Welcome

Health Education Wessex greatly values the contributions to education and training by its trainees. The role of the Medical Education Fellow (MEF) was created in 2005 to acknowledge trainees who act as true champions of education in their specialty, Trust or at national level. It was developed to recognise and support those trainees, who undertake considerably more educational activity than is expected of their level. There are currently 21 MEFs working in a wide range of specialties throughout Wessex and over 60 trainees have taken up the post since it was first created.

We would like to welcome you to this, our first MEF newsletter, which features some of the fantastic work that the MEFs are engaged in around the region. This issue focuses on highlights from our recent Medical Education Conference and feedback from the first trainee to undertake the new Secondment in Medical Education at Health Education Wessex. We hope that as well as providing updates on key activities, the newsletter may also inspire you to get involved and support the educational projects in your area. Further details about the MEF role and our current fellows can be found at our website


Dr Sophie Price and Miss Katherine Pearson (editors)

The Medical Education Fellows are led by Dr Rosie Lusznat - Associate Dean for Educational Development Health Education Wessex and the trainee Leads Mr Mark Szymankiewicz and Dr Sophie Price.

Further details about our current Fellows or how to apply for the role can be found at:


or by contacting julie.worthington@wessex.hee.nhs.uk, PA to Dr Rosie Lusznat.
Recognising trainee educators in Wessex

The 9th National Wessex Medical Education Conference

This year we managed to run another highly successful Medical Education Conference on the 13th November at Chilworth Manor. The theme of ‘Education versus Training: Contrast or Compromise?’ proved to be somewhat controversial, with some heated debate about what this means both for current trainees and future changes. The programme also included 4 workshops: Dr Simon Plint on ‘the Shape of Training’, Mr Advait Gandhe on the influence of IT and Apps on medical education, Dr Liz Tate on simulation and Dr Jonathan Rial on the use of social media in education. As always, these interactive sessions were highly enjoyable and provided much ‘food for thought’ in a packed day of education.

The two keynote note speakers delivered very entertaining and frequently somewhat alternative perspectives on issues in education. Professor Janet Grant gave a compelling presentation on the role that apprenticeship plays in current training. It is also difficult to do justice in writing to Dr William McConnell’s wonderful end to the day’s presentations. Suffice to say, it was a theatrical masterpiece, including music, song and even a short sketch. The audience may well never consider a request for a D-dimer in the same way again!

There were also a large number of submissions for poster presentations this year, with many from outside of Wessex as the conference receives increasing national recognition. Over 30 posters were presented showcasing an impressive range of educational activities. Dr Anand Goomany won the prize for Best Poster, with Dr Bryony Sales runner up. There were four excellent podium prize presentations and details of Dr James Edelman’s winning presentation follows. The conference seems to get bigger and better year after year, but the MEFs will certainly have their work cut out for them to improve on this year’s!
The Conference - Here are a few words from our winning podium presenter...

Recent recommendations from the Royal College of General Practitioners and the Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health have highlighted the need for GP trainees to have more focused paediatric training to allow them to effectively recognise and manage acute childhood illness. GP trainees will often complete a paediatric rotation as part of their training programme, and in this role, will be expected to independently assess and manage acutely unwell children before senior involvement.

The Simulation Training in Acute Paediatrics (STrAP) Programme is designed to increase the confidence and skills of GP trainees in the assessment and initial management of acutely unwell children in both a primary and secondary care setting. This is achieved by a programme of paediatric simulations that are delivered weekly over a 6 month period in the ward environment, and cover common acute paediatric presentations. Simulations are delivered by senior paediatric trainees or consultants using low or high fidelity manikins and involve the whole multidisciplinary team. These scenarios are designed to reflect the non-specific and subtle presenting features of common paediatric illnesses, and allow trainees to become confident at independently managing paediatric patients for the first 15-20 minutes.

This project was developed and piloted at Salisbury District Hospital as part of a Quality Improvement Fellowship. Data from the pilot programme showed that trainee confidence and knowledge increased over the 6 month period when compared to a control group without regular simulation training, and that trainees felt this would improve their practice in the future.

I am keen for anyone who would be interested in using the material from the STrAP programme to deliver training in their local area, to contact me to discuss how this might be implemented.

Dr James Edelman
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Secondment in Medical Education

The Medical Education Fellow programme has grown and evolved since its inception in 2005; the appraisal process, mentorship programme and appointment of a Lead Fellow have all been important developments. The most recent advancement has been the conception and implementation of a Secondment in Medical Education.

As a group, we are particularly aware of the pressures of time for the provision of medical education. For a number of years there has been discussion about enabling an opportunity for a period of dedicated time for this. Turning this idea into reality was not easy but with persistence and strong support from within the Deanery it was achieved this year and I have just completed the inaugural secondment starting in October 2013.

This has truly been a fantastic opportunity. I have had time to carefully consider my own personal educational practice, as well as influence and inform Deanery activity. I have researched the relationship between medical education and patient care – an area that particularly interests me. I have written papers, presented material at meetings and was commissioned to set up a monthly educational breakfast meeting for lead educators in the region which continues to run. This secondment also acted as a catalyst for me to undertake an MA in Education at the University of Winchester.

This experience has been transformational for me. Particularly having the time and support to critically consider my own professional practice without the pressures of clinical activity has been invaluable.

Mr Mark Szymankiewicz (Surgical Registrar & Lead Medical Education Fellow)

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Dr Plint, Dr Hockey, Miss Nugent, Mr Nichols, Jo Stevens and particularly Dr Lusznat for all their hard work and support for this role. The secondment will run again from April 2015.

Medical Education Mentorship Programme

In the early years of training, finding opportunities to become involved in medical education can often be difficult. The medical education mentorship programme has been set up to support less experienced trainees who wish to explore and develop a special interest in medical education. It matches trainees with a Medical Education Fellow (MEF) mentor to help guide their educational development.

Applications are welcomed from all trainees with an early interest in medical education.

Further information and application forms are available on the webpages [http://www.wessexdeanery.nhs.uk/fellowships/medical_education_fellows/appointment_as_a_mef.aspx](http://www.wessexdeanery.nhs.uk/fellowships/medical_education_fellows/appointment_as_a_mef.aspx) or contact julie.worthington@wessex.hee.nhs.uk.