

CURRENT ISSUES

11th JANUARY 2006

Welcome to this section. I volunteered to look after the website at the AGM in November '05, and this is my attempt to keep you informed about events and issues which affect all of us. If anyone wants a meeting publicised, or has information which they think should be disseminated to colleagues, please email me: bethany.threlfall@wlt.scot.nhs.uk

REGIONAL REPS AND EXECUTIVE MEMBERS

There are still several vacancies amongst the regional reps – these have been vacant for some time and it would great if we could get them filled. The areas are: Oxford, South Thames East and Northern. Does anybody from those areas want to be a rep? We also still don't have a London rep. on the Executive.

KEEPING IN TOUCH

Having given up on sending information out by post, we are now relying on email, which means we need addresses! What we're doing at present is asking that you nominate someone within your department as the contact person, who will then pass information on to all his/her colleagues. If this hasn't been sorted out within your own department, please do it as soon as possible and notify caroline.shaw@nnuh.nhs.uk

THE NEW CONTRACT

Please remember that the BMA can only let you know about developments with this and make sure that you get a chance to vote when the time comes if they have your contact details. If you or any of your colleagues have not yet registered, then do so now at www.bma.org.uk/sasregister. You do not have to be a member of the BMA to register at this site.

FAEM & BAEM MERGER

A 'Merger Board' has been set up to take forward the planned process of merging these two bodies into a College of Emergency Medicine. The board are planning a series of 'Merger Roadshow' meetings around the country in March 2006. Faculty and BAEM Regional Reps will be arranging the meetings, which include an opportunity for a short presentation from a SAS doctor. Invitations to attend should be sent out to all fellows and BAEM members this month.

SPRING MEETING

Being held in Wrexham on Friday 12th May. A flyer and booking form are now available on this website. Please come along for some education, debate and meeting up with your colleagues.

DISCRETIONARY POINTS

It's application time at present in most trusts, so get your applications in if you're eligible. The forms can look daunting, but see if you can find a friendly colleague who's applied in the past and is happy to let you look at their application form. You'll get ideas from them for filling in your own application.

PMETB

Still something of an unknown quantity – any information which people are willing to share about their own experiences with applications would be welcomed. The first anecdote is from an applicant who was asked to provide a copy of the notes of all the patients he'd seen over the last five years. His response was to get his Trust Executive Director to explain why this was impossible.

APPRAISAL

We should all be having an annual appraisal, but things are progressing very slowly in some areas. Each hospital or trust should have an appraisal steering group, which tends to be called the consultant appraisal steering group, but should have a rep. from the SAS grade. If there is no SAS rep., consider putting yourself forward and do a survey of all your SAS colleagues to find out how things are progressing.

Your clinical director is responsible for making sure that everyone does get appraised, but you should approach them if they have not approached you. If you feel that you are getting no response from your clinical director, write to them expressing disappointment that nothing has been arranged, despite your requests, and copy the letter to your chief executive and head of human resources.

Awarding of discretionary points and pay progression for consultants is being linked to their having completed appraisal. This is not the case for us as yet but may well happen in the future.

Looking at someone else's appraisal folder is very helpful when it comes to filling in your own – it may give you ideas about how to fill in parts of the form.

JOB PLANNING

Again, we're all supposed to have job plans, but for many people this is not the case. The BMA website has sections about job planning which are worth looking at. Keeping a work diary detailing exactly what you do and when you do it is very helpful.

Remember that job planning and appraisal are meant to be separate processes.

BT 11/01/06