



Academy Council Meeting

Summary of key issues

February / 2020

Welcome, introductions and farewells

The Council welcomed Eddie Morris, RCOG President, and Anna Olson-Brown, Chair ATDG, to the Council and said farewell and thanks to Derek Bell, President RCP Edinburgh, who was demitting office after two terms as President.

Coronavirus

Council discussed the current position. The regular briefings for Colleges from the CMO were welcomed. It was recognised that if the situation deteriorated seriously the service would face severe problems coping.

Medical Workforce Race Equality [MWRES]

Professor Mala Rao gave a presentation to the Council on the work of MWRES and set out what support she was seeking from Colleges in terms of data particularly about the ethnic mix of their members and Councils and also data on differential attainment in exams. The Council was fully supportive of the MWRES work although pointed out that there is considerable variation about what data Colleges currently collect and what is feasible making it difficult to achieve a uniform response across all Colleges and Faculties.

Professionalism and Academy strategy

The Council had a wide ranging discussion which strongly supported the Colleges and the medical profession taking the opportunity to lead and influence the agenda nationally and locally. This entails ensuring that the changing relationship with patients is understood, getting the balance between promoting medical leadership/ownership and multi-disciplinary working and being prepared to call out poor practice from wherever it occurs

For Colleges themselves it means understanding their role and understanding what members, especially trainees, want from a professional membership body. It was agreed to explore the challenges and opportunities for Colleges, as membership bodies, at a seminar.

In a separate discussion it was agreed that the Academy should produce a framework of values and behaviours for College senior members and staff and principles of the process for dealing with concerns raised about the behaviour of senior College members.

Council support for College Patient /Lay activity

Ros Levenson, Chair of the Academy Patient/Lay Committee (APLC) reported on the strengthening role of the APLC but urged Colleges to encourage and support greater engagement with the Academy's patient voice workstream, including ensuring attendance by a representative at APLC meetings.



Reducing Inequalities Alliance

The Council strongly supported the RCP initiative to establish a Reducing Inequalities Alliance. The Council supported a proposed letter to the Prime Ministers to coincide with the 10th anniversary Marmot report. The Academy Chair will be a member of the group.

SAS Doctors autonomous practice

At the request of the Academy SAS Committee it was agreed to endorse BMA guidance on principles for autonomous practice for SAS doctors.

“Acting Down”

It was agreed to support a statement from the Academy Trainee Group on “Acting Down”

Paterson Report

The Council supported the recommendations of the recently published Paterson report although expressed some reservations about elements of practicality of some proposals. The Academy and Colleges will work with DHSC on taking forward recommendations.

Medical Devices - HQIP Report

The Council considered a report from HQIP arising from a roundtable discussion last year which proposed the establishment of registries for medical devices and implants. Members acknowledged this is a complex area and supported the principles of a devices' registry and recognised that registries are not sufficient in themselves without expert clinical monitoring and assessment of findings. It will be necessary to feed in the recommendations from the Cumberlege report on mesh implants. The Medicines and Medical Devices Bill 2019-20 should also impact positively on the issue.

Pensions

It was noted that an announcement would be made in the budget. In view of the differing views it was agreed that the Academy would not sign the BMA letter on pensions

Sustainability

The Council noted the publication of the NHS/I “Greening the NHS” strategy and encouraged members to respond to the call for evidence. The work in various Colleges was noted and it was agreed to produce an Academy statement in support of climate change action and sustainability in the NHS. Sustainability will also be an item for discussion at the Council Policy Day.

Review of Screening

The current review of screening was noted and it was reported that NHSE/I was seeking College input. Members will be asked for their views to input to the review and there will be a fuller discussion at the meeting.

Workforce issues

It was agreed to establish a strategic cross-college workforce group which would, amongst other things liaise with HEE and also to support the development of common core of data questions for Colleges censuses.



ACCEA

Stuart Dollow (Chair) and Mary Armitage (Medical Director) of ACCEA explained the recent problems of incorrect notifications for a small number of awards and offered unreserved apologies for the errors. Members were assured that the issues had been addressed. It was agreed that Colleges would take a flexible approach in this round to any individuals impacted by the problems.