



Academy Council meeting

Summary of key issues

Welcomes, introductions and farewells

The Council thanked Mike Griffin [RCSEd], Gary Howsam [RCGP], Martin Marshall [RCGP], Alison Pittard [FICM] who had demitted office since the last meeting and so left the Council and also Eddie Morris [RCOG] who was due to demit shortly. The Council also thanked Alison Moulds [AoMRC Policy Manager] who was leaving the Academy for a new job.

New members Janet Barter [FRSH], Adrian Boyle [RCEM], Danny Bryden [FICM], Kamilla Hawthorne [RCGP], Rowan Parks [RCS Ed – In absentia] were welcomed to their first formal meeting as Council members.

The Chair also welcomed Phil McCarvill who is joining the Academy as the Director of Policy and Government Affairs in the new year.

Royal Pharmaceutical Society Statement of Intent

The Council agreed a proposed Statement of Intent with the Royal Pharmaceutical Society [RPS] on shared aims for improving healthcare and for close working arrangements.

Potential NHS Industrial action

The Council considered the position of colleges in respect of any potential industrial action in the NHS. It was recognised that terms and conditions and pay issues are outwith the remit of colleges and the Academy. It was, however, agreed it would be useful to have a collective position recognising the concerns of staff but also emphasising the need for ensuring patient safety. The Academy will work on proposed wording to circulate to colleges.

Impact of service pressures on clinical decisions and action

Council recognised that although individuals must continue to be accountable for their actions, there is no doubt that service and workforce pressures lead to errors which compromise patient safety. The recent letter from CMOs, NHSE and the GMC to the service on this issue was welcome but how this is enacted at local level was the key issue. It was agreed to respond to the letter's authors expressing colleges' appreciation but raising how medical directors can be supported in making this real locally including the idea of a Service Pressures Impact Assessment.

Work experience

Council supported a proposal from the RC Psychiatrists for greater standardisation of work experience in the NHS. Recognising this is a task for employers, the Academy will raise the issue with HEE/NHSE, NHS Employers and NHS Providers.

Academy Workforce Committee

The Academy is establishing a Workforce Committee to pick up and expand the work of the Flexible Careers Group currently run by the RCP but, as agreed by Council, to come within the Academy. The Committee will be chaired by Academy Vice-Chair and workforce lead, Fiona Donald, President of the RCoA.

Education and Training update

Mike McKirdy, President RCPSG, the Academy Vice-Chair and Education lead, presented an update on education issues including differential attainment and the recent meeting with the UK Foundation Programme.

e-Integrity/Digital transformation

Council received a presentation from Patrick Mitchell, HEE Director of Innovation, Transformation and Digital and Ian Graves, Director e-Integrity about HEE's work on digital learning and transformation and e-Integrity, the community interest company comprising colleges and HEE which is responsible for overseas sales of e-learning for health materials.

Nullification of exam attempts

There have been concerns at the variation in practice across colleges on the issue of whether exam attempts should be nullified on receipt of a new neurodiversity diagnosis. It was recognised that this was a complex issue and that not all exams are the same so there may be justifiable variation. It was agreed to establish a short life working group to look specifically at the issue of different college approaches to nullification of exam attempts and attempt to devise a consistent approach.

Assuring the quality of health information on social media platforms – Next steps

Council agreed to fully support the proposal to take forward discussions with Google on arrangements for principles for quality assuring non statutory providers and individual providers of on-line health information.

Anti-Conversion therapy statement

The Council considered a statement proposed by the Trainee Doctors Group making clear the Academy's opposition to conversion therapy treatment. It was recognised this was an important issue on which the Academy should make a statement. However, it was essential to get the wording absolutely correct. It was agreed that the document should be amended in line with any comments submitted by members, checked again with experts and recirculated to colleges. The statement will be signed off at the next Council meeting.

Members were reminded of the request from THET for action to mark the second anniversary of the Myanmar coup in February.

Update reports

The Council noted a series of reports updating on developments on:-

- Evidence Based Interventions Programme – Wave Three
- Academy Genomics work
- The Changing Face of Medicine project