Trainees Update

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It has certainly been a huge year of change for all of us in training posts, and in acute medicine particularly. There are now trainees in Acute Care Common Stem (ACCS) and Core Medical Training (CMT) programmes as well as new posts at ST3 level and above. Across the UK we have doubled the number of specialty trainees in Acute Medicine, and the specialty is in a very strong position.

Curriculum

Those of you who joined acute medicine in August 2007 will be following the new curriculum as published on the JRCPTB website (www.jrcptb.org.uk). Pre-August 2007 SpRs have the option to use the new curriculum if they so wish, and everybody will also be following the generic curriculum. Doctors applying for a Certification confirming Eligibility for Specialist Registration (CESR) from 1 August 2007 will need to demonstrate that they meet the standards set out in the new curricula. Further details are available on the PMETB website (www.pmetb.org.uk).

Assessment

Assessment is also seeing huge changes, including the introduction of e-portfolios for all trainees in ACCS(M) and CMT posts. The JRCPTB expects these trainees to use the e-portfolio to record their assessments, appraisal and progress through training. Your deaneries should have provided you with the information you need to register. For everybody else, the use of Workplace Based Assessment (WPBA) continues, and all forms and guidance on the number of each assessment you should be aiming for can be found on the JRCPTB website.

Knowledge based assessment (KBA) remains centred around the Membership of the Royal Colleges of Physicians (UK) examination. By the end of ST2, trainees should have passed MRCP(UK) Part 1 written, and by the end of ST3, MRCP(UK) Part 2 written & PACES should have been completed. Although still in development, it is expected that the Acute Medicine specialty based KBA, to be sat during ST4, will be ready from Spring 2008.

E-learning

The E-learning project is still in the early phase of development. It will be based around the curriculum and will act as a supplement to learning in the workplace. All trainees will have access to it online. If anybody would like to get involved, please get in contact with Dr Mike Jones, SAM(UK) President.

Research

Many of you will be aware of the need to expand the evidence base in Acute Medicine, and there are already several national projects underway.

One such project is a survey looking in detail at acute medicine training posts, and we hope to be able to get the information it produces to you by the end of the year. Prof Derek Bell, Academic Chair in Acute Medicine, is also overseeing research projects into Alcohol Withdrawal Management and the Early Warning Score.

Trainee Contacts

Dr Roger Duckitt is standing down as trainee representative and I'd like to take this chance to thank Roger for all his hard work over the last few years. And congratulations to Dr David Ward on being elected as our new rep.

It remains very difficult for us to get contact details of trainees unless we hear of them through colleagues or the society directly. Please contact SAM(UK) with the details of any acute medicine trainees, particularly those who have just started this August, or trainees in other specialties who are interested in acute medicine and the work of the society.

Our aim for the near future is to link all members of SAM(UK) using the SAM(UK) website and a secure password-controlled area for members only. We are still looking for trainees willing to be local representatives for us, so if you are interested in representing your deanery for SAM(UK) and helping us to keep in close contact with you, please make yourselves known.

Hannah Skene
Trainee Representative
Email: hannahskene@hotmail.com

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