

History

1972

The Department of Health agreed to fund some thirty Consultant posts as a pilot scheme, which created a new specialty - *Accident and Emergency Medicine*.

1975

The Specialist Advisory Committee (SAC) in Accident and Emergency Medicine was formed in order to establish a recognised training programme.

1977

The first Senior Registrar appointments were made.

1983

The first specialty examination (FRCSEd in Accident and Emergency Medicine and Surgery) took place.

The Association has been involved in all phases of development and expansion of the specialty.

1993

Senior members of the Association were actively involved in negotiations for the creation of the Faculty of Accident and Emergency Medicine, inaugurated on 2nd November 1993.

1996

The Faculty of Accident and Emergency Medicine conducted its first Exit Examination (FFAEM) in October 1996.

1998

The Joint Committee on Higher Training in Accident and Emergency Medicine (previously SAC) at the Royal College of Surgeons of England, under the auspices of the Faculty of Accident and Emergency Medicine, was established. Since those early days the standards of work and the organisation of departments has improved dramatically and the success of the Association's activities can be seen in the fact that there are now over 600 emergency consultant posts in existence, with more than 500 Registrars in training.

Objectives and Functions

The British Association for Emergency Medicine:

- Recommends optimum standards of accommodation, facilities, equipment and supporting services for the provision of patient care and is responsible for establishing and maintaining these standards.
- Recommends staffing norms of Emergency Departments and ensures that suitably experienced staff are available at all times.
- Promotes publicity for accident prevention, the role of the Emergency Department and the education of the public in the principles of First Aid.
- Co-operates with other organisations involved in emergency care to produce a national policy on emergency services and to advise the Department of Health on Major Disaster Planning.
- Co-operates with the Department of Health in order to negotiate and achieve terms and conditions for medical staff and to provide guidelines for Emergency Consultant contracts.
- Co-operates in the training of all personnel involved in emergency care and advises on the standardisation and provision of equipment within the emergency service.
- Maintains close operational links with ambulance services.
- Maintains relationships with organisations involved in the practice of Emergency Medicine in the United Kingdom and abroad.
- Maintains close links with other professional organisations so that advances in other specialties may be applied to patients within the Emergency Department.
- Promotes research into all aspects of Emergency Medicine and establishes clinical guidelines for the specialty.
- Maintains close operational links with professional organisations providing Immediate Care.
- Maintains a close liaison with the General Practitioner to secure the appropriate use of each facility.
- Aims to improve operational links with Community, Medical, Nursing and Social Services.
- Seeks to improve liaison with Industrial Accident Services.
- Protects and promotes the professional interests of its members.

Constitution

The Executive Committee of the Association meets six times a year and consists of the Officers of the Association, Honorary Assistant Secretary, Chairmen of the Standing Committees, Chairman of the Emergency Medicine Sub-Committee of the CCSC, a representative each for Specialist Registrars (Emergency Medicine Trainees Association (EMTA)), Forum for Associate Specialists and Staff Grade doctors in Emergency Medicine (FASSGEM) and the President of the College of Emergency Medicine.

The elected members of the Council of the Association make recommendations on all matters of policy affecting the specialty and these are disseminated to other relevant bodies such as the Royal Colleges and government departments.

Council meets twice a year and consists of the Executive Committee and seventeen Regional Representatives. Nearly all these posts are for three-year terms and each year approximately one-third of Council is re-appointed.

The Minutes of the Council and Annual General Meetings are circulated to all members.

Meetings

The Association holds an Annual Scientific Meeting, usually in the spring, in different parts of the country which incorporates the Association's Annual General Meeting. At this time, members are encouraged to propose motions for debate, to introduce new ideas for the improvement of the specialty and to vote for the election of the Officers of the Association.

These meetings serve to illustrate the diversity of emergency work and each year this gives the opportunity to members to present some of their original work and observations.