

Academy Council Meeting

Summary of key issues

19 July 2017

Welcome and Introductions

The Council paid tribute to JP van Besouw, immediate past President of the RCoA and Academy Vice Chair who died on 17 July.

The following new Presidents were welcomed to the Council:

Derek Alderson, President RCS England

Mike Burdon, President RC Ophthalmologists

Wendy Burn, President RC Psychiatrists

Michael Escudier, Dean Faculty of Dental Surgery

Carol Seymour, President, Faculty of Forensic and Legal Medicine.

The Council also welcomed the Faculty of Sport and Exercise Medicine as a new member of the Academy and its President, Paul Jackson, to his first meeting of the Council.

Professor Dame Sue Bailey

The Council paid warm tribute to Professor Dame Sue Bailey who demitted office as Chair of the Council at the close of the meeting for all her work for the Academy and wished her well for the future. Sue thanked members for all their support and wished Carrie MacEwen all the best in the role.

GMC – Priorities and engagement with Colleges

Charlie Massey, Chief Executive of the GMC, gave an oral presentation on GMC priorities and how it wishes to engage with Colleges. He stressed his wish for the GMC to work more collaboratively and engage earlier with Colleges to be able to operate with more agility.

The Council welcomed Charlie's presentation. Issues raised by members included IELTS, listing doctors who have sanctions, regulation of physician associates and sonographers, recognition of overseas qualifications and what can be achieved without legislative change.

Multi-Professional working statement

Following a successful meeting with Professional Bodies representing a range of clinical professions, the Council endorsed a statement of commitment to multi-professional working and a programme of joint work.

Education issues

Cost of Training

Progress on Colleges producing information on the cost of training was noted.

Foundation Programme Committee

The Council noted its appreciation and thanks to David Kessel who was stepping down as Chair of the Foundation Committee for all his work.

Letters to Patients

The Council endorsed a proposal from the RCGP for clinicians to write directly to patients copying in GPs rather than the other way around. Consultant Physician, Hugh Rayner, spoke about his experience and the benefits it can bring. Recognising this was a concept rather than a rule and there would be some exceptions, the Council warmly supported the proposal and asked for it to be developed.

MTI

The Council agreed to write to the Secretary of State seeking support for expansion of the capacity and scope of MTI scheme. Whilst the requirement for the current prioritisation scheme was recognised, it was felt there would be real benefit for applicants and the NHS to expand the scheme to enable candidates from all countries to again apply. Whilst the focus of the scheme must be around training it was recognised that the scheme does at the same time help address workforce pressures.

Genomics Champions

The Council agreed to support a proposal to establish a “Genomics Champions” group to engage with the NHS England Chief Scientific Officer, Professor Sue Hill. The idea would be to champion work to embed the use of genomic medicine in the NHS to lay the foundations for personalised treatment and interventions and increase recognition amongst the clinical community that genomic medicine is relevant across the NHS and not just in clinical genetic services.

Brexit

Following a successful seminar for Colleges chaired by Liam Brennan, Academy Vice Chair, the Council approved an Academy position statement on Brexit. This identified that the key issues in relation to healthcare which must be addressed are:

- Workforce Supply
- Definition/recognition of qualifications
- Medical science and research
- Regulatory alignment for health technology (medicines and devices)
- Public Health
- Reciprocal Health Arrangements/EHIC
- Funding and sustainability of the NHS

Work for the wider NHS

The Council welcomed the letter to NHS organisations signed by the four CMOs, Sir Bruce Keogh and the Chair of the GMC urging employers to support clinicians having release for work for the wider NHS.

NHS 70

The Council agreed to explore ways that Colleges could recognise the 70th Anniversary of the NHS possibly focussing on medical advances or women in medicine.