

## **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY OF THE MEETING OF THE ACADEMY OF MEDICAL ROYAL COLLEGES ON 18 SEPTEMBER 2006**

### **CHAIRMAN OF THE ACADEMY**

This was the last meeting for the current Chairman, Professor Sir Alan Craft. Professor Dame Carol Black has been elected to succeed Sir Alan.

### ***GOOD DOCTORS, SAFER PATIENTS: PROPOSALS TO STRENGTHEN THE SYSTEM TO ASSURE AND IMPROVE THE PERFORMANCE OF DOCTORS AND TO PROTECT THE SAFETY OF PATIENTS***

Professor Dame Carol Black reported that she had received several College/Faculty responses and that it would be helpful to receive responses from other members of the Academy (even if they were in draft format) by 4 October 2006 in order to try to draw out common themes that might form a generic Academy response. She believed that the profession should respond in a positive fashion to the Chief Medical Officer's report.

This would be a major item for discussion at the meeting of the Academy on 25 October 2006.

### **E-LEARNING**

Professor Husband introduced this item and indicated that E-Learning was one of four areas that had been identified as a work-stream once Department of Health funding, and increased Academy subscriptions, had been received at the beginning of October.

Professor Husband indicated that she would be convening a steering group and that she would report on this initiative at the October meeting.

### **MODERNISING MEDICAL CAREERS**

Dr Andrew Drakeley indicated that the Academy Trainee Doctors' Group had co-signed a document *Modernising Medical Careers – The Case for Delay* with the Junior Doctors' Committee of the British Medical Association. Dr Drakeley expressed concern that MTAS would not be operational in time and indicated that no contingency plan had been agreed if this was the case. Professor Douglas indicated that he was aware of these concerns and had written to Mr Nic Greenfield asking who would be responsible if it was necessary to revert to a 'paper process'. He had not as yet received a reply. Both he and Professor Lakhani represented the Academy at the *Modernising Medical Careers Strategy Group* and would report the Academy's concerns regarding the lack of clarity.

Professor Douglas indicated that it would be helpful if those who had concerns regarding *Modernising Medical Careers* should not act independently but channel them through JACSTAG or directly to Professor Douglas or Professor Lakhani.

It was agreed that the proper resourcing of training in the United Kingdom should be raised at the next meeting between the Academy and the Secretary of State.

Members of the Academy considered a tabled letter from Dr Tony Jewell, Chief Medical Officer for Wales, regarding the *Modernising Medical Careers Strategy Group* and the assessment of competence in *MMC*. Professor Douglas indicated that he would discuss this request with Dr Jewell on behalf of the Academy.

### **THE POSTGRADUATE MEDICAL EDUCATION AND TRAINING BOARD**

Members of the Academy considered correspondence from Mr Bernard Ribeiro regarding the relationships and communication between PMETB and the Colleges and Faculties. Mr Ribeiro indicated that there was a strong view from his lay representatives that on issues where Colleges had cited concerns about training in a Trust, such that the trainees were working in an environment where there may have been issues relating to patient safety and where it would have been appropriate to remove them from such a post, little action was taken by PMETB. Part of the problem was that there did not appear to be an appeal mechanism built into the PMETB Order so decisions of this nature could not be challenged. The Chairman indicated that he would take this issue up with PMETB.

The Chairman asked members of the Academy if they wished to produce a generic response to *Quality Assurance of the Foundation Programme – A Consultation*, which had been sent to all Colleges and Faculties. It was agreed that this would be helpful and the Chairman requested that all members of the Academy send to the secretariat copies of their responses by 10 October 2006 so that areas of agreement could be highlighted. It was agreed that the Academy and COPMeD responses should, if possible, be combined and Professor Neil Douglas and Professor Elisabeth Paice agreed to liaise with Dr Ed Neville in order to produce a generic response via JACSTAG.

The Chairman reported that his term of office, along with Dr Peter Simpson and Professor Dame Lesley Southgate was due to end. Dr Chris Clough, Professor Neil Douglas and Dr Patricia Hamilton would succeed them.

### **ENHANCING ENGAGEMENT IN MEDICAL LEADERSHIP**

Members of the Academy considered the Minutes of the Enhancing Engagement in Medical Leadership steering group meeting on 22 August 2006, which was chaired by Dr Patricia Hamilton and at which the Academy was also represented by Professor Janet Husband. Dr Hamilton reported that the main purpose of the meeting was to agree key elements of the project plan, which was UK-wide, and ensure that all members had similar aspirations.

Project goals would include competency assessment methods and a sub-goal of the project should be to encourage service managers to realise the importance and benefits of involving doctors in management.

Dr Hamilton reported that there had been an advertisement for three Project Leads and that appointments would be made by the end of September. Dr Hamilton agreed to keep the Academy informed of progress.

### **THE ACADEMY'S REVALIDATION/APPRAISAL PROJECT**

Professor Templeton asked members of the Academy to consider a paper that had been prepared regarding the Terms of Reference for Phase 3 of the above project.

It was agreed that a business case should be produced by the steering group on the work to be undertaken in Phase 3, which included:

- Understanding the relationships between re-licensing and re-certification
- Identifying best practice for the appraisal process
- Identifying best practice for the multi-source feedback process and the tools to be used in it
- Addressing specific continuous professional development issues
- Reviewing progress in the use of methods for the assessment of technical skills
- Assessing national approaches being used by Colleges/Faculties to improve quality, assure safety and manage risk.

The matter could then be discussed in greater detail at the October meeting of the Academy.

### **IMMIGRATION LAW AND PERMIT FREE TRAINING**

Members of the Academy considered a letter dated 29 August 2006 from Lesley Maudrell, Senior Policy Manager, Work Permits (UK) at The Home Office, which indicated that a new category of the Training and Work Experience Scheme (TWES), the Medical Training Initiatives (MTI) would be introduced. The new category would commence in September 2006 and should cover all schemes and arrangements sponsored or administered by the Medical Royal Colleges.

Professor Douglas indicated that the new category was for a total of two years and that certain courses were of a longer duration.

Professor Gilmore indicated that the Royal College of Physicians of London was hosting a meeting being organised by the Department of Health on 28 September 2006 11.00 – 15.30 on this issue. The meeting was

intended to help understand the provisions of the new sub category within TWES and produce a formula for assessing pay levels for participating doctors in order to comply with the requirement to pay the 'going rate' for the job and to produce a check list of information required by work permit case workers. It was suggested that members of the Royal Colleges International Forum should be invited to attend.

### **ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON CLINICAL EXCELLENCE AWARDS**

The Chairman reminded members of the Academy of the earlier timetable for Platinum Distinction Awards and the need to submit their nominees by Wednesday 15 November 2006.

Guidance would be circulated to all members of the Academy so that a uniform system could be adopted.

The Chairman indicated that he could provide information on those who were likely to receive a Platinum Award from the last round. Members of the Academy were invited to contact him direct for this information.

### **THE HEALTHCARE COMMISSION**

Professor Dame Carol Black reported that she and Professor Hollins had met Dr Anna Walker from the Healthcare Commission to discuss how the Academy interacted with the Healthcare Commission.

Dr Hamilton reported that there were certain obligations placed upon the Colleges and Faculties arising from the Concordat to which the Academy was a signatory. The two areas of activity were contributing to the scheduling tool, which would include activities such as visits, investigations, joint visits, questionnaires surveys etc. and the information map, which is a database of information from all signatory bodies and will contain reports of visits etc. Discussions were still taking place as to whether or not some Colleges/Faculties might share the cost of buying a licence for the scheduling tool.

### **THE ACADEMY'S HEALTH INEQUALITIES FORUM**

Members of the Academy considered a tabled paper prepared by Mr Nick Astbury, the outgoing Chairman of AHIF, on suggested future work that could be taken forward by the Forum under the incoming Chairmanship of Professor Sheila Hollins. It was suggested that the Forum could contribute by developing a core syllabus, working with members of the Academy, educationalists and PMETB, as well as concentrating on specific HI issues (such as mental health, alcohol, work and unemployment etc.) that can be brought to the attention of the Academy. The Academy approved the proposed pattern of work.

### **THE NEW CONSULTANT CONTRACT**

Members of the Academy considered correspondence from Professor W Angus Wallace from Nottingham regarding the intention of the Nottingham University Hospitals to produce an absolute cap on recognised College activity support at one week, i.e. 5 days per year. It was agreed that this issue was one that affected the whole of the UK.

Professor Dame Carol Black agreed to convene a small working group to identify the advantages of College/Faculty work to the wider NHS.

Professor Dunlop indicated that he would be happy to discuss the matter at the next meeting of the Joint Consultants Committee and the secretariat agreed to send the correspondence from Professor Angus to the JCC secretariat.

### **PATIENT AND PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT FORUMS**

Members of the Academy considered correspondence from Ruth Marsden regarding the proposal to abolish the Patient and Public Involvement Forums. Dr Wilkie reported that there was to be a meeting on 30 October for MPs and PPI members to discuss and share concerns at the proposal. She agreed to draft a letter for Professor Dame Carol Black on this issue.

## **THE SPECIALIST TRAINING AUTHORITY**

The Chairman reported that the Specialist Training Authority had completed signing certificates for cases that were in train before the transfer of powers to PMETB. At the last meeting of the full Authority, it was agreed that the Academy would provide 3 nominees who would form part of the proposed 'residuary' STA structure after the transfer of functions. Sir John Temple, Chairman of STA, and Dr Kit Harling, Honorary Secretary of STA, would retain their current roles.

It was agreed that Professor Neil Douglas, Dr Judith Hulf and Mr Paul Hunter should be the Academy nominees on STA.

## **ON-CALL ROOMS**

Members of the Academy considered a letter that the Chairman had written to Mr Nic Greenfield at the Department of Health indicating strong support for the joint JDC/AoMRC statement on the benefit of naps during a night shift. Improved performance and alertness was in the interests of patient safety and the Chairman urged Mr Greenfield to use his influence on Trusts to reconsider the retrograde step of removing on-call rooms. A reply was awaited.