposal Wales was to be included.

Directors of Continuing Professional Development

The Academy received, for information, the Minutes of the DoCPD meeting on 6 April 2005. The main items for discussion included Boundaries of CPD, the publication CPD Ten Principles which was due to be revised, CPD for other Groups, including non-clinicians and clinicians in managerial or educational roles and the CPD scheme for the Council of Heads of Medical Schools.

Dr Shooter reported that the group had elected Dr Mike Watson to succeed him as chairman of DoCPD. Since the new Chairman of DoCPD was not a President of a College or Faculty, it was agreed that Mr John Smith, President of the Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh, should be nominated as Vice Chairman of DoCPD in order to ensure good channels of communication.

The Academy considered the paper *Post CCT Specialist Qualifications – A Discussion Document*, which had been prepared by a group led by Dr Mike Watson from the Royal College of Physicians of Edinburgh. Dr Shooter indicated that he had received comments from Mr Roger Currie, Chairman of the Academy's Trainee Doctors' Group setting out some anxieties regarding the paper. It was agreed to send the views of the Academy's Trainee Doctors' Group to Dr Watson for consideration.

Iraq

The Chairman reported that it had been decided to delay writing a letter to *The Times* regarding the security of doctors working in Iraq until after the General Election.

Professor Templeton had drafted a suggested letter to send to the Times but, following an article in the *Daily Telegraph* on the subject, it was decided to send the letter to this newspaper rather than *The Times*. The letter had been published on 21 May 2005.

Professor Templeton indicated that he would be writing to the Chief Medical Officer regarding the letter he had received from the Chairman of the Iraqi RCOG Representative Committee and would report that this action had the full support of the Academy.

Intercollegiate Committee on Improving Working Lives

The Academy considered a letter from Dr Helen Goodyear, Chair of the above Intercollegiate Committee. Dr Goodyear indicated that the Committee had been set up with a Department of Health grant which was due to expire in July 2005. It was unlikely that the Committee would continue after this date due to lack of funds. Dr Goodyear suggested that the Group could become a subcommittee of the Academy and provide regular reports on the work it was undertaking.

The Academy believed that this was an important group that could address issues such as flexible working, phased retirement etc. but believed that since these issues touched on terms and conditions of service, it might be more appropriate if it became a subcommittee of the Joint Consultants Committee since this organisation's membership included the Colleges and the British Medical Association.

It was agreed to refer the matter to the next meeting of the Joint Consultants Committee.

Intercollegiate Service Specialties Committee

The Academy received, for information, the Minutes of the meeting on 8 March 2005 of the above Committee. The Committee was composed of representatives from the Royal Colleges of Anaesthetists, Pathologists and Radiologists and, whilst not a formal sub-committee of the Academy, reports on its business.

The procurement of NHS diagnostics from the independent sector, role redesign, clinical supervision and medical accountability, recruitment, funding and training of SpRs and international recruitment were amongst the items discussed.

Items from the Joint Consultants Committee

The Academy received, for information, a synopsis of the meeting of the Joint Consultants Committee on 12 April 2005.

Professor Dunlop indicated that Professor Crockard had attended the Committee to discuss the work of *Modernising Medical Careers*. Whilst welcoming the efforts of the MMC team to address issues of concern, a letter signed by the JCC and NHS Confederation had been sent to the Chief Medical Officer and the Director of Workforce at the Department of Health outlining ongoing concerns. The letter stated that many doctors and managers remained to be convinced that service provision would not be affected detrimentally as a result of MMC's implementation. There was, therefore, a need for hard evidence from managers and clinicians involved in the pilot projects to provide reassurance that service provision would not suffer. A reply to this letter was awaited.

The Committee had also discussed Non-Medically Qualified Healthcare Practitioners where concern was expressed regarding the increase in the scope of NMQPs. Despite various reservations that had been voiced during the meeting, doctors generally welcomed extra support. However, the key point of contention was the level of expected autonomy that NMQPs would have, or expect, in the future as well as the impact these posts would have on doctors in training. A one-day conference on 5 October 2005 was planned to explore these issues further.

MRI Procurement

Professor Husband reported that the Royal College of Radiologists had undertaken a small audit of MRI provision by the independent sector. As part of this ongoing work, a report prepared by the Royal College of Radiologists, in conjunction with the Department of Health, had been published. This report suggested that the service provided by the independent sector had improved since its instigation in 2004.

Nevertheless, some variations between work undertaken in the NHS and private sector remained, and further work and resources were needed to provide an integrated, uniform, high quality service for all patients, whether they were imaged in the NHS or in the independent sector.

PET/CT Working Party

Professor Husband reported that she was chairing a working party between the Royal College of Radiologists, Royal College of Physicians and the British Nuclear Medicine Society. Its remit was to

produce a document on contracting strategies, service provision, protocols, education and research for the roll out of PET/CT in the UK.

The Department of Health had intended to convene a working party to draw up proposals for procurement of services but, in the light of this working party, decided to await their results and take advice from the profession. A document was due to be produced by mid-July.

The Chairman thanked Professor Husband for informing the Academy of this important work and requested that membership be extended to include a representative from the Royal College of Anaesthetists and the Royal College of Paediatrics & Child Health. This was agreed and Professor Husband agreed to contact both these Colleges for their nominees.

Academy of Royal Colleges in Wales

The Academy received, for information, a copy of the Minutes of the meeting of the Academy of Royal Colleges in Wales on 14 March 2005.

Professor Williams drew particular attention to item 5 d iv *What sort of doctor will be required in the next decade in Wales?* which Professor Simon Smail had prepared.

Since this issue transcended borders, it was agreed that the secretariat would obtain a copy of this report that could be considered at the next meeting of the Academy on 11 July 2005.

Specialist Registration in the United Arab Emirates

The Academy considered an email from Professor Sir James Underwood regarding Fellows in the United Arab Emirates where it had apparently been decided to withdraw recognition of all UK specialist qualifications other than the CCST.

Since this had implications for all the Colleges and Faculties it was agreed that the Chairman should write to the British Council to ask them if they would be prepared to make local enquiries. It was stated that this decision would also have implications for the Postgraduate Medical Education and Training Board which could be swamped with requests, under Article 14, by doctors who had no intention of working in the United Kingdom.

Over the counter medicines and quality assurance of 'High Street' testing

The Academy considered the April 2005 Drug and Therapeutics Bulletin which reported that in July 2004 simvastatin 10mg was reclassified in the United Kingdom from a prescription-only medicine to a pharmacy medicine and launched as Zocor Heart-Pro. This was the first statin in the world to be sold without prescription and was licensed to reduce the risk of a first major coronary heart disease event in people likely to be at moderate risk of such problems.

The Bulletin concluded that the reclassification of simvastatin 10mg had been approved in order to increase choice for consumers and reduce inequalities in healthcare through improved access to medicines. Whilst, in principle, supporting these objectives, reclassification was not based on robust evidence of clinical benefit and it was suggested that as a result the UK population had been enrolled in an experiment without adequate monitoring of benefits or risks.

The Chairman had previously written to Professor Parveen Kumar, Chair of the Medicines Commission and a reply was awaited.

Professor Black agreed to investigate the matter and would report back to the Academy in due course.

Patient/Lay Attendance at scientific meetings

The Chairman reported that Dr Wilkie, Chairman of the Academy's Patient/Lay Group, had asked him to encourage Colleges and Faculties to invite their patient/lay representatives to attend scientific meetings. This had been discussed at the most recent Academy Patient/Lay Group meeting where the benefit of such attendance had been highlighted.

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