

Academy Council Meeting

Summary of key issues

Welcome and Introductions

The Council welcomed Michael Griffin (RCS Edinburgh), Tim Heginbottom (FPM), Ken Mealey (RCSI) and Esther Youd (Chair, AoMRC Wales) to the Council.

The Council thanked Alan Boyd (FPM), David Galloway (RCPSG), Paul Jackson (FSEM) and Mike Lavelle-Jones (RCS Edinburgh) who were all demitting office as President and hence stepping down from the Council for all their work for the Academy.

NHS England Long Term Plan

The Council noted developments on the production of the NHS England Long Term Plan which it is hoped will be published in December. The Academy had made a submission based on Colleges inputs and there has been significant engagement with Colleges in the process.

Genomics

Council noted the continuing work of the Academy Genomics Group, now to be known as the Genomics Clinical Leads Group. There is positive work with NHS England, but concerns remain that implementation is carried out effectively with sufficient resources and training for staff.

Winter Pressures

The Academy has set up a Winter Pressures Reference Group for Colleges to share intelligence and advice over the coming winter which all indications suggest will be no better than last year. Several Colleges have been working with HEE on guidance for deployment of staff, particularly trainees, during winter problems.

NCAPOP Reports

The Council noted the serious concerns of College and other audit providers over delays in the publication of audit reports due to NHS England clearance processes and controls. Actions taken by NHS England to date are in the right direction but are not sufficient. It was agreed that the Academy send a letter to NHS England setting out its concerns and what it would expect to see happening.

SAS Doctors

The Council agreed to endorse two initiatives in support of SAS doctors. These were to support the reopening of the Associate Specialist Grade recognising that this should be part of wider measures. Secondly, the Council support a proposal for development supervision /mentoring for SAS doctors and will take this up with employers and HEE/NES.

Supporting Doctors and Mend Medicine

The Council heard from Professor Lesley Regan about the RCOG work with their members on Supporting Doctors and on the Academy Trainee Group Initiative Mend Medicine, led by ATDG Vice-Chair Simon Fleming. Both initiatives are seeking to address the culture of bullying and undermining. The Council endorsed the proposal for Mend Medicine to act as co-ordinating and signposting service recognising the need not to duplicate the many other initiatives from Colleges and others already underway.

Faculty of Medical Management and Leadership

The Council was pleased to receive a presentation from Dame Clare Marx and Peter Lees from the Faculty of Leadership and Management (FMLM). Dame Clare emphasised how the Faculty had been created by Colleges and the Academy and discussed how Colleges could work with the Faculty.

Alcohol Health Alliance (AHA)

The Council also received a presentation from Sir Ian Gilmore, Chair of AHA. Many Colleges and Faculties are already AHA members and Sir Ian spoke about how alcohol related illness impacts across specialties.

Sharing of NHS Data with Home Office

Members noted the concerns about potential arrangements between Home Office and NHS on sharing personal data and it was agreed that the Chair should raise College concerns with Government as appropriate.

Brexit

The Council received a regular update on Brexit and recognised that there is still no clarity or certainty on the eventual position and implications.

Release for work for the wider NHS

The Council again discussed the recurring issue of release of clinicians for College work and other work for the wider NHS. It was recognised that there is no likely simple solution but felt that the issue must still be pursued. It is hoped to organise small round table with NHS Providers and NHS England to discuss the issue.

Locum regulation and assessment

Council discussed the issue of effective regulation of locum doctors. It was recognised this has been a long running concern for the GMC.

Costs of employing overseas doctors

The Council noted the inconsistency of Government messaging in encouraging recruitment of overseas doctors whilst creating new additional costs for employers in overseas recruitment. It was agreed to raise this with Government.

Disinvestment in Fossil Fuels

There was a discussion of College disinvestment in fossil fuels. It was recognised, however, that this is clearly an issue for individual College/Faculty Boards of Trustees.