

Spring 2007

Issue 16
What iceberg?



Provisional Timetable
For Shortlisting

5th February
Applications received

6th February
Print out random sections and
post to consultants

7th February
Postal strike

8th February
Mail redirected from wrong
address

9th February
Forms received by shortlisters

10th – 17th February
School half-term break. Why
not book a holiday?

18th February
Chinese New Year

19th February
Presidents' Day

20th February
Mardi Gras

21st February
Ash Wednesday

22nd February
Ask your SpR to score 800 MTAS
application forms.

23rd February 2007
Deadline for shortlisting

25th February 2007
Real final deadline for short-
listing

1st March 2007
Final final deadline for short-
listing

9th March 2007
Review body says start short-
listing again

Mangling Medical Careers

More at <http://krishna.chinthapalli.co.uk/mmc>

MMC

National News

Shock News: MTAS Founders!



Under huge pressure from the medical profession, the Department of Health has finally announced that its flagship for doctors, *HMS MTAS*, is sinking off the coast of England. It has ordered an urgent review of the situation, by the committee responsible for the ship's construction and also Captain Crockard, who is believed to be at the wheel when disaster struck. Immediate conclusions of the committee were that interviewing consultants should continue to play on the deck of the beleaguered vessel so as not to scare the remaining applications on board.

Concerns were first raised by local consultants who found many applications washed ashore, having never reached their destination. However the ship was still thought to be sailing steadily until rising numbers of worried applicants revealed that they had not heard anything at all from their applications aboard *MTAS*. Now that the full extent of the tragedy has been revealed, an unofficial rescue operation has begun. Nearly all first-class GP applications and some upper-deck Medicine applications have managed to escape from the chaos. However the lower-deck applications in Surgery have not been allocated enough lifeboats, and it is these applications that are most at risk. The committee has announced that trained advisors will salvage them promptly but no further details are known at present.

Nearby liners, *The Flying Doctor* from Australia and *The Lord of the Briggs* from New Zealand, have already responded to the *MTAS* distress signal, and were ready to try and rescue hundreds of applications otherwise destined to drown.



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Disclaimer: This newsletter is not affiliated to Modernising Medical Careers. Any similarity to actual persons or organisations is purely coincidental. Everything here is purely fictional, although that may not be the case next year.

Booker Prize Awarded to Job Applicant

The judging panel for the prestigious Boy Booker Prize surprised the literary world last night by choosing Dr Paige Turner's semi-autobiographical entry, *'MTAS Application Form for Specialty Training Opportunity in Ophthalmology ST1'* as the winner.

At the ceremony, the panel announced it was 'enthralled from Chapter A1 introducing us to the young woman yearning for a career in eye surgery, watching her mature in judgement and experience through Chapters B1-7 before the heart-rending ethical dilemma in the concluding Chapter D. We had no doubts as to the quality of her novel, but were disappointed at its brevity. Hopefully there will be more to come from such a distinguished talent.'

Indeed, if as expected, Dr Turner receives an FTSTA post, she will have time for a sequel, *'MTAS Application Form for Specialty Training Opportunity in Ophthalmology ST2.'* Work is not expected to begin on it until next February.

Dr Turner, better known to readers as 'Applicant No. RA-054-072989-N', was considered a rank outsider at the start of the competition. In fact, her submission was not even meant for the judging panel's consideration, but was a job application for ophthalmology training. Due to a fortuitous mix-up at the Oxford Deanery, instead of being sent to consultant ophthalmologist, Mr C Good, the form was mistakenly forwarded to the chair of this year's panel, Shilpa Shetty.

Our MMC spokesman, Noah Lott, said 'Here is another success story for MTAS. Not only has the system managed to get her short-listed, but she then succeeded in getting employment which was not even advertised on our website.'



Dr Turner having her eyes tested after seeing herself shortlisted for the Booker Prize and nothing else.

Doctors March In Solidarity



It was hoped that sending out a strong unified message would make the government heed doctors' concerns. We at Mangling Medical Careers did not doctor any photos (there are too many in them already).

Doctors from all over the country marched in London to protest new training reforms last weekend.

In an unprecedented show of unity, junior doctors, consultants, medical students and even pathologists took to the streets on Saturday morning. According to unofficial estimates, 10,000 people took part in total.

The organisers, new pressure group RemedyUK, carefully chose a route that would take protestors past all of the main culprits of MMC. One plan was to go past Whitehall, the Department of Health and the MMC offices, but this was rejected to concentrate doctors' attention on the important targets: the Royal Colleges, the BMA and the London Deanery.

The rally culminated in a series of rousing speeches given at Lincoln's Inn Fields. The BMA JDC, which was against the march until three minutes earlier, gave the first speech. Two days after the Ides of March, it was apt that the procession then concluded with the superb oratory of Mattus Paternus of RemedyUK: 'Friends, IMGs, countrymen, lend me your ears; I come to bury MMC not to praise it. Here under leave of the BMA (for the BMA is an honourable organisation) come I to speak. How is it that something so universally unpopular and unfair has led us to this point? Is it because we presume we will be protected by the organisations to which we are affiliated? Yet the BMA says it was active, and the BMA is an honourable organisation... (see Page 5 for rest of speech — Ed)'

In another rare instance of cohesion, doctors.net.uk, RemedyUK, and the BMA, have each launched their own petitions and surveys on MMC. All three are also raising funds to look at the possibility of launching a legal challenge.

Shilpa Shetty, a senior Department of Health official, exclusively revealed that their strategy had been to divide and conquer the medical profession. However after the strong camaraderie shown in recent weeks, Ms Hewitt is said to be 'quaking in her boots.'

Left: The route of the march was carefully chosen to pass the main institutions responsible for MMC



International News

Gambian President Rebuked Over 'MTAS' Cure

President Yahyah Jumble of The Gambia has come in for fresh criticism over his claims of a cure for MTAS. Shilpa Shetty, international medical training expert, claimed such comments were 'very unhelpful' at the current time and offers false hope to the thousands of doctors who have been affected by it. She said 'MTAS is probably the biggest disease of our times affecting the medical community. To tell the victims suffering from lifelong unemployment, depression and social stigma that it can be cured in 2 weeks is a cruel joke at best.'

The furore started when Mr Jumble suggested that MTAS could be completely cured simply by holding a government round-table review between the Royal Colleges, the Department of Health and the BMA. It follows outrageous claims by Thabo Mbeki last year that there was no proven link to show MMC had caused MTAS.



Less controversially, President Jumble also goes on home visits in his spare time to cure AIDS victims.

New Virgin Blood Bank Launched

Following on from the success of Richard Branson's stem-cell bank in the UK, well-known Romanian entrepreneur, Count Vlad Bathory III, launched his plan to create a Virgin Blood Bank for all Romanian citizens.

Under the plan, half of the blood donated by virgins will be stored for potential future use by the donors and the other half will be made available to the state health service for the treatment of porphyric haemophilia. The manager of the new Bank, Shilpa Shetty, stated 'This provides an opportunity for those concerned about their health to have 1 litre of their blood stored in our bank. If in future they then develop a serious medical condition such as iron-deficiency anaemia, we can treat them with this blood.'

Sceptics point out that there is no evidence to suggest any useful purpose for blood stored beyond two months. Also, the country's registry of porphyric haemophilia is thought to contain only one patient, referred to as 'Count VB III' for reasons of confidentiality. Far from ignoring them, Count Bathory has suggested his critics 'come over for a drink' over which the plans can be modified.



For added security, blood products are stored underground in the Count's personal refrigerator.

Nutrition Expert Is Doctor After All

Today in Edinburgh (*Surely not international news until the 3rd May elections at least? - Ed*), esteemed nutritionist Villain McTeeth announced that henceforth she would be known as Doctor McTeeth after changing her forename by deed poll.

Doctor McTeeth, who is the author of *You Aren't What You Bleat*, insisted the change was not intended to mislead her consumers. 'I am a real doctor,' she bleated, 'not one of those unemployed bums that cost £250,000 to train.' She then disclosed that the institution that issued her doctorate, the American Holistic Nutritional Vedic Oriental Centre, was ranked 2nd in the world for nutrition studies, between Grange Hill School and Xavier Institute for Gifted Youngsters.

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- Ralf Fines

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Filler Articles

David Cameron Joins Bandwagon



David Cameron, trying not to look uncomfortable talking to public sector workers.

In the footsteps of every other medical organisation in the country, the Rt Hon David Cameron MP has leapt upon the anti-MMC bandwagon. He was the keynote speaker at last weekend's protest march, promising that the Conservative Party would make the NHS their top priority (after national security, immigration, prisons, crime, tax cuts and company directorships).

Dressed in sheep's clothing, Cameron took to the stage, reiterating his party's pledge and denouncing the 'shambles' that was MMC. 'We are the party that will save the NHS,' he quipped with a straight face and beads of sweat forming on his forehead.

'Better than Jack Dee' was one commentator's assessment of his performance. It was hoped that Cameron's presence would attract some much-needed wider publicity of MMC, rather than cheap political jibes in humourless electronic newsletters. Promisingly, even the following day's *News Of The World* covered the march on page 47: 'Medical fancy dress at this year's St Patrick's Day carnival in London.'

Mystery Illness Leads To Shut-down of Doctors' Messes

Hospital managers released figures showing that doctors up and down the country fell sick from an unknown infectious disease on 4th February 2007.

Many doctors were able to return to work the following day, albeit still feeling very tired. To compound matters, most of them also had to complete their MTAS application form as the deadline was the following morning. Doctors' leaders say they are at a loss as to what happened, but epidemiologists suggest another epidemic is looming, expected to strike on 10th May 2007.

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Jokes Corner

At this stressful time, we feel laughter is more important than ever. Over the last few months we have pulled all the stops to create our best joke yet!

<http://www.mtas.nhs.uk>

(Log on and join the fun)

Letters to the editor

Dear MMC,

I would like to issue a statement regarding false rumours that were circulated in the media.

1. I have never heard of MMC or MTAS before today
2. I was never involved in reforming surgical training for MMC
3. I single-handedly put Patricia Hewitt into a head-lock and forced MTAS concessions
4. I smoked but did not inhale
5. My nose is not 20cm longer than at the start of this letter

Yours (truly) truly,
Blackcurrant Ribena
The Royal College of Surgeons

Thank you for the clarification

Contact Us

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

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