

# NETFS

North East Thames Foundation School

## Newsletter April 08

**Latest news:** Our website has had a make over! : [www.netfs.org.uk](http://www.netfs.org.uk)

WELCOME TO NORTH EAST THAMES FOUNDATION SCHOOL



### **FY1 and FY2 Sign off-don't delay your career!**

You must complete your sign offs if you wish to progress to the next stage of your training-don't delay your career, update your portfolio now! The FY1 and FY2 sign off processes are on our website.

HcAT deadlines:

19 May: Paper forms must reach the Trust Foundation Administrators/Medical Education Managers to be sent for scanning

23 May: Paper forms must be received by HcAT scanning centre in Glasgow

9 June: Online assessments must be completed

16 June: Feedback released by HcAT

Remember: you cannot be signed off unless you have completed ALL your assessments.

### **The Tooke Report and Government Response has been published**

We were pleased to learn that there will be no immediate changes to the UK Foundation Trainee Programme. You can read the full report's recommendations from the following link:

<http://www.mmcinquiry.org.uk/>

and the Secretary of State for Health's response:

[http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/DH\\_083203](http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/DH_083203)

## **Dates for your diary: Your Careers Day-Saturday 11th October 2008**

We are holding a careers day for all NETFS foundation doctors. This will be a great opportunity for you to meet the Royal colleges, talk to colleagues from the world of general medicine and academic careers. Full details of exhibitors and speakers will be emailed to you all nearer the time.

## **Foundation Doctors-E Handbook**

The London Deanery, in consultation with the Foundation Doctor Reps on the Thames Foundation School Board, have designed a helpful and informative E-Handbook for Foundation Doctors. The handbook is available on the following link:

<http://www.netfs.org.uk>

The E-Handbook is designed to act as an A-Z reference guide for you during your studies and covers a range of subjects including consent taking, paternity leave and flexible training.

## **Careers Advice**

In your Trust your Foundation Training Programme or Medical Education Manager should be able to provide you with information about local staff who are trained in careers guidance. They will also be able to discuss the Sci59 careers online programme with you, this programme is for the benefit of those Foundation Doctors who are undecided as to their career route.

Our website can provide you with information about how to access careers advice as well as providing you with information about other sources of support and information about careers:

<http://www.netfs.org.uk/careers>

## **A warm welcome to our new Foundation Doctor Representatives**

We are pleased to announce the names of your NETFS Foundation Doctor Representatives. Your rep will be able to represent you during School Management Committees so please contact them directly with any issues you may wish to raise. You may also wish to arrange/find out about any trainee groups in your trust:

FY1 Outer London  
Sharon Hadley  
[sharonhadley@googlemail.com](mailto:sharonhadley@googlemail.com)

FY1 Inner London-Afraz Sheikh  
[afrazsheikh@gmail.com](mailto:afrazsheikh@gmail.com)

FY1 Academic Rep-Alastair Noyce  
[alastairnoyce@hotmail.com](mailto:alastairnoyce@hotmail.com)

FY2 reps:

Elen Williams: [viet\\_xuan@hotmail.com](mailto:viet_xuan@hotmail.com)

Hamed Khan:  
[hamedkhan77@hotmail.com](mailto:hamedkhan77@hotmail.com)

Sunil Sah: [Sunil.sah@meht.nhs.uk](mailto:Sunil.sah@meht.nhs.uk)

## **Whistleblowing**

Do you know what to do and where to go if you have concerns over the following, within your NHS organisation?:

Breaches of civil and criminal law/Miscarriages of justice/Dangers to health and safety and the environment/Cover up of any of the above

Please find the useful London Deanery Guidance on Whistleblowing at the following web address:

<http://www.londondeanery.ac.uk/search?SearchableText=whistleblowing>

**Who are the staff members at your foundation school?:**

*Professor Mike Roberts (Director)*  
[c.m.roberts@qmul.ac.uk](mailto:c.m.roberts@qmul.ac.uk)

Professor Roberts has several responsibilities and they include being a Senior Consultant and Board Member at Whipps Cross Hospital, Head of Year 5 at Barts and the London Medical School and Director of the NETFS. Professor Roberts works with the Deanery to ensure educational approval for all FY1 and FY2 posts and is responsible for educational quality.

*Kate Brooks (Manager)*  
[k.a.brooks@qmul.ac.uk](mailto:k.a.brooks@qmul.ac.uk)

Kate has worked in the NHS/HE sector since 1999 and has overall responsibility for the management of administration and quality within the school.

*Colleen Rust (Administrator)*  
[c.rust@qmul.ac.uk](mailto:c.rust@qmul.ac.uk)

Colleen has worked in HE Administration for many years. Amongst many other tasks, Colleen is responsible for the production of the newsletters and organising of school meetings and events. Please contact Colleen with any ideas for articles for our next newsletter.

*Ann Barker (Assistant)*  
[a.m.barker@qmul.ac.uk](mailto:a.m.barker@qmul.ac.uk)

Ann is an experienced secretary and works in the school on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays. Ann manages Professor Roberts trainee appointments.

We work with 9 associated NHS trusts and they can be found at the following web link: <http://www.netfs.org.uk/about/us>

**REMINDER!!!**

For 2008 we need your FY1 and FY2 Registration and/or Transfer of Information forms!!

We asked all relevant trainees to post to us these forms in March and we are now chasing!

You have the a responsibility to complete these and keep us up to date with your contact details and Drs.net email address, the only email address we will be using from August 2008.

**BMA-Sci59 (Objective Careers Choice information)**

The BMA has teamed up with the Open University to provide invited members free access to Sci59 for one year.

Sci59 is an online careers programme that is designed to help Foundation Doctors who are undecided on their career route. Terms and conditions do apply so please access the following BMA weblink for further information:

<http://www.bma.org.uk/ap.nsf/Content/Careersguidance?OpenDocument&Highlight=2,sci59>

For non BMA members, please contact your Trust Education Centre Manager to discuss access to Sci59 online.

## **What does your foundation school do for you?**

At recent hospital inspection visits we asked our trainee doctors ‘what does the foundation school do for you?’ and for the most part the response has been ‘don’t know!’ This short piece is a summary of what the Foundation School does to help trainees in ways that may not have been obvious to you.

One main role of the FS is to quality assure the training you receive. We visit each Trust and question trainees, consultants and managers about the training given measured against standards defined by PMETB and the GMC. Where we find good practice we share this with other Trusts and where we meet concerns we have the power to make the Trust management respond with an action plan of how they will improve the quality of the education they provide. We are equally keen to hear of any concerns directly from trainees at any other time and do undertake to investigate and try to resolve problems as soon as we can.

In order to support your consultants and the Trust you work in the FS has provided training courses for senior staff in the role and responsibilities of the clinical and educational supervisors in what is a new and changing field of postgraduate education. During this year the FS has also provided a teaching session for consultants on how to give careers advice to foundation doctors so that each trust has now had training given. If you need careers advice see your postgraduate centre team for a list of those who are trained to give this advice. The school itself also holds an annual careers event, another one is planned for Saturday 11th October 2008.

Supervisors and doctors in training also need guidance on how to manage trainees in difficulty and such a guide was written and mailed out earlier this year. If you think you are struggling read the guide to see where you should turn for help:

<http://www.londondeanery.ac.uk/searchSearchableText=supporting+professional+performance>

More recently we have also produced good practice guides for both hospital and GP trainers that we hope will help improve standards for you.

The FS is also the place to come to if you want advice about flexible training, or working aboard. We are able to help and can be a valuable source of advice and experience.

Finally the FS arranges the end of year sign off process administering the full registration or FY completion documentation that you need in order to progress to the next stage of your career.

The NETFS is overseen by a management board that includes reps from F1, F2 and the academic FY rotations. If you want to input into the way the school operates or supports you in your training speak to your reps and help us to help you.

Professor Roberts & Kate Brooks

## **A visit by the PMETB (Postgraduate Medical Education and Training Board)**

The PMETB will be visiting our school during the week of the 9th June 2008 to review the quality of our training and organisation of the foundation programme. We are required to meet their certain content and standards as noted below in a brief summary . As part of this inspection, they will visit Bart's and the London Hospital Trust and The Barking, Havering and Redbridge Hospitals Trust. Some of you may already be familiar with the PMETB standards if you participated in the Foundation School Quality visits.

### **PMETB/GMC Content and Standards summary:**

- **Patient Safety**

Ensuring that your working hours, supervision, working tasks are appropriate and in line with your level of experience. Ensuring you know what to do if there is a patient safety concern i.e. whistleblowing. Providing support and action if FDs need help to meet the appropriate level of competencies.

- **Quality Assurance, Review and Evaluation**

We need to show that we have information about who does what in regards to education and training and its quality. We need to show that we can identify and take action where necessary.

- **Equality Diversity and Opportunity**

We need to show how we ensure that Foundation Training opportunities are given equally and without prejudice.

- **Recruitment, Selection and Appointment**

We need to show that our processes are open, fair and effective.

- **Delivery of the curriculum including assessment**

We need to demonstrate that you are getting the opportunities that you need in order to meet the requirements of the curriculum and to undertake assessments to demonstrate your competencies in these areas.

- **Support and development of trainees, trainers and local faculty**

We need to demonstrate what arrangements we have in place to support you through your training. In other words what we want trusts to do i.e. induction, teaching programme and what we can do to help if things are not working well.

We also need to demonstrate what support we can give to your teachers to help them help you, by providing advice, training opportunities etc.

- **Management of Education & Training**

We need to know who is responsible for what and ensure that we have appropriate policies and systems in place to maintain standards and teaching delivery.

- **Educational resources and capacity**

We need to demonstrate that you have suitable computers, libraries and other resources to help you in your training.

- **Outcomes**

We need to show how many of you are able to progress on time and that you have met all the appropriate competencies.

## **FY2 allocations-Random?**

### **Message from Professor Roberts:**

The recent FY2 allocations system raised some unhappiness within a minority of doctors and a misconception about the process being random. Last year, we used a web based white space questionnaire to score and rank doctors and the trainee feedback showed the completion of a questionnaire to be time consuming and there were concerns that the questions and scoring did not reflect what individuals regard as their FY1 achievements. Using this system, matching preferences to posts produced the following statistics:

Doctors placed in their top 10 choice: 67.26%

Doctors placed in their top 20 choice: 82.06%

This year we used an applicant preference computerised matching system without the application questions and scoring. The matching to preferences statistics were:

Doctors placed in their top 10 choice: 70.20%

Doctors placed in their top 20 choice: 83.14%

You will see that there is nothing random about this process and we have placed more doctors in their chosen posts than the system used in the previous year achieved. This matched preference system is used in most speciality schools to allocate registrar posts and one that you are likely to see again and again.

This year we also ran a successful FY2 swap shop which allowed trainees to swap their posts with good results. The school is however always looking for better ways to allocate posts and is happy to hear your suggestions. Remember there are 320 doctors over 12 different hospitals so please think through the implications of your suggestion first and then email them to [netfs@qmul.ac.uk](mailto:netfs@qmul.ac.uk). If there is enough interest, I am happy to convene a working group to look at a new system for next year.