3rd School day- Newsletter

3rd School of Paediatrics and Child Health Meeting was successfully held on 14th October 2011 at Cancer Research Institute, Addenbrooke’s Hospital, Cambridge.
It was well attended by trainees and consultants. Topics focused were on the trainees’ experience, recruitment and training issues, MRCPCH initiatives in the region and academic developments.

First session had 8 speakers and it was chaired by Dr W Kelsall, Head of School.

Cambridge University Paediatric Society - an update

Out of programme placement - Trainee’s experience

Dr R Aurora shared her challenging, emotional, exciting, wonderful and inspirational experience in Malawi. Her work on severe malaria management has been accepted for 7th World Congress of the World Society for Paediatric Infectious Diseases – WSPID, Melbourne.
Dr J Johnson shared her experience on fellowship in translational medicine at Cambridge biomedical research centre. She encouraged and gave information for trainees.
Dr J Coghill gave an inspirational talk on her experience as fellow in medical education in Great Ormond Street Hospital. She also gave information on other courses available in medical education.

Medical student Ms H Zhu, gave an update on university paediatric society and shared the experience on paediatric and neonatal training days.
Mr James Diviney talked about the role of teddy bear hospital in educating the primary school children about the healthcare and positive feedback from children. Ms Preety Das shared the experience on student led patient safety and quality improvement.

Dr Aurora in Malawi
Paediatric recruitment - an RCPCH overview

Ms Tanya Rehman, Recruitment and Careers manager for Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health spoke on the recruitment process of trainees and recent changes in the interview process, which now include preparation station, presentation, communication, clinical thinking [prescribing and clinical scenario] and structured interview [portfolio review and clinical governance].

Second session had 5 speakers and was chaired by Dr W Kelsall, Head of School.

A Tutor’s view of the ARCP in the EOE

Dr J Buck, Royal college tutor from Ipswich Hospital spoke on the trainee’s ARCP. She spoke on the processes of annual review and gave tips for tutors, educational supervisors and the trainee’s. She emphasised the importance of getting the WPBA done throughout the year. She also shared the possible outcomes of the review and being fair, supportive to the trainee’s in need for help.
The RCPCH view of WPBAs in the EOE

Mr Lance Lee, Psychometric analyst from the college spoke on work place based assessments. He spoke on the improvement strategies for WPBAs and shared data on the same. East of England trainees are above national average on completing assessments but proportion of CBD and Mini-CEX done by consultants was below national average. He also showed the factors affecting the ratings like assessor position, gender and duration of placement. He emphasised the need for engagement from trainee’s and assessors to make WPBAs an effective tool.

Paediatric Simulation training - Where are we now?

Dr Helen Baillie gave an update on simulation training opportunities in the East of England. She encouraged the clinicians to participate by explaining the benefits. The simulation training opportunities are - SIM training in all the neonatal unit in the region, practical skills course in Kings Lynn and MAGIC course in Simulation centre, Cambridge.

Deanery website - Paediatric Education Portal

Dr N McCrea, ST5, Hinchingbrooke Hospital spoke on her involvement in developing the paediatric deanery website and its potentials in improving the training opportunities. She also welcomed contribution from trainees in representing their department and subspecialty. Link to the website http://www.eoedeanery.nhs.uk/page.php?page_id=1594.

RCPCH Facing the future and manpower challenges

Mr Martin McColgon, Workforce information officer from the college spoke on this topic. He detailed on the current and future challenges in the paediatric speciality. He discussed 10 standards for acute paediatric services. Consultant: Trainee ratio is 1:1 and sustainable would be 3:1. He detailed possible hospital reconfiguration and its implications for small, medium and larger units. Consultant delivered care project aim and progress were discussed.
Third session had 5 speakers and was chaired by Dr Andrea Turner - Training programme Director.

Helping trainees in difficulties

Dr Alys Burns - Assistant Dean, East of England deanery spoke on trainees in difficulties. She discussed the importance of identifying and involving the trainee early. The process need to be supportive, they need regular feedback and goal settings. Confidentiality and deciding on when to involve the GMC can be difficult. Some trainees need outside support from general practitioners and counselling.

MRCPCH teaching initiatives in the East of England

Senior trainees in the region have been proactive in supporting the juniors. Dr F Nelson, ST4 - West Suffolk Hospital gave a lecture on how to prepare for membership exams. She suggested beginning preparations 3 months before written exam and incorporating clinical preparation into day to day practice. Dr Sajeev Job, ST6 – Norfolk and Norwich University Hospital shared his personal experience, where perseverance paid off in the end. He advised to keep going with other aspects of training like audit, teaching and non-exam based courses.

An overseas view of training in the EOE

Dr Forbes, formerly of Royal Children Hospital, Melbourne gave an overview of training programme in Australian system. Australian pathway was similar to UK, but shorter and as a senior registrar they did not have any on call commitment.
Academic Developments in the school of paediatrics

Dr Ken Ong, Academic representative for the school gave update on paediatric research at Addenbrooke’s hospital. He also spoke about the academic clinical fellowship available in the region and career pathways.

An overview of the year

Dr W Kelsall, Head of school gave an overview of the last year progress. We currently have >200 trainees and recruitment for all levels for the year 2011 has been better. Deanery has developed more speciality rotation for ST6-8. School panel represented by trainee’s has visited 10 departments and had recommendations for improving the communication, rota issues, outpatient exposure, membership preparation and developing the role of senior trainee. There are a lot of initiatives to improve the pass rate for membership exams by trainees and consultants throughout the region. Once a month management seminars for senior trainees is well established now. Having a named mentor throughout the training programme is going to be started this year. In the last 12 months, trainees have been organising newsletter, deanery website, neonatal journal club, management seminars and developing rotations.

Plans for 2012

- Rationalise rotation at all levels
- Increase profile of programme
- Improve MRCPCH pass rate
- Encourage trainee’s engagement
- Improve communication

Thanks

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Luton and Dunstable Hospital

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