

14<sup>th</sup> August 2008

Dear Trainers,

Well, we're almost halfway through August, even if the weather doesn't feel like it.

I hope you're enjoying working with your new intake of trainees. We considerably tightened up on the entrance criteria for this year's ST1 intake, so the proportion of poor trainees should be even lower than before.

There are two main items in this newsletter.

### 1) **The GPE team**

There have been some changes in the GP Educator team.

The superb **Pippa Stables** has left the GPE team, and we're already missing her. **Freya Scott** will leave the team at the end of next month so that she can concentrate on her new role as a Trainer. Freya hasn't been a GPE for long, but she again is a hugely skilled educator. My heartfelt thanks to Pippa and Freya for the work that they've done in their roles.

Welcome to **Tom Pelly** and **Sheila Pietersen** as their excellent replacements.

**Rachel Westwick** is "locum" GP Educator for one year, releasing **Graham Rawlinson** to be Deputy AD.

There are two newly created posts:

**Louise Remedios** has just started work as our Fellow for one year. The Fellow post lets recently qualified GPs get a thorough grounding in GP Education.

**Simon Clausen** is our Scholar. He is an ST3, whose post is being extended so that he can work with us to follow his interest in education.

Many of you already know **Nigel Lakin**. He is an experienced Weston Trainer, who now is the GPE with the specific responsibility of recruiting new Trainers and Educational Supervisors to Weston.

The multiple changes in the last year have created an immense workload for the GPEs. They've coped admirably with it, but have had no left-over time to look at QA of the new hospital posts in any detail. So, we've reorganised the GPE team to allow this.

- Freya Scott/Tom Pelly, John Seddon and Rachel Westwick will be the core team for ST1/2s and QA of hospital posts, with Louise Remedios and Simon Clausen actively supporting them. **Terry Kemple** will provide them with QA support when he's back off sick-leave, Graham Rawlinson will give "troubleshooting" support.
- **Holly Hardy** and **Laura Killingback** will be joined by Sheila Pietersen in looking after ST3 aspects. I'll be their troubleshooter.
- **Jo Hennessy** will continue to work primarily on CPD, while **Mandy** and **Rosie** continue their sterling work in the office.

- **Graham** in his Deputy AD role will major on running the trainer approval/re-approval visits.

## 2) Increasing training capacity

The need for placements in training practices continues to increase.

- Last year the number of GPVTS rotations increased. It will continue to increase every year for the next three years.
- ST trainees now need to spend 18 months in training practices, compared with the previous 12.
- We need to increase the number of F2 doctors who spend four months in a practice.

We're already at the point where the number of trainees equals the number of placements - we have no spare capacity. We therefore need to increase our training capacity.

There are various possible ways:

- Recruiting more Trainers.
- Encouraging practices with more than one Trainer to take additional Trainees, for example by no longer insisting that STs must have their own rooms.
- Recruiting more Educational Supervisors (ES) - the criteria for this are easier to achieve than for wannabe Trainers. ESs can take GP F2s or Retainers, but not GP STs.

- Planning for future F2s to be placed with ESs rather than Trainers, releasing Trainers to take STs.

So,

- Do you have anyone in your practice who would be interested in becoming a Trainer or an ES?
- Or do you know of anyone in another practice that would be worth approaching?
- Do you already have a "fallow" Trainer in your practice who could take someone if the Trainees hot-desk?
- If so, please contact me - I'd very much like to hear from you.

Enjoy the summer when it eventually arrives,

Michael Harris