

ACADEMY COUNCIL MEETING – 15 July 2014

Summary of key issues

The UK Academy Council in Scotland

For the first time in its 40 year history, the UK Academy of Medical Royal Colleges has held its quarterly meeting outside of London. The July Council meeting was held in Scotland and hosted by the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Glasgow.

While in Scotland, the Academy Chair, Professor Terence Stephenson and Chief Executive Mr Alastair Henderson visited the Golden Jubilee National Hospital and Forth Valley Royal Hospital.

The Academy Chairman, Professor Terence Stephenson thanked the Presidents of the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Glasgow, the Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh and the Royal College of Physicians of Edinburgh for the arrangements and hospitality. The Council recognised that this was an important affirmation of the role of the Academy as a four nation organisation.

Welcome and thanks

The Council welcomed Professor Carrie MacEwan (President RC Ophthalmologists) and Miss Clare Marx (President RCS England) to their first meetings of the Council and also welcomed the Faculty of Intensive Care Medicine and its Dean, Dr Anna Batchelor, as new members of the Academy.

The Council also congratulated Dr David Richmond (President, RCOG) on his election as Vice-Chair of the Council and Professor Mike Pringle on his appointment as an Academy Trustee.

The Responsible Consultant/Clinician

The Council noted with pleasure the successful launch of the Academy's guidance on the "Accountable Clinician" with Jeremy Hunt, the Secretary of State for Health in England in June. It was hoped there would be an opportunity to extend the work beyond the hospital-patient setting.

Inappropriate intervention and over-use

The Council debated the issue of ensuring appropriate clinical interventions and avoiding "waste" in clinical processes and procedure. The Council recognised this was an important issue which is about the quality of care, especially at a time of constrained resources, and provided a real opportunity for College and professional leadership. The Council endorsed a draft Academy report on the issue which will be published in September and also supported the development of further work related to the "Choosing Wisely" initiative. Detailed proposals will be considered in November.

Shape of Training

The Council noted that work was now progressing to flesh out the detail of the *Shape of Training* report to enable Ministers in the four nations to make a decision by the end of the year on whether or not to implement the recommendation. This includes a series of seminars on the key themes being organised by the four health departments and Shape Sponsoring Bodies.

The Council recognised that as detail was developed it was more likely that issues and different perspectives would emerge however they reaffirm their support for the principles of Shape and the continued importance of Colleges engaging with and actively influencing the process.

The Council was clear of the importance of increasing and promoting the value of “generalism” within some specialties but that a “one size” solution was not appropriate across all specialties.

Decisions of Value

The Council endorsed a report of the outcome of a joint Academy/NHS Confederation project on the process for good decision making in the NHS. The report will be submitted to the Department of Health, England, who commissioned the project and a summary version published.

Differential attainment in Medical Education

The Council noted the Academy’s continuing work with a range of stakeholders including the GMC, HEE, the BMA, BAPIO and NHS Employers on the full range of issues around differential attainment by different groups in medical education.

As part of this it was agreed that the Academy would co-ordinate activity to produce principles for all Colleges to ensure they can comply with the requirements to meet their Public Sector Equality Duties in respect of examinations and other relevant activities.

Personal Health Information

The Council noted the current consultation on personal health information in England and agreed to submit views to inform an Academy response recognising that the key issue is clinician and patient trust in the system.

Medical Innovation Bill

The Council noted the progress of the proposed Medical Innovation Bill and its continuing concerns at potential implications of the legislation.

NHS Practitioner Health programme

In response to request for its views by the Prescribed Specialised Services Advisory Group the Council agreed that the NHS Practitioner Health Programme which provides confidential treatment for doctors and dentists with mental health or addiction problems should be centrally commissioned to be available for all doctors in England. It was also felt that similar schemes should be available for doctors in the devolved administrations.