

# ACADEMY OF MEDICAL ROYAL COLLEGES \_\_\_\_\_

## Minutes of the meeting of the Academy Trainee Doctors' Group Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> January 2011 between 10am and 1pm at the Royal College of Psychiatrists, 17 Belgrave Square, London SW1X 8PG

### Present:

Dr Damian Roland	Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health (ATDG Chairman)
Dr Hazam Alagha (via tele-link)	Faculty of Occupational Medicine (ATDG Vice-Chair)
Dr Caroline Baxter	Royal College of Physicians Edinburgh
Dr Josie Jenkinson	Royal College of Psychiatrists
Dr Mary Lei	Royal College of Radiology
Dr Scott Hall	Royal College of Psychiatrists
Dr Clare Piper	Faculty of Occupational Medicine
Mr Alastair Henderson	Academy of Medical Royal Colleges
Dr Daniel O'Connor	Faculty of Pharmaceutical Medicine
Miss Rose Carlow	Academy of Medical Royal Colleges

**1 Apologies were received** Dr Sanjiv Patel (RCoA), Ramani Moonesinghe (RCoA), Michael O'Gallagher (RCOphth), Professor Dinesh Bhugra, (RCPsych)

### **2 Minutes of the meeting on 28<sup>th</sup> October 2010**

The minutes were accepted as a true and accurate account of events, subject to some amendments made by the Chairman. They would be put on the Academy website in due course.

It was suggested that a list of acronyms be sent round to the group for the various committees and groups that ATDG members attended on behalf of the committee including a brief summary of their purpose.

**ACTION: Rosie Carlow to produce list with help of Chairman and relevant members**

### **3 Function of the ATDG**

#### **i) Attendance at ATDG meetings**

The Chairman introduced an additional item regarding members attendance. It is in the terms of reference that members should attend at least one meeting per annual cycle. While he did not want to enforce this, it would be useful to know the underlying reasons why so many members were unable to make meetings. The chair would distribute an e-mail aiming to collate this information.

**ACTION: Chair to design attendance questionnaire**

**Post Meeting Note: Vice Chair has created final draft to be circulated shortly**

**ii) Representation on the Committees**

Members received an updated list of representation on external committees for information. There were a couple of vacancies noted and the Chairman said that it was important that representatives were at external meetings as all those listed are relevant to trainees.

**ii) Future of the ATDG and succession of Officers**

**Membership structure.** The Chairman acknowledged there were a lot of meetings which required ATDG attendance, which is why the proposed changes to membership were being made. It had been previously noted that nationally recruiting representatives for meetings would lose accountability, add bureaucracy and run the risk of fragmenting the group if it was too wide.

Therefore it was proposed that trainees would apply via their own college trainee committee which would provide the necessary accountability. On the recommendation of their college committee, applicants would be nominated to the ATDG for a final decision. It was confirmed that members of the ATDG could of course put themselves forward for places.

Advertising would be needed to get trainees interested. The Chair emphasised the difference between career portfolio development and simple CV enhancement.

The Chairman said that there was nothing on paper to take to individuals committees at this point, but it would be good to raise it so that individuals were aware of potential up-coming opportunities. Advertisement was unlikely to get started until the summer.

**4 Current Issues (not addressed in Meetings)**

**i) Government White Paper (Developing a work force for the future consultation)**

The Chairman noted the need for ATDG to make a statement about the paper. Its focus is more on structure and finance. He highlighted that the word trainee is only mentioned in the paper seven times and that there was nothing about engaging with the trainee workforce. It potentially conflicts or dilutes what the centre for workforce intelligence is currently undertaking.

The group questioned how the Trainees Charter fits with the white paper. The first draft of which is being produced by Kerri Baker at RCPEd and was being presented to the college on 19 January 2011. It was noted that the Charter fits into the White Paper as it will provide detail about what trainees can expect to get from their training. However this is not directly relevant the White Paper and a Trainees Charter is additional outcome of rather than a response to the consultation process.

It was noted that getting the balance of what trainees could expect and what colleges expect from trainees was difficult to negotiate. The feeling is that Deans

and Trusts won't take on the Charter if it isn't balanced in approach, and Colleges do not have the power to enforce it

**ACTION: Chairman to draft a statement in response to the White Paper.  
Post Meeting Note: Chair finalising "Principles underpinning Training Document" and revising prior to distribution to the ATDG.**

**ii) GMC Education Strategy**

The Chairman attended the GMC Education Strategy day and felt although wide in remit there was no obvious step-change in strategy.

Post Meeting Note: Chair and other ATDG members will be attending a Trainee Consultation exercise with the GMC on 3<sup>rd</sup> March.

**iii) WPBA**

The Chairman reported that the Academy has a working group including Neil Douglas and Neil Dewhurst looking at the outcomes from the WPBA forum day in later 2010, and what the Academy can do about them.

The Chairman asked if anyone has evidence showing the types of assessment that are not working to feedback to him and to their colleges.

Mary Lei said that she would send survey questions and summaries of assessments from her college to the Chairman.

ACTION: Mary Lei to send copy of survey to Chair.

**iv) Exams taken outside of training**

The Chairman reported that the current position on this is that the GMC will consult on this matter again later in the year. There are wider issues of timing of exams being taken, resists, marking etc. that need to be looked at and considered.

**v) ATDG view on Tuition fees**

The Chairman asked the group if they considered that this was an issue that they should make a statement about. The group had a discussion about this and although acknowledged it was a big issue, and that it could have knock on effects to trainees further down the line, there were other things ATDG time could be more effectively spent on. It was agreed to monitor and maintain awareness of the issue.

**vi) LTFT minimum WTE**

The Chairman reported that legally it is not possible to enforce a 50% minimum whole time equivalent however it seemed unlikely that there would be a time where a trainee or a trust would want to work less than 50% apart from very specific circumstances.

**Representative Meetings attended by ATDG members**

**5 Medical Programme Board**

The group had a discussion about training requirements, written papers and CAS exam timing and frequency, as well as problems with pass rates impacting on

progression. The group agreed that there needs to be better dialogue between colleges, deaneries and trusts in terms of exam and recruitment times.

The surplus of foundation doctors against available places was also discussed. It was not as bad as had been first thought, no F1 doctor will be unemployed. Although the problem of total number of students against future training and consultants posts still exists. As it is taking some so long to complete training it has been largely undetected, but there are more people in the system than there may be jobs in the future. The Chairman said a discussion about workforce planning would be raised at the next meeting.

## **6 Chairman's Report from the AoMRC Meeting**

The Chairman confirmed that there would now be a regular agenda spot for trainees at meetings to raise issues and feedback on relevant matters.

The Chairman reported that at the next meeting he would discuss trainee standards and national level of trainee representation in relation to how difficult it is to come out of clinical training time to get involved. The value placed on trainee representatives varies between colleges, deans and trusts, making it harder to justify being a trainee representative in some circumstances.

## **7 Academy Education Committee**

The Chairman reported that there was nothing additional to discuss.

## **8 JACTAG**

The Chairman reported that there was nothing additional to discuss.

## **9 AFPC**

The Chairman reported that there was nothing additional to discuss.

## **10 JMCC**

The Practitioner Health Programme is still on-going and the JMCC has written to the Secretary of State to increase funding to cover the whole of the UK and consider parallel programmes in the four nations.

Supporting Professional Activities. The Chairman was concerned in the reduction of the SPA contract from 2.5 to 1. The concept of justifying PAs is not necessarily a bad thing however the concerns revolved around how easy it will be to convince trusts to increase time for service development, education and training, assessment once a 9:1 contract has been imposed.

## **11 AITWP**

The Chairman reported that there was nothing additional to discuss.

## **12 Medical Education England**

The Chairman reported that MEE's aim was to implement the Temple report findings by way of a working group looking at training from a trust perspective and how things can be changed and improved.

It will select three or four trusts to implement trainee and training rota to pilot the idea. Funding is provided by DH.

Its aim is to measure success to see if training is better for trainees, ideally it would need to follow trainees through ST1 to ST3, however, the pilot time is much shorter than this, so some outcomes measures may be subjective.

### **13 Any other business**

The Chairman suggested alternative possibilities for meetings, such as two half day meetings and one full day meeting/workshop. Generally members considered that four meetings were better. The option of having an away-evening with a dinner and a speaker the evening before a meeting received a positive response. As was the suggestion of one the four meetings having a strategic focus.

**ACTION: Rosie Carlow to collate the terms of office for ATDG members, so that any such event could coincide if at all possible with changing of members.**

### **14 Date of Next Meeting**

12<sup>th</sup> April 2011 (10-1pm)

**Post Meeting Note: Meeting Changed to 14<sup>th</sup> April 2011**

12<sup>th</sup> July 2011 (10-1pm)

18<sup>th</sup> October 2011 (10-1pm)