



Academy Council meeting

Summary of key issues

April / 2021

Welcomes, introductions and farewells

The Council said farewell to Anne de Bono (FoM), Angela Thomas (RCPE) and Russell Viner (RCPCH) who were demitting office from their Colleges and thanked them for all their work for the Academy.

The Council welcomed Presidents elect Steve Nimmo (FoM), Andy Elder (RCPE) and Camilla Kingdon (RCPCH) to the Council.

Academy Workforce proposal

It was reported that the Academy proposal for a regular independent analysis of workforce requirements had been discussed with Matt Hancock who, in broad terms, had been positive about the idea. There are varying views as to which organisation is best placed to carry out this work but hopefully progress can be made.

COVID-19

The Council received an excellent presentation from Professor Beverley Hunt, Professor of Thrombosis & Haemostasis at Kings College London on post vaccine associated/induced immune thrombosis &/or thrombocytopenia. A highly topical subject and Beverley has huge expertise.

The Council also endorsed a statement prepared by the Faculty of Public Health on global equity of access to global vaccines.

Colleges as membership bodies

Martin Marshall, Academy Officer and RCGP Chair, led a session on the issues and challenges facing Colleges as membership bodies. This is not simply because of COVID-19 but because of changing expectations of individuals about membership bodies in general. This is not an issue which the Academy can resolve but it was recognised that there were common challenges across Colleges. We will look at collating information on these and possibly facilitating cross College discussions on specific issues.

Reform of Professional Regulation

The Council considered the current extensive consultation on reform of professional regulation. It was agreed that it was not necessary for the Academy to respond to all the 70 consultation questions but would focus its response on education issues, emphasising the role of Colleges, and regulation of Medical Associate Professionals.

SAS Doctors

The Council endorsed three papers produced by the SAS Committee on the role of SAS Tutors, later careers/retirement and rhetoric vs reality in regard to the experience of SAS doctors. The focus on SAS as a positive career choice was welcomed and the SAS Committee and their chair, Waleed Arshad, were thanked for all their continuing excellent work.



ACCEA – Reforming national clinical excellence awards

There was a full discussion of the current consultation from ACCEA on the future of national clinical excellence awards. It was agreed that the Academy should make a high level submission focussing on the need for equitable treatment across groups and recognition of national excellence across all domains.

Jeanette Dickson, Vice-Chair and RCR President led a discussion on the value and challenges of College Invited reviews. It was noted that the Academy is reviewing the framework for invited reviews at present. The key messages were over managing conflicting pressures and the need for transparency.

Restructuring of Public Health England

The developments in relation to the restructuring of Health Education England were noted with the establishment of the Office of Health Promotion and the UK Health Security Agency. The Academy will make a high level response to the consultation survey making clear its support for the expanded role of the CMO, principles of health improvement and the need not to lose expertise during any transition.

Education and Training update

Jeanette Dickson, Academy Vice Chair and Education Lead gave an update on education issues including the discussions with the Statutory Education Bodies on training recovery, Foundation mentoring and the review of Specialty Advisory Committees (SACs).

Medical Apprenticeships

Council noted the current position regarding the development of medical degree apprenticeships. Initial engagement had been very inadequate. Helen Stokes-Lampard, the Academy Chair, is on the national group to take forward the proposals and will ensure members are kept informed.

Royal Colleges and GIRFT Collaborative on Clinical Improvement

Sarah Clarke, Clinical Vice President RCP made a presentation to the Council on the cross-College GIRFT collaborative on improvement. It was stressed how clinical improvement and recovery are everyone's business. Colleges not currently represented on the cross-College group were welcome to join.

Academy Trainee Doctors Group (ATDG) survey on leadership

The Council discussed the findings of survey within the ATDG on their experience and requirements as trainee leaders within Colleges. The report focused its recommendation on time, administrative support and development needs. The detailed findings will be discussed by Academy Officers.

NHS Legislation

The Council noted a report on the current position in respect of the proposed NHS legislation.

RC Psychiatrists work on values

At the end of the meeting Adrian James and Paul Rees, President and Chief Executive of the RC Psychiatrists gave a presentation on how the adoption of a values based approach had helped transform the College. Members thanked Adrian and Paul for their excellent presentation and congratulated them on the work and its success within the College.