

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Council noted that this is the last meeting for Dr Keith Brent (Area Officer, South London) and Dr Ian Maconochie (Registrar). The President thanked them for their hard work for the RCPCH on behalf of the members.

## **NEW EDITOR ARCHIVES OF DISEASE IN CHILDHOOD**

Council received a presentation by Dr Nick Brown on the vision he has in his new role as Editor for Archives of Disease in Childhood. Council noted the new sections in the Journal: Risk/Quality improvement banner section; Adolescent health; 'Voices' Reflections from children and history of paediatrics; Policy paper commissions. The ways a reader's experience can be enhanced by using podcasts and twitter, uploading seminars and commissioned debates on the website, and through more media involvement. Council thanked Dr Nick Brown for taking the time to share his vision.

## **UPDATE NEW WEBSITE**

Council received a presentation from Ms Lizzi Easterbrook, Head of Digital & Creative Media, Ms Eileen Parle, Applications Programme Manager and Ms Kirsten Olson, Digital & Website Content Project Manager on the progress of the new website build. Council noted that the new website will make it easier to find relevant information, will look better and raises the profile of RCPCH activities. Council thanked the project board team for their work.

## **VOLUNTEER CODE OF CONDUCT**

Council received a verbal presentation including an accompanying paper from Mr Graham Sleight, Head of Governance & Contracts, on the Code of Conduct for RCPCH volunteers. Council noted there is no disagreement with the Code of Conduct and agrees with the content however the word "volunteer" needs to be renamed.

## **PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

Council received and noted a verbal update from Professor Neena Modi, President, including: the RCPCH good code of conduct that held good during the Charlie Gard case; past and upcoming RCPCH 21<sup>st</sup> birthday celebrations; a filmmaker's interest in collaborating with the RCPCH on making a documentary about paediatrics.

## **JAMES SPENCE MEDAL AND HONORARY FELLOWS**

Council recognized Professor Frances Cowan with the James Spence Medal. Council agreed that the following candidates will be offered Honorary Fellowships in 2018:

Dr Shally Awasthi  
Mr Eastace de Sousa  
Prof Judith Ellis  
Dr Huw Jenkins  
Dr Corinne Rees  
Dr Charles Skeoch  
Prof Win Tin  
Dr Martin Ward Platt  
Dr Jonathan Wyllie

## **INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION STRATEGY**

Council received the International Education Strategy paper and verbal presentation by Mr John O’Keeffe, Assistant Director of Education & Training. Council discussed including a cost recovery statement and KPIs in the strategy paper to delegate approval of the final document to the Executive Committee.

## **MRCPCH CLINICAL EXAM CENTRES**

Council received a presentation and paper on MRCPCH Clinical Exam Centres from Mr Dan Crane, Examinations Manager. Council noted the ongoing difficulties of securing suitable host centres to run the MRCPCH clinical examinations in the UK and discussed the difficulties of running a clinical exam off hospital premises. The outcome of this challenge is that the NHS will not have staff to deliver the service and Council noted that the shape of exams needs to be reviewed.

## **RCPCH PROGRESS CURRICULUM: UPDATE**

Council received a verbal presentation from Dr David Evans, Vice President, Training and Assessment, on the progress made on the curriculum. Council noted the revised curriculum has been presented to the GMC; they have not approved this yet however a meeting is in place to discuss what is needed for approval.

## **UK SHAPE OF TRAINING: UPDATED RCPCH POSITION PAPER**

Council received a presentation with an accompanying paper on the RCPCH position in response to

the Shape of Training report and the recently published UK Shape of Training Steering Group report from Dr David Evans, Vice President, Training and Assessment. Council approved the paper to be published on the RCPCH website.

## **BUILDING A UK WIDE STRATEGY FOR 2018-2021 AND PRIORITIES FOR 2018-2019**

Council received the paper *Building a UK wide strategy for 2018-2021 and priorities for 2018-2019* and a presentation from Professor Judith Ellis, Chief Executive Officer. RCPCH is actively seeking members views on the strategy from September to December 2017. Council wrote their strategy suggestions for the 2018 - 2021. The strategy will come back to Council for approval.

## **FINANCE UPDATE**

Council received a paper on the financial position of the RCPCH for the year-ended 31 August 2017 from Mr David Howley, Director of Corporate Services. Council noted that the RCPCH is in a good financial position and the general fund loss ended up being lower as forecast earlier in the year.

## **SHORTAGE OF CERTAIN MEDICATIONS FOR CHILDREN**

Council received an “any other business” item on the issue of shortages or non-provision of certain medications for children from Professor Steve Turner, Officer for Scotland. Council noted the main issues appear to be manufacturing and supply and they will cascade this information to members with the ongoing request to gather intelligence on any arising issues, to be fed back

to Ms Emily Arkell, Head of Health Policy.

**CROWN PROSECUTION SERVICE AND PAEDIATRICIANS**

Council received a verbal presentation from Dr Richard Nicholl, Area Officer, North London on the seeming rise of criminal prosecution of doctors. Council discussed that paediatricians must work within the limits of the law but the law should recognise that work takes place in high risk environments. Council noted two points: When things go wrong it is rarely one individual who is to blame; These types of cases which involve release of personal reflections can have a counterproductive effect because they may compromise honest discussion, reflection and learning. The GMC as regulator has a responsibility for public safety and to ensure confidence in the medical profession; the GMC may have no remit to protect doctors but it is important for doctors to have confidence in the GMC. Council discussed whether the level of medical evidence at the Coroner's Court and the selection of expert witnesses have a major role to play in determining the subsequent course of events. Council noted that this issue will be taken to the RCPCH Ethics and Law Committee.

Chair: Professor Neena Modi  
Next meeting: 30 January 2018