

2006 Spring Meeting

After two years in the planning stages, Judi's dream of NAMEM hosting a meeting in Northern Ireland to coincide with NACT's Spring Meeting there came to fruition on 11th May 2006. The original plan to hold some joint sessions with NACT was not possible but nonetheless a very successful meeting was held with no less than 12 Managers from Northern



Relaxing in the bar!

Ireland being able to attend. The meeting started with lunch that gave members of NAMEM Council the opportunity to talk informally with our Northern Ireland colleagues. The afternoon opened with a welcome and introduction from Andrina Hardcastle and a presentation on NAMEM from our immediate past-Chairman, Judi Sharpe. Judi outlined the purpose of NAMEM - to share knowledge and good practice, act as a support network, to hold excellent conferences and to encourage professional development and the aim of the afternoon - for people to be Informed - Enthused - Signed up.

Andrea, Pauline and Barbara each gave presentations on different aspects of the Training Programme and commended Managers from Northern Ireland to think about following in the footsteps of Beth McAllister, one of their retired colleagues, and to sign up for the programme.

After coffee Roisin Campbell, HR Manager for the Northern Ireland Medical and Dental Training Agency spoke about Agenda for Change and the Knowledge Skills Framework. It was interesting for Managers from England and Wales to hear about the similarities and differences in the system - of particular interest was to learn that there was no provision for Managers to update their job descriptions.. The afternoon finished with a fascinating talk by Dr Terry McMurray, Chief Executive and Postgraduate Dean, Northern Ireland Medical and Dental Training Agency on the history of the changes that have led to MMC - the Foundation Programme and the "run-through" grades - and how these changes are being implemented in Northern Ireland. Of particular interest was to hear about his experience with operating a pilot run-through programme in Anaesthetics.

In the evening we were privileged to join NACT for Dinner in the spectacular surroundings of the Stormont Government building, and look forward to continued



collaboration with NACT under the Chairmanship of Liz Spenser.

I recall a conversation with Beth McAllister over 10 years ago when she expressed her hope that NAMEM would one day be able to hold their Annual Conference in Northern Ireland. Now that the low cost airlines have made air travel to Ireland from all parts of the UK both quick and affordable perhaps that day is not far off - something to think about.

*Susan Smith,
Assistant Secretary NAMEM*

Dear Ruth,

On behalf of Viola and myself, please pass on our sincere thanks for all the support and hospitality we received yesterday afternoon and again last night at Stormont.

I know we were small in number, but all your colleagues really made us most welcome and felt a sincere warm feeling from all.

I hope that perhaps in the future, we shall get the opportunity of meeting up with you all again.

Again many thanks and best wishes from Northern Ireland.

Julie McKinstry

Training programme

At present we have 29 candidates registered on the Training Programme who are at various stages of the Certificate. Although the recognised timescale for completion is 2.5 years, submitting a module (or

part module) for assessment every 6 months, there will be a small minority who can achieve this in a shorter period of time providing their work meets the required standard.

A fourth edition has been produced on CD. This has been designed to be user friendly and

four new candidates are at present using it hopefully to great effect. They will be submitting for assessment for the first time in October 2006 and we will invite them to give their opinion in the form of a simple feedback sheet.

Pauline Jacques, Training Programme Bursar

From the regions

North Western

■ First, we would like to announce the retirement of Carol Hitchmough, Medical Education Manager in Wigan.

Carol (*pictured right*) is retiring this month, after 24 years in Medical Education. She started in the post working 25 hours a week over 4 days along with a part time short hand typist. During her interview she was asked "would you be alright working in a building on your own where there isn't much to do and it would just be a matter of being around if people needed anything? Do you think you could keep yourself occupied and not get too bored?". Well – she managed to keep to this regime for almost 2 years. How times have changed!!!!

Carol has been an active and valuable member of the National Association as Regional Representative and Vice Chairman and also as Chairman of the NW Managers Group. She is a respected colleague, mentor and friend to many and we wish her a very happy and healthy retirement!

■ There have been various meetings of the NW Managers Group including an Away Day in the Lake District, supported by the Postgraduate Dean and her team. The Managers are also working closely with the Deanery and Manchester University to implement a new software system 'HORUS-FP'. This is a software system which provides an e-learning environment to support trainees, supervisors, administrators and quality assurance analysts on the MMC foundation programme.

Horus-FP was piloted as a research project by 3 Hospitals and following this is going to be launched for the whole North West Deanery Foundation Trainees in August 2006. It allows trainees to check their diaries, reminds them of their assessments and appraisals and can demonstrate improvements in



their competencies. It can also be used to maintain an electronic portfolio.

From the Education Managers perspective it allows the administrators to manage, support, co-ordinate and organise the foundation teaching programmes, trainees and educational supervisors! No small feat! We will keep you all posted on this development.

Carol Paisley

NW (West) Regional Representative

Eastern

■ Postgraduate Medical Centres in the Eastern Deanery continue to be busy as we come to terms with the changes brought about by Modernising Medical Careers. For those of us who only have East Anglian Foundation School Foundation Year 1 posts that start in the February each year (to accommodate graduates of Cambridge Medical School), the trainees who started in February 2006 are our first intake. Similarly, our first Foundation Year 2 trainees will not start until February 2007: at least this allows us to take advice regarding generic teaching and so on from colleagues who have already started down this track.

There have been a number of changes in personnel in Postgraduate Medical Centres across the Deanery and we have welcomed some of them at our regular meeting of Postgraduate Medical Managers. One new starter is already a member of NAMEM: welcome to Barbara

Hehir at Bedford. We hope to encourage the others to join.

As mentioned, we in the Eastern Deanery meet two-three times a year as a group to discuss items of general and specific interest and as a means to provide support to one another. At that meeting NAMEM is a standing agenda item and allows us all to be brought up to date with developments as well as details of forthcoming meetings.

The Eastern Deanery has recently held briefing days for the Run Through Specialty Training under MMC that will start in August 2006. A wide range of staff involved with the recruitment and training of junior medical staff met together to discuss the varying elements to this work: Postgraduate Centre Managers, Clinical Tutors, Foundation Training Programme Directors, Medical Directors, Medical Staffing Managers etc. It was an extremely useful forum and gave us the chance to discuss the wide ranging elements that we all need to get to grips with concerning this major change that will be upon us this time next year. Whilst very informative for us all, it was still worrying to hear how many details still had to be decided and how much has only been discussed in general terms.

Judi Sharpe and I were lucky enough to be part of the NAMEM team who visited Belfast in May, to coincide with the NACT Spring meeting, to meet with our colleagues from Northern Ireland. This gave us an opportunity to learn about their work (their Deanery has already started on Specialty Training in Anaesthesia) and how they are being affected by Agenda for Change as well as a chance for us to let them know more about the work of NAMEM including its Training Programme.

Barbara Petrie
Peterborough

Oxford

Report from *Marilyn Hopkins* the new regional representative for the Oxford Region reports that the Oxford managers continue to meet regularly throughout the year

NACT Report

Continued from front page

The Foundation Programmes have produced a significant amount of co-ordination, paperwork and general management issues and I know that many Postgrad Centres have identified an individual to manage the Foundation Programme. The Specialty Curriculum is now on most Royal College websites and there is every indication that similar assessment methods will be required through each year of Specialty Training. Before you all gasp at the thought of 7 years of paperwork as well as the 2 years of Foundation Programme, may I add that I would expect all the Specialty Training paperwork, operational management, etc. to be co-ordinated at Deanery Postgraduate School level.

So what are Postgraduate Schools?

They are springing up in some Specialties in some Deaneries in an attempt to streamline the huge number of people currently involved in Postgrad Education outside the Trust, i.e. Specialty Training Chairs, Programme Directors, SAC Advisors, Regional Advisors, College Advisors, Deanery Advisors, etc. Few of us are able to explain the roles of all these various people and the Postgraduate Schools are an attempt to streamline the personnel and to ensure that the Deaneries and the Colleges are working together collectively and collaboratively. We await further advice about the Postgraduate Schools but I would advise us all to keep an eye on this and to ensure that the Trust is also included in this clarification of purpose and roles to ensure that it is a triangulation of College, Deanery and Trust representation.

As I write this I have just finished reading the CMOs Report on Revalidation which can be found on the Department of Health's website. The main thrust of the Report is that doctors need to

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Dates for your diary

20 September 2006
Autumn Study Day
London Victoria Dock

8 December 2006
Winter Meeting
Manchester

14-15 June 2007
Annual Conference
Jersey, Channel Islands

23 November 2007
Joint Winter Meeting
2007 with NACT
London

receive more support in the work place to ensure a high standard of practice and that the responsibility for the regulation of doctors is devolved down to Trust-level where it should be a Partnership between the profession, the public and the service. The importance of high-quality and safe patient care must have equal importance to Chief Executives as the business plan and service targets!!!! – we await with interest!

He is also suggesting that Medical Undergraduates come under the auspices of PMETB who should drop the "P" and become the

Medical Education and Training Board. I think this highlights the need for us to join with our undergraduate colleagues locally and become more accountable to the Trust which requires a close partnership between Clinical Tutors, College Tutors and Managers at both Trust and Deanery level.

Clinical Tutors need your support to help them with all of this and to embed education within the culture of the organisation. Keep up the good work.

Liz Spencer
Chair, NACT



National Association for Medical Education Management

NEWSLETTER *Summer* 2006

Disappointed yet delighted!

Chairman's message

PHEW! A very relieved chairman reporting to you now that my first annual conference as your Chair is over!

A very delighted chairman too - judging by the feedback my efforts were not in vain!

I was a little disappointed with the attendance figures and am keen to know why so few chose to join us in sunny Doncaster! The low turn out jeopardised our AGM however we were quorate in the end, just. The AGM was a little rushed due to a late change in the programme as our last speaker got held up in traffic!

The overall programme flowed very well and the venue was excellent - good accommodation and facilities.

The conference dinner proved 'magical' - literally! Our special guest - Fay Presto - kept us guessing about all manner of things! And we continued to be amazed the following day when PMETB revealed that they actually did not know how many doctors in training there are in the country!

We have an interesting year ahead and our future events are geared up to be informative and enjoyable. I would ask you all to be imaginative in terms of financial support to enable you to attend these events - you will not be disappointed and have so much to gain.

My term of office as Chair will culminate in what should be a superb annual conference in 2007 when our destination will be Jersey! Cheap flights mean it will be no more costly than getting to London and most probably cheaper!

I really do hope to see all of you there!

Remember - feel free to email me with any comments, queries or suggestions. Please also make use of the forum on the NAMEM website.

Drina



NACT Report

THANK YOU for asking me to continue the tradition of a NACT Report for your regular Newsletter. I enjoyed very much dining with you in the magnificent setting of Stormont Castle. The reality of MMC is finally hitting home to all our Consultant colleagues who are worrying about the removal of their SHOs next year! There is a significant amount of work to be done by all involved in PGME including Specialty Tutors, Clinical Tutors, Centre Managers and those at the Deanery if we are to get these Run-Through Grades sorted out and ready for National recruitment by November 2006! Never has there been a greater time for team-working and collaboration between all parties than right now. I hope you all have robust Medical Education Committees where Clinical and College/Specialty Tutors meet to discuss issues around specialty training. There also needs to be clear lines of communication between the Deanery Specialty Training Committees and the Trust which includes the Clinical Tutor as well as specialty tutor.

The Clinical Tutor has an essential role in co-ordinating things at a local level. There will be a general increase in the number of Trainees in VTS Schemes running into General Practice Registrar Years: in many areas doubling the number of trainees on the VTS Schemes. This requires cross-organisation working with dialogue between the Acute Trust, the Mental Health Trust and the GP Tutors to establish these rotations. Fortunately many of us have developed these linkages already creating Foundation Programme and so the PGME organisation locally has already started to be joined up.

Continued on back page