



# Academy Council Meeting

## Summary of key issues

November / 2019

### Welcome, Introductions and Farewells

The Council bade farewell and thanks to Helen Stokes-Lampard (RCGP), Lesley Regan (RCOG) who are demitting office for their work for the Academy on the Council and as Academy Officers and to Alice Wort for her role as Chair of the Academy Trainee Committee.

The Council welcomed Alison Pittard (FICM) who was attending her first Council meeting as Dean. The Council also congratulated Jo Martin, President RC Pathologists, on her election as Academy Vice-Chair.

### Global Health Workforce

The Council had a stimulating presentation from Mark Britnell, President of Global Health at KPMG, on the Global Health Workforce Crisis. What was presented chimed with many of the issues and concerns already raised by Colleges and the Academy. Points made from the presentation and following discussion included: -

- Global healthcare workforce needs are only going to grow
- Commonality of challenges
- With rising demand doctors are not going to be facing redundancy
- "Health is wealth"
- The solution is "more and different"
- The need for the Academy and Colleges to make the case for a "productive NHS"

### Pensions

There was discussion of the proposals from the Scottish Government and those trailed in the press from NHS England for interim solutions to the pensions crisis. These actions were welcomed although they highlighted the need for a four-country long term solution to the taxation issue by Government. The Council agreed a further **pension statement** [amended to take account of the detail of the subsequent publication of the NHSE proposals].

### Sepsis

The Council support a proposal from the Faculty of Intensive care Medicine to establish a group to align clinical practice and guidance on Sepsis across Colleges in the light of concerns on the current management of Sepsis. NHS England would welcome this initiative which will be led by FICM.



## GPs as Specialists

The Council supported a call from the RCGP, BMA and GMC for the separate GP register to be scrapped and for GPs to be included in the specialist register

## SAS Issues

The Council noted reports from the Academy SAS Group on the extent of SAS involvement educational activity and support for older SAS doctors. Colleges were asked to take up both issues.

## Trainee Issues

The Council endorsed proposals from the Trainee Group for guidance on the use of instant messaging and advice on how to claim tax relief on exams. The initiatives were welcomed but it was stressed they should align with other guidance nationally or from Colleges.

## NHS People Plan

The Council noted that the People Plan was delayed by the election and may not appear until the new year. It hoped that it will contain a further commitment to addition medical student places – although the Council recognised this must be matched with capacity for student placements. It is hoped that the Academy will undertake work on flexibilities and support for doctors in the later stages of their careers.

## Education

The Council welcomed work being undertaken by the Assessment Committee on how to manage reasonable adjustments in exams for dyslexia and on proposals for developing a generic curriculum on leadership and management for use/adaptation by Colleges.

## Foundation review

The Council considered the two recommendations for the Academy from HEEs review of the Foundation Programme published in the summer. The ATDG was asked to consider how senior trainees could act as mentors to Foundation Doctors and it was agreed to discuss with HEE how professional support could be provided to Foundation doctors.

## Assistance for Clinicians involved in patient harm incidents

The Council supported the need for effective processes for ensuring appropriate assistance for all patients, relatives and staff involved in an incident where a patient is harmed. It was strongly felt that the term “Second Victim” was inappropriate and a barrier to focusing on the core issues.

## Academic Leads

An update on the work of the Academy Academic Leads Group, hosted by the RCP London, was received. It was recognised that this was an important group and Council looked forward to seeing its planned work programme.

## Choosing Wisely

Recommendations for procedures/intervention of limited value produced by the Royal Pharmaceutical Society and the Chartered Society of Physiotherapy will be published shortly. The Council also endorsed a proposal for work on decision making in end of life cancer care.

## Innovation

The Council noted that the NHSE/I Accelerated Access Programme was keen to engage with Colleges in the prioritisation of items for rapid spread. The Academy will facilitate a meeting in the new year.

## LGBT+

The Council supported a statement from the RCPCH in support of elimination of stigma and to support health professionals in their role in providing support to LGBT+ children and young people.

## Genomics

The Council expressed its continuing concern over ill-informed public statements about genomic testing and agreed to circulate recent RCGP Council statements on genomic testing amongst members.