

## Summary of the Academy of Medical Royal Colleges meeting held on 25 January 2010

### **Meetings between the Academy and the Department of Health**

The Academy agreed the suggestion from the Department of Health to hold regular meetings which would focus on horizon scanning of key issues rather than just trouble shooting. Members felt there would be value in such meetings provided there was a clear remit and focus and they did not duplicate the work of MEE or other groups. The group which currently meets the Department solely on EWTD issues would now not meet unless there were specific issues to discuss

### **Use of prophylaxis in relation to Venous Thromboembolism**

With this issue being increasingly recognised as a priority, the Academy and Colleges had been asked by Sir Bruce Keogh to assist in producing and disseminating good practice guidance which would complement the work of other organisations to help improve standards of care. Work is being undertaken to produce a draft with recommendations for Colleges and Faculties.

### **Pros and cons of a national examination for undergraduates**

The issue of the range of quality of output between the different undergraduate curricula which has caused concern for deliverers and providers of postgraduate medical education and service was raised. Despite the rationale for a final national exam for undergraduates it was recognised that Medical Schools were not supportive. It was agreed to hold further discussion on this with the GMC and NHS Confederation

### **Consultant Contract SPAs**

A draft statement on Supporting Professional Activities in consultant job planning particularly bearing in mind the likely requirements of revalidation was considered. There was real concern about the potential erosion of SPAs and the introduction of contracts in Scotland with only 1 SPA. It was felt that the "typical" provision of 2.5 SPAs was the right starting point. Members felt it was important that there was a clear position from Colleges but also recognised the need for flexibility. It was agreed to revise the statement and circulate it to members.

### **Academy Annual Report and Financial Statement**

Subject to minor amendments the Academy Annual Report and accounts were agreed.

### **Donation Ethics Committee**

The Academy welcomed the appointment of Sir Peter Simpson as the new chairman of the AOMRC's Donation Ethics Committee. The first meeting will be held in early February. The memorandum of Understanding with the Department is currently being drawn up and will be brought to the next AoMRC meeting for approval.

### **Revalidation**

Professor Furness updated the Academy on developments over revalidation including

- The establishment of the Pathfinder Pilots in England
- Academy funding of College projects where invoicing is required as soon as possible to enable payment before the end of March
- The seeking of legal advice on potential liability for Colleges if they were involved in quality assurance processes.
- The appointment of a new Academy Project Manager to replace Dr Kirsten Shaw who was moving to the GMC.

### **Duty of Candour**

There was discussion of the likelihood for there being a legal requirement for a duty of candour. Members felt strongly that this was an issue that was best picked up through the moral and ethical responsibilities of a professional rather than through legislation.

### **Academy/College response to the NHS financial position**

Members discussed the implications of current and future financial constraints on the NHS and how the AoMRC should act. The Academy's key concern should be the maintenance of the quality of care. Training should be protected and supported. It was felt that it was important that the Academy, colleges and the profession as a whole engaged positively with Government and employers in addressing the issues, as medical leadership would be vital.

It was recognised that large scale service redesign and reconfiguration would have to be part of any solution and the recommendations in the 2007 Academy report on acute care configuration should be reviewed. It was agreed to draw up a draft statement of principles to be considered at the next meeting.

### **JMCC**

Concerns were expressed about the value of JMCC meetings and cost of subscriptions. It was agreed to seek a review of the functioning and structure of the JMCC in order to achieve greater clarity around its aims and objectives.

### **Connecting for Health**

The establishment of a Clinical Information Standards Group was noted and request for College engagement welcomed. It was agreed to seek further detail of the requirement and seek College nominations

### **Governance Board – Medical Records**

A letter from the RCPL to the Chairman regarding the establishment of a governance board to assure cross speciality standards for medical record keeping was circulated to the committee and it was agreed to seek representatives for the group.

### **NHS Constitution consultation**

It was agreed that the Academy would only respond if there sufficient common issues identified by individual College responses

### **Patel Review of future regulation of medical education and training**

The publication of the Patel review was noted and it agreed that Professor Bhugra would draft a response on behalf of the Academy

**International Forum**

An update from the International Forum was received

**Staffing**

The Academy thanked Interim Chief Executive Mr Ian Whitehouse for his contributions and welcome Mr Alastair Henderson as the new permanent Chief Executive

**Future dates for Academy meetings in 2010**

Tuesday 30 March

Monday 24 May

Thursday 22 July

Thursday 30 September

Late November/early December tbc