

# Statement from the Academy Trainee Doctors' Group

5<sup>th</sup> April 2007

The Academy Trainee Group recognises the distress experienced by trainees applying to MMC through the MTAS system. Through our continued membership of the review panel, we have explored a number of options to try and overcome the shortcomings of MTAS, including the possibility of halting the current process. During our consideration of this possibility of halting the process and reverting back to the 'old style' recruitment, it became clear that this option would be undeliverable in the time available, and would lead to considerable problems with career progression.

Our main remit has been to maximise choice for applicants in a system that is equitable and deliverable within the available timescale. Whilst we were pushing for as many choices as possible for applicants, we were aware that there is potential for compromising the clinical service and, therefore, patient safety. However, the suggested solution of one interview for all applicants was unacceptable to us and we made strong representations for more choices to be considered.

Through continued negotiation over the past two weeks, the ATG is satisfied that a more acceptable solution has been reached by the review panel. We support the efforts by the panel to maximise choice for trainees. We understand that any option that stretches the clinical service more would seriously compromise patient care and safety. We will continue to ensure that trainees that are unsuccessful in round one will receive guidance, support and feedback, prior to application to round two. Additionally, we are keen to ensure that this revised process is delivered effectively within the timescale to ensure that successful candidates are in post for August. We also aim to be involved in discussions to ensure a much more robust system to select doctors into specialty training in 2008.

Dr. Paul Dimitri  
Chair, Academy of Medical Royal Colleges Trainees Doctors' Group

**ACADEMY  
OF  
MEDICAL  
ROYAL  
COLLEGES**

*Registered charity*

Number 1056565

*Chairman*

Professor Dame  
Carol Black  
DBE FRCP FMedSci

*Vice Chairmen*

Professor Neil Douglas  
MD DSc PRCP

Professor Janet Husband  
OBE PRCP FRCP FMedSci

*Honorary Secretary/  
Treasurer*

Mr Paul Hunter FRCP  
FRCS FRCOphth

1 Wimpole Street  
London W1G 0AE

*Telephone*  
020 7408 2244

*Fax*  
020 7290 3914

*E-mail*  
academy@  
aomrc.org.uk

*Web site*  
www.aomrc.org.uk