

EDUCATION ARTICLES

Education in the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Glasgow: The Way Forward

Foreword by W B Howieson, Head of Education and Professional Development, RCPSG



In the last 10 years, the College's role in Education has grown steadily. The Basic Surgical Skills Course represented our earliest efforts back in the late 1980s, undergoing several evolutions to the well-established intercollegiate event, which is known today. Moreover, a number of training courses - many of them surgically orientated - such as knee and ankle fracture workshops and those dealing with specialist anastomosis techniques have been developed. The 'Supporting Clinicians on Training in Scotland' Course (SCOTS) has addressed the need to educate our Trainers, and even Examiners have been provided with specialist courses to ensure fair and equitable examinations for all. Our medical colleagues have not been forgotten and the recent 'Ill Medical Patients Acute Care and Treatment' Course (IMPACT) offers a valuable grounding to junior physicians facing those worryingly sick medical patients for the first time. For our dental colleagues, we provide a range of symposia and lectures including recently, the first joint symposium with the Faculty of General Dental Practitioners, which will become a regular event.

With the recent restructuring of College, the role of education, and indeed its provision, will now develop considerably. Education within the College - working closely with Membership and Support Services and Examinations and Standards - will focus on the needs of our Fellows and Members and be proactive in the education and training of our future colleagues. Indeed, if we look at the latter, Modernising Medical Careers is already presenting us all with many challenges and opportunities for training both in College and in the workplace. Furthermore, the introduction of the new Curriculum for Surgery similarly provides prospects for new educational experiences. Our Fellows and Members will also face new demands: lifelong learning or Continual Professional Development (CPD) will be an important part of our agenda in years to come and our Programme of Education Events (many of which are CPD approved) will be developed further. Of note,

it is certain that when the General Medical Council get round to finalising their Revalidation and Appraisal plans, CPD will form a significant work strand of this process.

We must also remain alive to the development of the clinical care team, which is now such an important part of modern practice. Individual members of the team may have their own parent bodies, but training of multi-disciplinary groups will become increasingly important and we are already looking at ways to introduce such training into our prospectus.

Looking forward, as Head of Education and Professional Development, I welcome the opportunity to work in partnership with all Departments within the College to support and meet the needs of our Fellows and Members. The College welcomes the new partnership with the Scottish Medical Journal. To this end, I encourage any articles, which Members or Fellows have on education, which will further advance the debate. The education staff of the College will work closely with the editorial staff from the SMJ to plan and develop this section, as the main educational organ of the College. These are exciting times for the College as a whole and for the Education Department in particular. I look forward to the future and hope you will like the changes you see in education delivery in the next few years.