

**ACADEMY COUNCIL MEETING – 25 July 2012**

**Summary of key issues**

**Professor Sir Neil Douglas**

This was the final meeting for Sir Neil Douglas who demitted office as Chairman of the Academy Council. The Council and Professor Terence Stephenson, the incoming Council Chairman, paid tribute to Sir Neil for all his work for the Academy and success as Chairman. The Council wished Sir Neil well in his retirement.

**Council elections and membership**

Dr Tony Falconer (President RCOG) and Professor Sue Bailey (RC Psych) were congratulated on their election as vice chairs of the Academy Council.

The Council also thanked Sir Sabaratnam Arulkumaran for his contribution to the Academy as Honorary Secretary. This role has now been combined with that of the Honorary Treasurer.

**Parity of Esteem**

The Council considered a joint paper from the Royal College of Psychiatrists and the Royal College of Physicians (London). The paper developed the commitment in the Health and Social Care Act for equal treatment of mental and physical illness and the objectives set out in the Government's mental health strategy for England, 'No Health Without Mental Health' (February 2011).

The Council welcomed and supported the proposals in the paper with some minor amendments and Colleges committed to taking forward work on ensuring parity within their areas.

**Winterbourne View Report**

The Council noted that the Department of Health (England) had published an interim report as part of the review of events at Winterbourne View private hospital and a wider investigation into how the health and care system supports people with learning disabilities. The Council agreed that the Academy should support the proposed concordat and the development of core principles by the Learning Disabilities Senate on a statement of ethics to reflect wider responsibilities in the new health and care system by April 2013.

**HEE and LETBs**

The Council noted various developments including the appointment of Ian Cumming as CEO of HEE, the creation of a Medical Director post in HEE and the appointment of Independent LETB Chairs. The Council noted the proposals in the draft Care and Support Bill for the establishment of HEE as Non-Departmental Public Body.

**Clinical Commissioning**

The Council noted that responses were awaited from Sir Bruce Keogh to the proposal for an AoMRC Clinical Commissioning support role and from Malcolm Grant to Neil Douglas's letter regarding the lack of clinicians on the NHSCBA Board

### **Health Quality Improve Partnership (HQIP)**

The Academy was one of the founding partners of HQIP and remains a full partner in the consortia. The Council agreed to support their bid to re-tender for the Department of Health contract to manage the programme of national audits.

The Council was also clear that should HQIP be successful in its bid, as it hopes, they would wish to see further engagement and joint work with Royal Colleges.

### **Data Quality Improvement Project: Outpatient diagnoses**

The Council agreed to support a project to develop SNOMED CT terminology subsets to capture the top 100 diagnoses encountered by specialties in outpatients. As this is a significant task, it has been agreed that initially 8 specialties will be chosen.

### **Revalidation**

Dr Tony Falconer, the Academy Revalidation Lead, updated the Council on developments in revalidation including the likely approval in September by the Secretary of State for the go-ahead of revalidation, the Revalidation Steering Group endorsement of the current Academy position on SPA time recognising the need to learn from the real experience of revalidation, the success of the Academy Specialty Training Day on 24 July and the Joint Patient Group statement on revalidation.

### **Academy Remediation Working Group Report**

The Council considered the final draft of a report from the Academy Remediation Group chaired by Dr Richard Smith from the Royal College of Ophthalmologists. The Group had been established to consider the role Colleges might play in the remediation of doctors particularly in the light of revalidation.

The Council welcomed the report and thanked the Group for their work. The report will now be subject to minor amendment in the light of comments received and then published for circulation to Colleges and Responsible Officers.

### **Academy Policy Day**

The Council is holding its annual policy day in September. The Council agreed that the day would focus on the Shape of Training, clinical engagement with the new healthcare system and the quality agenda.

### **Academy Review**

The Council noted and welcomed the publication of the Academy's Annual Review covering the period October 2010 to March 2012 (the extended financial year). [http://www.aomrc.org.uk/publications/reports-a-guidance/doc\\_details/9499-academy-review-2012.html](http://www.aomrc.org.uk/publications/reports-a-guidance/doc_details/9499-academy-review-2012.html)