

'Take AIM' - Raising awareness of Acute Internal Medicine

A Kennedy, C Masterton-Smith, J Wheeler, L Threlfall, P Prinja & Z Jones

Acute Internal Medicine (AIM) may be the 'new kid on the block' as a medical specialty but it lies at the heart of our health service. Recognition of the importance of early senior review in managing medical patients admitted to hospital in an emergency has led to a dramatic expansion in the number of consultant posts being created in acute medical units across the UK. This has been matched by a similar rise in the number of higher speciality training positions, with over 100 posts being advertised every year. Although the majority of these posts have been filled, this expansion, combined with a relative lack of awareness of the speciality, has meant that vacancies remain in many Deaneries. This needs to be addressed in order for the speciality to continue to expand, and deliver high quality, consultant-led acute medical care in every hospital in the UK.

'Take AIM' is a trainee-led initiative, designed to raise awareness of the speciality of Acute Internal Medicine amongst junior doctors who are contemplating a career in hospital medicine. The programme is funded by Health Education England (HEE) and supported by the Society for Acute Medicine. Six 'Take AIM Fellows' have been appointed nationally, along with twelve mentors. All of the fellows are Higher Specialist Trainees in AIM, who chose a career in AIM to enjoy the challenge, case mix diversity and variety of skills which we get to utilise. We are passionate about delivering high quality, specialised care at the front door and are keen to share our enthusiasm with other prospective trainees. We are determined to dispel some of the myths about AIM, support new trainees and bring a fresh passion and enthusiasm to our specialty.

Who are the TakeAIM fellows?

Adrian Kennedy - an ST7 based in West Yorkshire with a special interest in Infectious Diseases and Tropical medicine and a Postgraduate Certificate in Healthcare Leadership.

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Charlotte Masterton-Smith - an ST3 in South London with a special interest in simulation and medical education. She also has a diploma in geriatric medicine and is trainee representative for South London.

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Joe Wheeler - a West Midlands based ST3 with a special interest in ultrasound who over the past 12 months has helped set up the West Midlands Acute Medicine

Collaborative, a trainee led research group passionate about quality and service improvement.

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Lynsey Threlfall - an ST3 in the Northern deanery, with 2 small children who currently works LTFT. She has a special interest in management and leadership.

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Paarul Prinja - a West Midlands based ST6 with a special interest in ICM and Echocardiography. She is the trainee representative for the area and also helped establish the West Midlands Acute Medicine Collaborative.

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Zoe Jones - an ST5 in the Severn Deanery with a special interest in Ultrasound and is one of two leads for the Acute Medical simulation training in Severn deanery.

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Our plans for the year ahead:

- Social Media campaigns - find us on Twitter and Facebook: follow the #TAKEAIM hashtag
- Take AIM Conference: on 14th November 2015 in Manchester: this is aimed at foundation year and core medical trainees, combining some key clinical topics with information about the speciality, raising awareness and dispelling the myths.
- Mentoring scheme - Using the conference as a platform we are going to establish a national mentoring scheme to provide juniors contemplating a future in acute medicine with a local enthusiastic person to contact for help and support
- Acute Medicine Awareness day - 19th November - we are contacting deaneries to offer a presence from the fellowship at any awareness days being held at a local level.
- Careers fairs - we will be visiting local and national careers fairs. Contact us if you would like representation from a fellow.
- Data collection - Throughout the year we will be collecting data to demonstrate how effective we have been in changing perceptions of acute medicine and determine whether this goes on to have an impact on fill rates for national training numbers

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