



MMC

Diary dates

MMC Events

- 30 September 2006
MMC celebration dinner & awards ceremony
- 2-5 October 2006
MMC committee skiing trip to Chamonix
- 16-18 November 2006
MMC committee meeting in Mauritius
- 1-3 December 2006
MMC committee murder mystery weekend
- 31 December 2006
MMC meeting at The Crown and Anchor, Islington to plan specialist training

Timeline of specialist/GP training applications

- October 2006
Nobody hears anything
- November 2006
Nobody hears anything
- December 2006
Nobody hears anything
- January 2007
Job lists out and candidates informed that the deadline was yesterday
- March 2007
Candidates randomly placed in a specialty and hospital

National News

New phase of European Working Time Directive to be implemented in 2011

The European Union yesterday released a revised plan to extend the European Working Time Directive, under pressure from France and Spain. The plan recommends that the maximum working time would be reduced from 48 hours per week to 24 hours per week with a compulsory siesta between 1pm and 4pm. Each group of public sector workers will also have to spend 24 hours per week on strike, unless in exceptional circumstances, they can provide Brussels with a strong reason for not doing so. The proposal builds on earlier phases of the directive, and one French MEP, Leia Bowt, hailed it as a great success for the recently beleaguered EU.

“With this, all member states will have harmonised their working hours with France, and more importantly it will protect workers across the continent from the evil foreign corporations” she announced amidst burning cars and 23 protests on the streets of Paris.

MMR vaccine now linked to mental retardation

A new study shows that parents who refuse the MMR vaccination for their children have higher rates of mental retardation than parents of children who have had the jab. Andrew Wackyfield, the renowned author of the first paper showing a link between the MMR vaccine and autism, has now published research in *The Scalpel* showing that parents who demand single vaccines have an average IQ of 87.

“This is not scaremongering and I am not jumping to conclusions,” insisted Wackyfield, “but obviously MMR transfers intelligence from children to parents, so the kids become autistic. The MMR vaccine measles virus strain carries neurons on its back and diffuses out of the nose into the parents’ heads. In invisible floating capsules.” Unfortunately he was unavailable for further comment, having to leave for his GMC hearing on serious professional misconduct.



Baby Brandon-Tyler whose 14 year-old mother Chantelle took part in the study after being refused the single vaccine by her GP.



Coco looks forward to working with his new colleagues after quarantine.

New work permit regulations for DoH managers

This morning, the government has abruptly introduced regulations stating that trained orang-utans must be given preference over all existing human managers for future posts within the Department of Health.

The new laws are causing widespread dismay with managers shocked to learn that after weeks or in some cases, months, of holding meetings and setting targets whilst hunting for the next promotion, they may in fact not have a job next year. A spokesman for the British Association of Managers of Human Origin described the rule change as ‘unfair, unjust, and inhuman.’



F1, F2 – What do they really mean?

By Sir Noel Donaldson, Chief Medical Officer

First of all, thank you for allowing me to write a few words in your newsletter. My friend, Alan, a spiffing chap — from Queen’s you know, has asked me to tell you about the origins of the foundation programme to help people understand the reasons behind changing junior doctors’ training.

Well, it all began on that winter’s night, the night before the deadline for my essay ‘*How to Reform the PRHO & SHO Training Grades*’ to Parliament. Of course the most important step in the reform was to rename it. But what should I call it? I put myself in the shoes of those new graduates who would start in August and imagined what they would feel as they were faced with DOPS and Mini-CEXs. They would all be screaming out for *help* of course! After one year of that, they would probably become exasperated by it all and wish they could *undo* this whole new programme! But I was still stuck for catchy titles until I looked down at my keyboard.

After a few more whiskies, and still being short by a few thousand words as well as a coherent plan for reform, I just renamed it ‘*Unfinished Business*’ and went to bed.

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Government unable to repel new immigration crisis

Thousands of magnets have arrived on our shores in the last year, a national port audit revealed today. Ministers are unable to account for the large influx, but have warned the numbers may continue rising. Asked what attracted them here, one of the magnets answered ‘We heard all the Poles were here now.’

Changes to MDAP system for F1 applications

At MMC, we realise that last year’s MDAP application form was not popular with many students. We have now replaced it with CRAP, the Cross-Regional Appointment Process due to begin from 2007. Students will be asked the same questions, but now they will be scored by panels of OAPs at Medina bingo halls across the country. To assuage students’ fears, we have included a sample question and how it will be scored below:

Identify your personal reasons for applying to your first-choice Foundation Programme (10 words or less)

Bloaty head syndrome	Disowned	Pet crocodile
Children	Rare medical condition	Tetraplegic
I love MMC	Special needs	Inuit

On the left is the bingo card our OAPs will use for the question above. If you mention any 3 words or phrases in a row, column or diagonal, then you win first choice for your job allocation and a day in a hot air balloon!

We have reduced the word limit by popular demand and now students will rank 1000 posts online. Deadline for applications is when our server crashes.



Win an MMC T-shirt in our free prize draw!

That’s right! You could win a trendy MMC T-shirt by entering our draw, open to all doctors and medical students in the UK. All you have to do is write on the following topic in 500 words or more:

Why I think the whole MMC team deserves to be knighted!

All answers should be sent to: *New Year’s Honours List Submissions, 10 Downing Street, London.* Unfortunately, the Prime Minister’s decision is final (at least until we raise enough cash for a Labour Party donation!!)

Frequently Asked Questions about MMC

How can I increase my chances of finding a job for ST1 next year?

Apply for histopathology

I really want a job in or around London. What do I do?

Apply for histopathology

How do I ensure that I can work at the same hospital as my partner?

Apply for histopathology

I am a foreign doctor without a work permit who desperately wants to stay here.

Apply for histopathology

I am training to be a cardiothoracic surgeon in ten years' time.

Apply for histopathology

What do you think I should do for an interesting and fulfilling career?

Don't apply for histopathology

That's all we have space for! Be sure to check out the next issue for solutions to more of your queries!

Advice for Junior Doctors

Doctors at every stage of training will be affected by the changes proposed by MMC and also the new working regulations themselves. Here is a summary of the changes that will be specific to each group of doctors.

Currently	Where do I go from here?
F1 doctors	You will go straight into F2 year. We now have Foundation Schools in Gibraltar, British Antarctic Territory and the Pitcairn Islands so everybody can be guaranteed a job in the United Kingdom (and its dominions)
F2 doctors	You will enter into a Specialty Training programme of our choice next August. We may tell you the location before July if you ask nicely.
SHO	
SpR	If you are lucky enough to get a NTN before December, then you will continue training under the existing SpR training pathway.
NCCG	Back to South Asia! We recommend Expedia (www.expedia.co.uk) which offers the cheapest one-way tickets to the sub-continent.

idiotace

Exclusively developed for existing customers, **Idiotace**[®] is our new pill that keeps you from questioning the efficacy of our other capsules. **Idiotace**[®] protects your brain from thinking, reducing wear and tear, and so keeping it healthy for longer.

It has a complete balanced natural formula of over 20 essential minerals and nutrients including mercury, lead, cyanide, nitrosamines and dioxins. All our ingredients have been scientifically proven to maintain idiocy.

Available at all leading pharmacists. Idiotace has no artificial ingredients or preservatives, and is suitable for rednecks, especially if pregnant.



VITAMINABIOTICS
WHERE PROFITS MEET QUACK SCIENCE

Think you can't find work in the NHS?

Think again!

SOS Mediclean are always looking out for new catering and cleaning staff for hospitals we manage. Failed doctors fit right in with our company ethos of failing to provide good meals or basic hygiene (and our shareholders go private anyway).

Just look at one of the jobs we have waiting for you now:

Position: Hygiene management technician
Salary: £1/hour
Hours: 90 hours per week (+ weekends)
Experience: No experience or enthusiasm needed
Not understanding English is a bonus
Job ref: ANOTHERMUG
Duties: Killing germs
Scrubbing
Walking from ward to ward being ignored by nurses

See, it's not so different from being a doctor after all!

Contact us for more details.



Mediclean



Jokes Corner

This issue we have two hilarious reader submissions for you to enjoy! They certainly had us laughing in the office. If you can do better, send in your entries (contact details below).

*Dear MMC people,
I arrived here from Ghana one year ago. Back in Ghana I was a professor of gastroenterology. Over the last year here, I have been a clinical observer on gastroenterology firms. I've spent £8000 in living costs and studying for the MRCP exams. Now I am hoping to find a job in gastroenterology anywhere in the country after my current attachment finishes. Please advise me on how I can best do that with the new work permit changes.*

*Yours faithfully,
Prof Charsink Appiah*

*Dear MMC,
I applied to do my F2 year at Plymouth, in Urology, Orthopaedics, and General Surgery, for 4 months each. Two days before starting my job, I was told that I would now work in Care of the Elderly at St Jude's Residential Home for the Elderly for 6 months, and then I would work for 6 months in Acupuncture at Shoryuken's Herbal Shop. Please help me as this could end my dream of a surgical career!*

*Yours,
Dr Mavis Redford
F1 doctor in Ulan Bator, North West Thames Foundation School*

Contact Us

*We are always pleased to receive positive feedback.
Email krishnachinthapalli@yahoo.co.uk
Visit <http://krishna.chinthapalli.co.uk/mmc>*