

Halifax: A Trainee's perspective

A Banfield

I have never been compelled to summarize my thoughts on a society meeting before, except in a social context.... but the Spring meeting piqued my interest on a number of levels, and that's got to be a first for me.

We maintained a forum for debate, unlike some of the more didactic settings of the past. It is usually the most commonly presenting clinical diagnoses, which provide the most stimulating discussions. With the dissemination of evidence based medicine it is clear that some commonly held beliefs might not now hold true. It is refreshing to be able to debate these misconceptions, such as the role of ventilation in COPD and substrate management in diabetic keto acidosis, without the new kids being kicked off the ward round, so to speak...

Secondly, by having an allocated 'free papers' session we were able to appreciate the efforts going

into service improvement nationwide, and compare with current local practice. As a registrar it can sometimes be difficult to involve oneself in management; it is sometimes too easy to rely on the fact we are moving on in a few months time. However, it was refreshing to realize I am quite interested on the impact of Rapid Access Clinics on the acute take and I wouldn't mind exploring the current effectiveness of Outreach services after hours. After all, my future career is going to be as much about managing resources as it is patients.

Overall, it was a well thought out meeting: I actually didn't miss a single session, and it didn't drag on unnecessarily.....unlike the M1, which really was a shocker.

Dr Abigail Banfield
SpR in Acute Medicine
Queen Alexandra Hospital
Portsmouth

The Society for Acute Medicine (UK)

International Conference

Scottish Exhibition and Conference Centre, Glasgow

1st–2nd October 2007

For on-line registration or to submit a poster, visit the SAM website: www.acutemedicine.org.uk
Or <http://www.regonline.com/societyforacutemedicine>