CAREERS UPDATE FOR MEDICAL EDUCATORS

January 2009

Welcome to the first, occasional NESC Careers Update for medical educators, as we head into specialty applications and interviews after a year of significant change. What’s ahead?

January: Dr Patricia Hamilton, president of the RCPCH, takes up the new post of Director of Medical Education England at DH, having responsibility for MMC and all of medical training from undergraduate level to award of CCT, including GP training. She takes over from Senior Responsible Officer Graham Sowden.

On January 1 the advisory body Medical Education England (MEE) comes into existence with Sir Christopher Edwards as chairman. Its remit covers NHS doctors, dentists, pharmacists and medical scientists in England and a core function is to provide ‘a coherent professional voice on all matters relating to education, training and workforce planning,’ (Implementing the Tooke Report, a DH Update, Nov 2008). For the list of MEE members see the ‘About MMC’ section of www.mmc.nhs.uk. MEE’s early tasks will include overseeing an evaluation of the Foundation Programme and reviewing, with the RCGP, the proposal that GP training move to five years.

Monday January 5: Applications for specialty open. In 2009 all applications will be electronic and CV-based, with no limit on how many applications a candidate may make. Specialties using a national system with centralized application are: GP, Core Medical Training (CMT), Psychiatry, O&G, Paediatrics and Child Health, Cardiothoracic, Plastics, Public Health, Academic Clinical Fellowships (ACFs), Neurosurgery, Neurology, Neuropsychology, Clinical Genetics, Occupational Medicine, Histopathology, Emergency Medicine, T&O, Urology, Paediatric Surgery.

Core training programmes for 2009 are: ACCS (2 yrs); Anaesthetics (2 yrs), CMT (2 yrs), Psychiatry (3 yrs), Surgery (2 yrs).

See www.mmc.nhs.uk/specialty for detailed person specifications for all specialties and for the 2009 Applicant’s Guide; see also www.nesc.nhs.uk for Oxford and Wessex deanery post numbers and timetables.

As part of the drive to increase community-based doctors, as proposed in the Darzi report Next Stage Review (August 2008), some 300 new GP training posts are available nationally for 2009, with more planned for 2010 (c2,500 GP ST1 posts are available in 2009 and c3,800 specialty ST1/CT1 posts).

Saturday 21 February: Applicants for GP sit two machine-markable tests under exam conditions as the first stage of assessment for recruitment. As a pilot this year CMT applicants are also required to sit these tests – CMT applicants will not be eligible for interview without a valid score from the tests, though their results will not contribute to their overall assessment scoring.
In a further pilot, applicants for CMT, GP and CT1 Psychiatry will be able to hold an offer of a training post in one of these specialties until they hear the outcome of their application for another of the three – or a second offer of a CMT training place. They will not however be able to hold two CMT offers beyond 48 hours.

Friday 22 May: Round One closes.

Monday 25 May: Round Two recruitment opens and will effectively run until the end of the year. Applicants who have been successful in gaining a training post in Round One will be able to pursue and accept a training place in Round Two as long as they give contractual notice for the first post.

Some 2008 recruitment statistics:

- 9,300 posts; 81,000 applications; applicant ratio 4:1
- 43% of applicants applied to more than one specialty
- 90% fill rate at the end of Round 1

MEDICCAREERS WORKSHOPS SPRING 2009

The 2009 programme of free, half-day career management workshops for F1s, F2s and educational supervisors supporting Foundation trainees, will be starting soon in Wessex and Oxford deaneries. Your postgraduate centre manager will have details. Comments from F2s attending in 2008 included: ‘I have a clear idea of what I need to do to prepare for my application,’ and, ‘I found the round-robin interview practice very useful to watch and participate in.’

There are also one-day workshops available on the overall role of the educational supervisor.

THE LONG VIEW

The Workforce Review Team – see their 2008 Assessment of Workforce Priorities at http://www.wrt.nhs.uk – is predicting that there will be sufficient surgeons and T&O trainees trained by 2011. Many of you will already be aware of this expected trend as numbers for surgical programmes are being reviewed and in places reduced. On the other hand, there is a predicted need for more public health trainees.

NEW CAREERS RESOURCE FOR TRAINEES

www.medicalcareers.nhs.co.uk is a new careers site run by KSS deanery on behalf of all the deaneries. Interactive and growing all the time, the site has generic and specialty information for trainees, from writing an effective CV and tips for interviews to details about subspecialties in a particular field. It also has an area for anyone supporting trainees with career decisions. Well worth a look – and recommending to your trainees.

Meantime our own careers pages are growing at http://www.nesc.nhs.uk/recruitment_and_careers/career_support.aspx

AND FINALLY......

Thanks to all the postgraduate centre managers and other staff who distributed two ISC Medical guides on applying to specialty and preparing for interviews, to all F2 doctors within NESC: your help in getting these out to trainees prior to applications opening in January is much appreciated.

I would be very pleased to have feedback on this newsletter and ideas for future newsletters or the careers pages of the NESC website - please email me at barbara.wallis@nesc.nhs.uk.

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Happy New Year!