

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY OF THE MEETING OF THE ACADEMY OF MEDICAL ROYAL COLLEGES ON 5 MARCH 2007

### Medical Training Application Service (MTAS)

Professor Alan Crockard and Professor Martin Marshall from Modernising Medical Careers joined the meeting to discuss, along with Professor Paice, the difficulties that had arisen with the new MTAS system.

During a very lengthy debate, members of the Academy gave individual reports of the problems that had arisen.

Members of the Academy then considered a draft letter the Chairman wished to send to the Secretary of State for Health, as well as a suggested action plan and a draft press release. These were amended during the meeting and agreed.

During the meeting a message was received from the Secretary of State's Office that she would meet members of the Academy that evening. It was agreed that the Chairman, Dr Paul Dimitri, Professor Neil Douglas, Dr Judith Hulf and Mr Bernard Ribeiro should attend.

Following this meeting with the Secretary of State for Health, the Department of Health agreed to set up a group led by the Academy to urgently review the MTAS process and the Academy issued a press statement welcoming this decision. Professor Neil Douglas was invited to chair the group. Other Academy members of the group were Dr Paul Dimitri, Dr Judith Hulf, Mr Bernard Ribeiro and Professor Sheila Hollins.

### Department of Health Payment by Results Clinical Advisory Panel

Members of the Academy considered a report of the meeting of the above Panel, which took place on 30 January 2007. The primary purpose of the meeting was to establish the terms of reference, the governance arrangements and to briefly consider the nature of the work plan.

The agreed terms of reference were:

- To provide advice on the clinical implications of all aspects of PBR policy
- To provide practical advice to ensure that PBR does not inappropriately affect clinical practice
- To provide practical advice on all clinical aspects of PBR development
- To review PBR pricing, providing practical suggestions to address current pricing which appears to be clinically inappropriate
- To provide strategic direction to the expert working groups delivering healthcare resource to group

It was emphasised that the group was a clinical one providing clinical advice to Ministers. The group was chaired by Dr Ian Rutter and the Academy had four representatives on the group. These were Dr Rodney Burnham, Royal College of Physicians of London, Professor Mayur Lakhani, Royal College of General Practitioners, Professor Dermot O'Riordan, Royal College of Surgeons of England and Dr Peter Gaines of the Royal College of Radiologists.

The Chairman indicated that if any other member of the Academy wished to have input to the group they should send their comments to the secretariat for onward transmission.

The Chairman then reported that she had received a letter from Dr Ian Rutter dated 1 March 2007 attaching a draft consultation document which included a proposal to continue with a tariff based on HRG3.5 in 2008/09 to enable the Department of Health to honour its commitments on a timetable for publication and 'road-testing' of the tariff as recommended by the Independent Review of Tariff-Setting in 2006/07. Dr Rutter was seeking views on three key areas, which were:

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- Top 10 'anomalous' HRGs
- Priorities for 'unbundling'
- Fairer reimbursement for specialised services

The timescale for responses was extremely short (16 March 2007) and the Chairman agreed to circulate this consultation document to all members of the Academy for comment, as well as to the Academy's four representatives on the Payment by Results Advisory Panel.

### **Intercollegiate Cancer Specialists' Committee**

The Chairman reported that it had been agreed that the above group be re-named the Academy Intercollegiate Cancer Specialists' Committee (AICSC). The Chairman also reported that Professor Niall O'Higgins would demit office as Chairman at the end of the next meeting of the Committee on 28 March 2007. Professor Janet Husband would succeed him and Professor Neil Douglas would be the education lead. It was anticipated that this would be a short life working group.

### **The Government's response to *Good Doctors Safer Patients – Trust, Assurance and Safety – The Regulation of Health Professionals in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century***

The Chairman reported that she had spoken to Dr John Jenkins, Chairman of the Standards & Ethics Committee of the General Medical Council, regarding his letter suggesting that *Good Medical Practice* be 'operationalised' following the publication of the above White Paper. The Chairman reported that in order to take forward the various necessary strands of work she was arranging a dinner meeting between members of the Academy and the General Medical Council on 12 April 2007. If members of the Academy were unable to attend they were requested to send a deputy.

Members of the Academy considered the Minutes of the last meeting of noted that due to high numbers of doctors recruited for the Multi-Source Feedback project it would not now be completed by the end of March and Alastair Mason and Lucy McKillop would produce a progress report at the next meeting.

Professor Templeton had presented the paper on the assessment of technical competence and it had been agreed that Professor Sir Ara Darzi should be involved in all aspects of the planning of the project.

With the publication of the White Paper, it would be necessary for the Academy to consider the structure and membership of its Appraisal and Revalidation Committee in order to ensure it fulfilled its areas of responsibility as outlined in the White Paper. The Chairman agreed to discuss this issue with Professor Templeton.

### **The Postgraduate Medical Education and Training Board**

Professor Douglas reported that the Chairman and he had recently met Professor Rubin and had discussed, amongst other matters, that Colleges and Faculties were concerned that money that used to go direct to them was being channelled to PMETB instead. It was understood that after 2008, the money would no longer go to PMETB but would go from the Department of Health direct to SHAs.

### **Directors of Continuing Professional Development (DoCPD)**

Dr Mike Watson joined the meeting to discuss his paper, which had been circulated with the agenda papers.

Dr Watson referred to the Academy's document *Ten Principles for Continuing Professional Development*, which was being reviewed. The working group had produced an up-to-date commentary on the principles, which had been circulated to all Colleges to seek their views. Dr Watson stressed the importance of all Colleges using the principles following the publication of the White Paper.

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Dr Watson reported on the joint collaborative research project with, and funded by, the General Medical Council on the effectiveness of CPD had been commissioned and the College of Emergency Medicine, with Manchester Metropolitan University, had been the successful bid to undertake this research. He agreed to keep the Academy informed of progress.

Finally, Dr Watson referred to the work being undertaken by individual Colleges/Faculties to illustrate how a 'credentialing' system might be implemented. Examples of possible 'credentials' in several specialties had been presented to DoCPD and there was strong support from a number of specialties to move this initiative forward and potentially align with work on re-certification. The Academy agreed that work in this area should continue to be explored.

The Chairman thanked Dr Watson for his presentation and for his continuing work on behalf of the Academy.

## **Joint Programme of Work Between the Academy of Medical Royal Colleges and the Department of Health**

### **Re-organization of Hospital Services**

Members of the Academy considered the latest draft document on the above. The Chairman thanked Mr Wardrope and Professor Gilmore for the considerable amount of work they had undertaken in order to produce the document and asked all members of the Academy to let Mr Wardrope have any comments on the draft by Wednesday 14 March 2007.

### **Shape of the Medical Workforce of the Future**

Professor Douglas reported that a researcher had been engaged to undertake the first phase of this work and a report would be considered at the next appropriate meeting of the Academy.

### **Academic Medicine**

Members of the Academy considered a report that had been produced by Professor Adrian Newland, which set out the current initiatives being undertaken. Professor Newland drew attention to the reduction in clinical academic staffing numbers, documented by the Council of Heads of Medical Schools, which showed a 25% decline in academic numbers since 2000. The reduction in clinical academics had been particularly pronounced among clinical lecturers and those indicating Medical Education as their specialty, the latter had declined by 50% in the last two years.

The implications of these reductions for research and education had led to a number of different initiatives during the last three years, the most significant being the formation of the UK Clinical Research Collaboration. The Academic Careers Sub-Committee of Modernising Medical Careers and the UK Clinical Research Collaboration had made a number of recommendations to develop clinical fellowships and lectureships and a number of Academic Foundation Programmes were taking place in several Deaneries. A new Academy of Medical Educators, chaired by Dame Lesley Southgate, had also been created to enhance the career pathway of both clinical and non-clinical individuals who wished to further a career in medical education.

It was agreed that the Academy should not duplicate work already being undertaken. However Professor Newland suggested that the Academy could work collaboratively by increasing College and Faculty input to enhance a number of the initiatives currently being undertaken.

Professor Newland suggested that four potential work streams should be considered which were:

- Training
- Mentorship
- Leadership

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- Promoting Benefits of Research

All members of the Academy were asked to contact Professor Newland with their comments on his proposals.

### **E-Learning**

Professor Husband reported that nearly all members of the Academy had submitted their responses to the questionnaire that had been circulated and the remainder were expected shortly.

The report will include:

- E-Learning and the health sector
- Project scope, management arrangements and relationships to other work
- E-Learning applications completed or planned by Academy members
- E-Portfolio applications in the UK
- Benefits, risks and constraints of using e-learning
- Role of the Academy in promoting and developing e-learning.

The final report was due to be considered by members towards the end of April.

### **Summit on the Safety of Patients – 22 February 2007**

Professor Hulf reported that she had represented the Academy at the above joint summit between the Healthcare Commission and the National Patient Safety Agency, and the Charter, which had previously been circulated to all members of the Academy, had been signed.

### **Bearing Good Witness – joint meeting between the Academy and the Department of Health on 25 April 2007**

The Chairman reported that the Academy had been invited to participate in the above meeting, which will be held at the Royal College of Psychiatrists on 25 April 2007 and invitations to those Colleges/Faculties most involved in this work will be sent by the Department of Health shortly. These were the Royal Colleges of General Practitioners, Pathologists, Paediatrics & Child Health, Physicians of Edinburgh and Psychiatrists. The Royal College of Psychiatrists had very kindly agreed to donate a room for the event.

### **Iraq**

The Chairman reported that she and Dr Peter Sullivan were due to meet representatives from HLSP and other organisations involved in the successful bid to discuss the contract.

There were about ten Trusts who were keen to help in the placements and discussions needed to take place to agree on the correct format of the courses.

It was suggested that the Academy might provide quality assurance for the agreed process and the Chairman agreed to report back to the Academy after her meeting.

### **Returning to Practice**

Members of the Academy considered a press release that had been issued by the Royal College of General Practitioners which called on the Government to restore funding to the GP Returner schemes which, between 2002-2006 helped ease GP shortages by providing at work refresher training to doctors who had taken a career break of more than two years.

The Academy supported the Royal College of General Practitioners' call for the scheme to be re-instated.

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## The Joint Consultants Committee

Members of the Academy considered the paper that JCC had prepared on its future role. Members of the Academy were requested to send JCC their responses to paper, and in particular to the questions listed under item 5, by Wednesday 14 March 2007.

Members of the Academy received, for information, the executive summary of the JCC meeting on Tuesday 6 February 2007. Items discussed included an up-date from Professor Alan Crockard on Modernising Medical Careers, the funding of medical education, physician assistants, PMETB and clinical assessment treatment and support services.

The Academy had been requested to nominate three representatives to the JCC General Practice Liaison Group. It was agreed that representatives from the College of Emergency Medicine, Royal College of Physicians and Royal College of Radiologists should be nominated and the secretariat would contact each of these Colleges to obtain the names of their representatives.

## Alcohol Alliance

Members of the Academy considered a letter from Professor Ian Gilmore inviting the Academy's support to join an 'alliance' of interested organisations, underpinned by an agreed Memorandum of Understanding, to take forward work on alcohol and health.

The Academy supported this recommendation and indicated that they would be prepared to financially contribute to this initiative.

## Scoping Group on Physical Health

Professor Hollins introduced this item and asked members of the Academy to consider the final draft of the report of the Scoping Group on Physical Health in Mental Health, which had been produced by the Royal College of Psychiatrists. The Academy also considered a summary document, which set out the overall aim and key recommendations, objectives and requests for action.

These included:

- Psychiatrists should be up-to-date (Continuing Professional Development) on key issues concerning physical health care in mental health
- Psychiatrists should be aware of the extent of their own responsibilities in physical health care and those of other physicians, especially general practitioners
- Any prescribing physician, including psychiatrist, had key responsibilities concerning the physical effects of medication and that these include clarity about who is responsible for physical health monitoring in long-term therapy
- Psychiatrists should be competent in physical health care as it impacts on the physical health of their patients, with particular reference to their own patient group (child/elderly/long-term secure care/learning disability)

All members of the Academy were requested to take the document to either their Council, appropriate committee or person and to ask them to liaise directly with Professor Hollins who would report progress back to the Academy in due course.

## Consent for Research in Emergency Care

Members of the Academy considered a letter from Professor Tim Coats, Chairman of the Research Committee of the College of Emergency Medicine, regarding consent for research in emergency care.

The amendment to Medicine Regulations, and their implementation in Trust Research and Development Departments and Ethics Committees, was proving challenging. Professor Coats indicated that he was trying to engage with the UK Clinical Research

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Collaboration since he believed this was the most appropriate route to encourage the development of national guidance.

Members of the Academy endorsed this suggestion, and Professor Adrian Newland, the Academy's representative on the UKCRC, agreed to take up the matter with them.

### **Work for the Wider NHS**

The Chairman circulated a paper on work for the wider NHS and asked the Academy to agree the following two proposals:

- A draft statement should be prepared outlining the external benefits of College and Faculty work, to be circulated to members for comment and then to agree a formal statement
- In order to produce a compact, uniform response, the task be undertaken using a standardised questionnaire, supported by a protocol and an illustrative example. A draft of such a document would be circulated to members for comment and agreement, before proceeding to formal enquiry

Members of the Academy were asked to take these proposals back to their College/Faculty for consideration.

### **Terms of Reference for the Academy's Governance Committee**

The Chairman asked members of the Academy to consider the Terms of Reference for its Governance Committee. These were endorsed.

### **Frequently Asked Questions about reconfiguration**

The Chairman tabled an email she had received from Peter Davies who was gathering material for a document on FAQs about reconfiguration. The document would be an attempt to answer FAQs in plain English and would be aimed at the public, local councillors, scrutiny committees, Members of Parliament and journalists. Members of the Academy were requested to contact Peter Davies direct either via his email [petergdavies@ntworld.com](mailto:petergdavies@ntworld.com) or via his mobile number 07947 065451.

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