Welcome once again!

Here we are already at Issue No. 3 of the OXSAS Newsletter. As most of you will have noticed, there has been a great deal of activity in the six months since the last edition. These are the highlights; if you think we’ve missed anything out, please let us know, and if you would like to see the format of this newsletter changed in any way, or would like to contribute to it, we’d be delighted to hear from you. Either contact me, John Lourie, at jlourie@oxford-pgmde.co.uk, or Linda Day, our Project Officer, at sas.doctors@mkhospital.nhs.uk.

New appointments

We are very pleased to welcome Peter Tun, Associate Specialist in Rehabilitation Medicine at the Royal Berkshire Hospital, to the post of SAS Tutor at that Trust, and Alison Stewart, Associate Specialist in Psychiatry, to a similar post in the Berkshire Healthcare NHS Trust.

Web-pages

Most of the Deanery’s Trusts now have dedicated SAS doctors' web-pages on their Trust intranets. Have a look on your own Trust's website and you may learn something about what's going on! A section on the NESC website on the SAS Professional Development Project in the Oxford Deanery has been prepared and is currently awaiting being entered onto the website for open access.

Development Days

A very successful SAS Doctors and Dentists Development Day on the themes of The Article 14 Route to the CESR, and Credentialing for SAS Doctors, was held at Milton Hill Conference Centre near Abingdon on 26th February 2010. Credentialing is set to become a "hot topic" for SAS doctors in the future, as a component of revalidation, and you will certainly be hearing more on this in the months and years to come. The next (3rd.) Oxford Deanery Development Day, themed on Leadership and Management for SAS Doctors will be held at Milton Hill on 1st. October - so put this date in your diaries now (if it is not already there!) This meeting will be
organised with the assistance of MIAD conferences, who have wide experience in running courses and conferences in this and related areas.

**Other Courses and Meetings**

The SAS Tutors, together with SAS representatives from each Trust, continue to meet together every three months in Oxford - our next meeting will be our sixth. We discuss plans to promote CME and CPD activities for SAS grades locally and at Deanery level, and develop strategies to encourage uptake of the wide range of opportunities available to assist your professional and career development. All SAS Tutors have now undergone appraisals, and of course many SAS doctors themselves have received training as appraisers. We would like to work towards a situation in which senior SAS doctors are accepted as appraisers of trainees in their specialties, and this is already slowly beginning to develop in a variety of settings.

You should all be receiving copies of the "What's On" communication, giving details of the courses, conferences and meetings which are available (normally free of charge) to all SAS grades (Associate Specialists, Staff Grades, Clinical Assistants, Hospital Practitioners and Specialty Doctors) working in the Trusts in the Oxford Deanery. Locums in these grades, provided their contract is for three months or over, are welcome to attend, and such locums are also eligible to apply for funding support for educational activities from their Trust's SAS Tutor.

The MIAD Leadership Course in Milton Keynes at the end of March was very well supported, with some 40 SAS doctors attending. A similar "blended learning" course will be held at the John Radcliffe on 27 April. A series of Human Factors Awareness Training Courses are being held throughout the Deanery, run by Atrainability, an organisation who have wide experience in delivering charismatic courses in this vital area. You are urged to attend, if not at your own Trust, at another if the timing is more convenient. Full details are given in "What's On".

An "Away-Day" has been arranged for Bucks. Hospitals SAS Doctors on 15th May - this is a concept which other Trusts may wish to emulate. It provides a chance to consider various aspects of postgraduate training and career progression outside the normal stressed environment of your hospital job! Also in May (17th), the OBMH Trust is hosting an Influencing and Negotiating Skills Workshop run by the Royal College of Psychiatrists, at Littlemore Hospital, Oxford.

June will see a Mentoring Course at the John Radcliffe, and July a second Career Progression Workshop at Wexham Park. While these meetings are primarily for SAS doctors working in the Trusts where they are held, they are also open to all SAS grades in the Oxford Deanery.

BMJ Learning have developed an innovative and personalised specialty-specific programme for elearning: there will be a presentation on this at the Development Day on 1st October.

**e-Portfolio**

The JRCPTB (Joint Royal Colleges Postgraduate Training Board) has developed an e-portfolio which is available to SAS doctors. A large number of specialty curricula within medicine are available; you can get more information by contacting ePortfolioteam@rcptb.org.uk
Peter Tun at the Royal Berkshire Hospital can also provide further information (peter.tun@royalberkshire.nhs.uk). Peter also has information about a Postgraduate certificate/diploma/MSc in Medical Leadership being offered by the Royal College of Physicians in association with Birkbeck College of the University of London.

Database

Linda Day is doing her best to maintain our database of SAS doctors and dentists working in the Trusts of the Oxford Deanery, as up to date as possible. We need your help however! Can you - all of you - please let us know if any of your SAS colleagues complain that they are not receiving information about the funding available for SAS professional development - it may be because they are not listed, or listed with inaccurate contact details, on our database. Also, if you know of SAS colleagues who have left your Trust (moved away, retired or died), or recently arrived, then please, please let us know. Thank you.

We hope this communication will continue to be a bridge amongst all SAS doctors and dentists in the Oxford Deanery. We would like it to be a source of updates for all SAS grades and specialty doctors on what professional development support is available through your Trusts and through the Deanery, as well as nationally.

With best wishes to you all.

John Lourie

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