

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE STAFF, ASSOCIATE SPECIALISTS
AND LOCUM SURGEONS COMMITTEE
HELD ON 20 JUNE 2008 AT 2PM**

Present: Mr W S Hendry (Chairman)
Mr R McKinley (via video link)
Ms F Carnochan
Mr M Khan (via video link)

Apologies: Dr J Burns
Mrs R Hierons
Mr A Choudhary
Mr S Kazmi
Mr S Habib

In Attendance: Mrs Irene MacDonald

1. Minutes of the meeting held on 11 May 2007

The minutes of the meeting held on 21 September 2006 were accepted as an accurate record.

2. Matters Arising from the minutes of the meeting held on 11 May 2007

(i) SAS Representation on Dental Council

Mr Hendry indicated that he had spoken with the Dental Dean on this matter. The Dean stated that there was SAS representation on Dental SABs and it was not felt appropriate at this time to include SAS representatives on Dental Council.

(ii) Article 14(4) and Article 14(5)

Mr Hendry indicated that he had not been able to obtain any clarification from PMETB on the distinction between the two categories. Ms Carnochan commented that she thought that Article 14(5) related to people who had undertaken 6-12 months training overseas.

(iii) Representation of SAS Doctors on JCST

This had been discussed at the surgical Forum meeting but it was not felt appropriate for direct representation from the SAS doctors on JCST at this time.

(iv) **One Day Event**

It was noted that the one day event planned by the English College had been cancelled and that no further plans had been made to reinstate this. Mr Hendry had circulated the template to the Committee in regard to this College holding such an event. Mr McKinley indicated that the template had highlighted the amount of information required to prepare such a meeting. Mr Khan commented that he had found the template quite difficult to understand and wondered where the Committee was in this regard. Mr Hendry pointed out that before going ahead there would need to be clear business plan drawn up. He thought that it would be a good idea for himself and Mr Khan to meet up with Professor Rowley to discuss the logistics of holding a one day meeting.

**Action: Mr W Hendry
Mr M Khan
Professor D I Rowley**

(v) **Exit Examination**

It was noted that the College of Emergency Medicine had prepared guidelines for preparation for the Fellowship examination for SAS doctors. However, Mr Hendry had spoken with the Chairman of JCIE, who did not think it was in their remit to prepare advice for candidates sitting the Specialty Fellowship. There had also been no progress on opening up the examination at present. There was a move to have the written part of the examination on line.

(vi) **Support for the Committee**

The website had been updated to take account of the membership of the Committee and the activities of the Committee. The English College had been approached but nothing had come of this as yet.

3. Tooke Report

Mr Khan indicated that concerns raised by SAS doctors had been addressed by the Tooke report, which had been quite positive in this regard. He queried how the College would incorporate this in trying to help implement the recommendation. He queried how the College could help this group with their professional development, Article 14 and CPD. He indicated that in England there was additional funding of £12 million, in addition to £150,000 in Scotland which was currently sitting at Deanery level to assist this group of doctors. Mr Khan had met with Liz Paice and

Mike Watson recently to give them some ideas on how this money could be used to assist this group. He indicated that appointing an Associate Dean for a couple of sessions a week to look after the interests of the SAS grade for training was one way forward. Another idea was to organise courses and the College could assist in this area. Courses could be developed to help this grade learn particular techniques or attend special courses. Mr Hendry queried the best route to take this forward. Mr Khan indicated that this should be through the Department of Education who should liaise with Deans to organise courses. Courses should be organised whereby anyone could attend, i.e. Training the Trainers courses or similar. Mr Hendry suggested meeting Mr Khan early in July to take this forward.

**Action: Mr W S Hendry
Mr M Khan**

Mr Khan indicated that he had stepped down from his role as Chairman of the BMA SAS Committee and commented that he would now have more time to devote to the College in this area.

Ms Carnochan queried whether courses would be targeted specifically at SAS doctors or could anyone attend. She also wondered if SAS doctors would be funded to attend any course: not specifically those designed for the grade. Mr Khan indicated that the money was to be used specifically for this group of doctors for their professional development. Mr Khan indicated that a plan should be drawn up and then the College should approach Mike Watson at NES to see if they would be willing to share some of the money allocated for this purpose.

Mr Hendry indicated that CPD was a very important aspect of professional development but commented that the group had to be mindful of the fact that it was unknown how much of Tooke would be implemented.

4. SAS Representation on JCST Article 14 Assessment Committee

It was noted that some of the Colleges had a representative on this Committee – these included Obstetrics and Gynaecology, Pathology and Psychology. Mr Khan felt it would be beneficial to have a surgical representative on this Committee. Mr Hendry indicated that this request would need to be considered by the surgical Forum and he was happy to put forward this request to the President for discussion at the forthcoming meeting on 21 July 2008.

Action: Mr W S Hendry

5. Electronic Logbook

It was noted that Mr Kazmi and Mr Choudhary were to prepare a paper on this matter but, to date, this had not been received.

Mr Hendry had spoken recently with Mr Lamb and they were looking at how the SAS group of doctors could use this product and how their operations could be recorded so that this could be used for revalidation purposes. Mr Khan indicated that this was an important area for the SAS grade because the GMC would be bringing in revalidation and recertification for all doctors and SAS doctors would be measured in the same way as those doctors on the Specialist Register. It was vital for there to be some kind of evidence of the performance of SAS doctors, but measured appropriately.

Ms Carnochan indicated that you could also use your annual appraisal for this. This could be used to show what you were doing and that this was being carried out to the correct standard. Mr Khan agreed that the appraisal was one tool but commented that the GMC would be looking for evidence and the electronic logbook would be a welcome addition to the appraisal for the purposes of revalidation and recertification.

Mr Hendry felt that SAS doctors should be encouraged to use the electronic logbook. One slight concern expressed was that it was clear whether the operations were carried out as a “consultant” or a “trainee”, as the logbook had been designed for the surgical trainee. It could record the level of supervision. Mr Lamb was currently looking at how best to record this, not just a record of what was being done by an individual, but who was responsible and whether or not they were supervising a trainee. This would not just be about the number of procedures carried out but also at what level of responsibility. Mr Hendry indicated that Mr Lamb had given a very good presentation of the functionality of the electronic logbook and he wondered whether the Committee would appreciate him coming to the next meeting to deliver this to them. This was felt to be beneficial and Mr Hendry would invite Mr Lamb to do this.

Action: Mr W S Hendry

Mr McKinley indicated that the electronic logbook was currently used in oral and maxillofacial surgery but was not used in other dental specialties at the current time.

6. Portfolio for SAS Doctors

Mr Hendry indicated that the logbook had now been running for a number of years and it had been developed by Mr Lamb and Professor Wallace, primarily for orthopaedic trainees. It was now a pan surgical logbook and was part of the surgical trainee’s life. With revalidation, more and more established, trained doctors were now using this too. The FHI eLogbook

was easy to use and the College was actively looking to develop it further to assist with recertification where it would not just record operative activity.

There were many bodies looking at recertification and Mr Hendry indicated that he was unsure whether progress was being made on defining this and what would be measured and how it would be measured.

Mr Khan indicated that with the new contract, the SAS doctors would need a portfolio to show their activity, work responsibility and this would be required for their professional development and progression.

Mr Hendry felt the FHI logbook was the product to assist the SAS doctors with this. He felt that recertification in surgery would be an accurate record of operative activity which the logbook held, a satisfactory appraisal and evidence that CPD was up to date. There would be some form of MSF/360 degree assessment.

Mr Khan queried the FHI logbook was advertised on the College website. Mr Hendry indicated that this was publicised widely.

7. Article 14 Helpline

There was discussion over the relationship between PMETB and JCST with regard to the large volume of surgical applications in the system. Mr Khan indicated that he sat on the PMETB Assessment Committee and that there were problems in surgery, with only 10% of ENT applications being successful with a success rate of approximately 30% in General Surgery. It was noted that PMETB had agreed fees of £900 per application. Mr Hendry indicated that he hoped to get an update on the situation at the next joint Colleges meeting but indicated that part of the problem was the sheer volume of applications coming through.

Mr Khan indicated that a review group had been set up to find out what people were doing who had been successful in this process. He indicated that the group would be looking to see if these people had been successful in obtaining a consultant post or whether they were happy to stay where they were. This group was due to meet in the near future.

8. Any Other Business

(i) Meetings

Mr Hendry indicated that it had been difficult to set up the meetings recently due to members other commitments. He felt that it would be appropriate to meet twice a year.

(ii) **Membership of the Committee**

Mr Hendry indicated that this Committee had now been in existence since around 2000 and some of the members had remained the same. He suggested that it would be appropriate to advertise for new members at this time. He indicated that he felt that an advert in Surgeons News and on the website would be appropriate and felt that the Committee should be looking for a further 2-3 members at this time. This would keep the Committee fresh and bring forward new ideas. Mr Hendry would prepare an advert for the October issue of Surgeons News. The advert would be e-mailed to all members of the Committee prior to being sent out and they were encouraged to write to Mrs MacDonald with any suggestions to be incorporated into the advert.

**Action: Mr W S Hendry
ALL**

Once applications had been received, it was proposed to set up a scoring grid and ask members of the Committee to score the applicants, the top applicants being invited to join the Committee. This was agreed.

10. **Date and Time of Next Meeting**

The next meeting would be held on Thursday 15 January 2009 at 2.00 pm (a sandwich lunch would be available from 1.30 pm).