

Trainee News ~ August 2021

Musings from the Deputy Postgraduate Dean

Welcome to this month's newsletter. At this time of post changeover for many of you, I would like to take the opportunity to thank you for all of the extra effort you have had to put in and the flexibility in the workplace to make sure our patients are cared for over the last year. Our Educational and Clinical supervisors, as well as the Education Teams and staff at 'the Deanery' have worked tirelessly to maintain education and training as best as possible, and it's fair to say that everyone is feeling somewhat exhausted in an effort to keep things going. Things don't always run perfectly, but we are all on a steep learning curve, not least with different ways of looking after our patients!

We hope that you have had a chance to have a one-to-one conversation with either your trainer, educational supervisor or Training Programme Director to identify any gaps in your training that have come about due to all of the challenges COVID has thrown at us. Some may have lost out on educational opportunities due to the diversion of services, some through illness, shielding or self-isolation. If you are 'changing over' in August, do make sure you have a conversation with your incoming supervisor or trainer so they are aware of where any 'catch up' areas are and any needs you may have following your ARCP if needs be. This also helps us to get a feel for where resources can be directed to help you as a wider group of trainees at Trust or Postgraduate School level. The government are aware of these challenges and are supporting with a £30 million 'COVID recovery' process in a number of ways – for example through Directors of Medical Education in Trusts, Postgraduate Schools and by supporting Technology-enhanced learning and immersive technologies for simulation. Many of you will be aware of the exciting Postgraduate Virtual Learning Environment (PDVLE) programme which we have set up in the West Midlands. This is now being adopted by many Schools and has proven a fantastic resource for delivering regional teaching for example and bringing us together virtually.

There are lots of ways to express your views on important issues and thanks to those of you who completed the recent GMC Training and NETS surveys. These two surveys can tell us different things and give a good idea about what is working well and where we can apply pressure to improve education and training through our HEE Quality Processes if needs be. Sometimes, the feedback we receive means that we need to 'visit' a learning environment to explore further and support the local team to improve your training. Some of you may have experienced these and many thanks to those of you who have taken part. It can be a challenge on MS Teams and with connections and echoing rooms, but your contribution is crucial! Of course, raising concerns locally with your supervisor, 'Junior Doctor Forums' and education team/training committee is always the first step.



If you see an issue perhaps you, or a group of you have a potential solution? Is this an opportunity to do a Quality Improvement Project perhaps?

We have also established a 'Local Education and Training Forum' which feeds up to national level and chaired by our HEE Fellows. Each specialty has a representative who sits at this forum so by feeding up issues with training, your voice can be heard here too. At the last forum, a hot topic of conversation was around ARCPs and our Senior Assessment Manager at HEE was able to explain how the process works and importantly hear first-hand about what went well, and what might be improved from the perspective of our trainees. Perhaps you would like to look for opportunities to represent your peers in different local and regional meetings? Many of you may have aspirations to be leaders in education in the future – it is great preparation for your future career. As a former trainee in the West Midlands, it's how I became involved in training myself – and I will look forward to seeing many of you take on these roles and carry the educational torch on for future generations!

Finally, look after yourselves – stay well and safe and make sure you maintain a good life-work balance!

Enhancing Junior Doctors' Working Lives

[Click here to see the full report and a short video](#)

#EJDWL

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Clinical decision-making support just a tap away

Rated as one of the best support tools worldwide, BMJ Best Practice includes step by step guidance on diagnosis, prognosis, treatment and prevention as well as medical calculators, how-to videos and patient information leaflets. Content includes clinical expertise from over 1,600 international authors and 2,500 peer reviewers which means you have up to date references available at your fingertips, anywhere, any time of day or night.

[Watch the animation](#) or find out more at bmj.com/hee where you can register using your NHS OpenAthens username and password ([instructions here](#)). Once registered you can also download the mobile app.

West Midlands HEE Clinical Fellows rise to the Challenge

This month has seen the successful completion of the second cohort of West Midlands HEE Clinical Fellows. We catch up with those involved in the programme to find out what they have gained from their year and the challenges they faced.

[Click here to read more](#)

Junior Doctor Induction Toolkit

Essential Resources to Support Junior Doctors during their Inductions

Click **HERE**



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