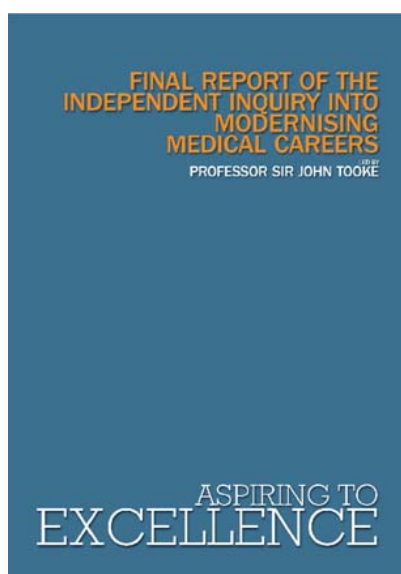


The Medical Schools Council represents the interests and ambitions of UK Medical Schools as they relate to the generation of national health, wealth and knowledge acquisition through biomedical research and the profession of medicine. As an organisation it occupies a unique position embracing medical undergraduate education, health related research, and a critical interface with the health service and with postgraduate education and training. It aims to optimise locally, nationally and internationally the impact of the work undertaken in Medical Schools across the UK.

## January 2008

Professor Sir John Tooke returned to his position as Chair of Council after completing the final report of his Independent Inquiry into Modernising Medical Careers: *Aspiring to Excellence*.



The much acclaimed report was submitted to the Secretary of State for Health and provided the basis for much of the work undertaken throughout the rest of the year, both for the Council and for many across the sector.

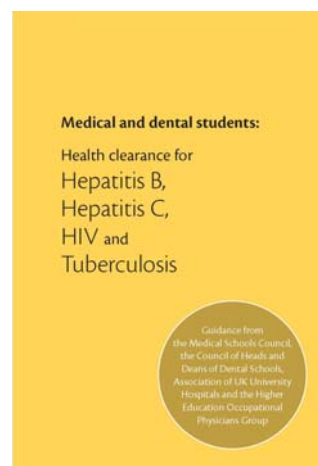
Twenty four of the Report's 47 Recommendations were agreed or agreed in principle and a further 10 were agreed in principle and were to be considered further as part of Lord Darzi's *Next Stage Review*. Nine Recommendations were to be considered further and a programme of work was to be developed around issues such as breaking the employment linkage between Foundation year 1 (F1) and Foundation year 2 (F2), incorporating F2 as the first year of core training, developing modularised core curricula and extending the length of General Practice training to five years.

Jocelyne Aldridge and Siobhan Fitzpatrick joined the Secretariat as Policy Officers.

## February 2008

February saw the publication of *Medical and Dental Students: Health Clearance for Hepatitis B, Hepatitis C, HIV and Tuberculosis*. The guidance sets out the key principles of health clearance for Hepatitis B, Hepatitis C, HIV and Tuberculosis and outlines the responsibilities of the Deans and of students. The guidance is in line with the Department of Health's (DH) Guidance *Health clearance for Tuberculosis, Hepatitis B, Hepatitis C and HIV: New Healthcare Workers*, published in March 2007.

This was the culmination of a 4 year project involving the Medical Schools Council, the Dental Schools Council, the Association of UK University Hospitals, Higher Education Occupational Practitioners, the BMA and Departments of Health throughout the UK. Chaired by Professor Jon Cohen, the guidance has been warmly received for the clarity of its guidance into a very complex area.



Also in February, the Safe Prescribing Working Group, chaired by Professor Robert Lechler, distributed an agreed list of competencies that F1 doctors should possess to address the issue of prescribing errors by junior doctors. Important funding was obtained for the development of e-learning materials for undergraduates as part of the DH's *e-Learning for Health* programme. The programme will see the development of online materials relating to safe prescribing, therapeutic cases with links to further information and practice tests as well as a national on-line student formulary. This is to include a list of approximately 100 drugs and drug classes, broken down by therapeutic area, formatted in a way similar to that of the British National Formulary.

### March 2008

Discussions in March centered on the Government's response to the Tooke Report which can be seen at: [http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/DH\\_083203](http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/DH_083203). There was an intelligent and wide ranging debate in the House of Lords, centered on the Governments' response to the Report, with widespread support for the concept of NHS Medical Education England and calls for Lord Darzi to accept this recommendation.

Members were generous in the time they devoted to the myriad of meetings surrounding the Department of Health Review of Workforce Planning, Education and Training – with separate groups contributing to work around *Tomorrow's Clinicians; Education Funding and Commissioning; Education Structure and Regulation and Workforce Planning*.

### April 2008

The Medical Schools Council and the General Medical Council (GMC) jointly held an engagement workshop around the issue of Student Fitness to Practise.

The workshop provided the opportunity to share experiences and to feed back to the Medical Schools Council and the GMC regarding issues around implementation of the guidance. The outcomes of the workshop have contributed to the development of the revised Student Fitness to Practise guidance, which is due to be published in 2009. The GMC agreed to support training sessions for Medical School staff involved in implementing Student Fitness to Practise procedures; the first of these took place at the GMC in November.

### May 2008

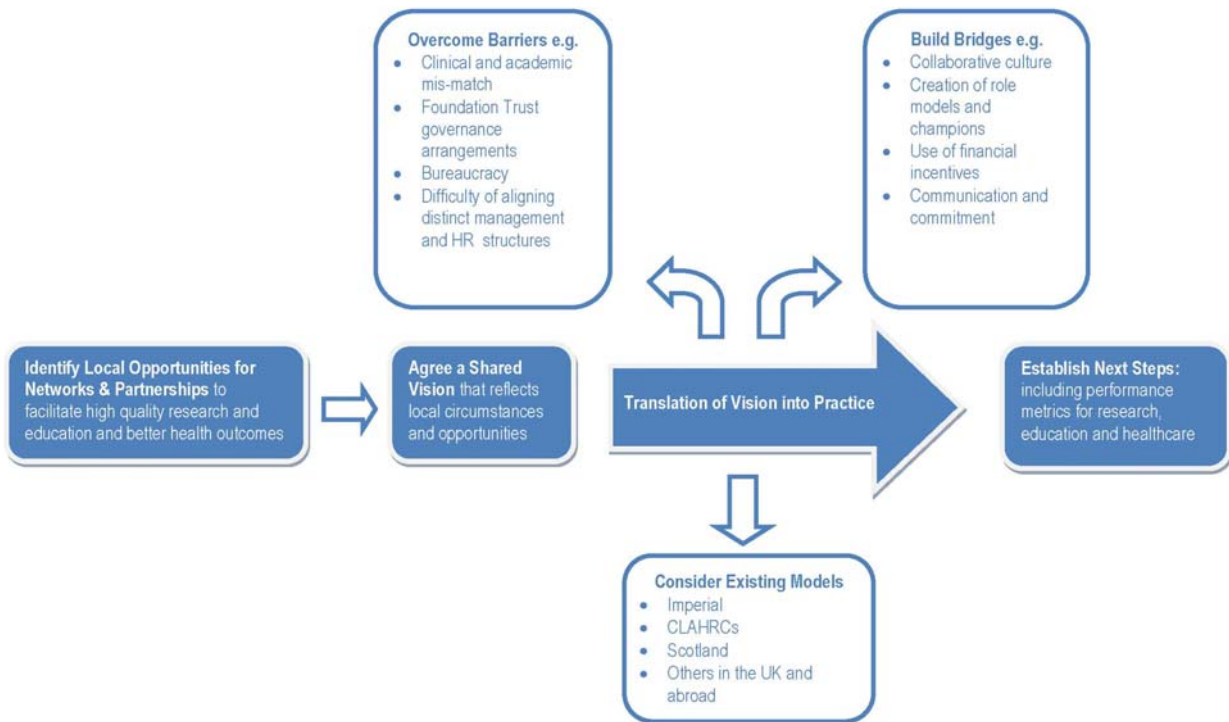
The annual meeting for Medical School Admissions Deans took place on 21 May. The programme was co-ordinated by Dr Jane Adam, Associate Dean for Admissions at HYMS, and chaired by Professor Tony Weetman. Attendance was high, with delegates from 30 of the 31 undergraduate Medical Schools, and discussions around the two themes of health disability and selection tools were dynamic. The meeting enjoyed presentations and discussions led by eight keynote speakers, including Anthony McClaran, Chief Executive, UCAS, Professor Janet Grant, Director of the Open University Centre for Education in Medicine and Dr Pippa Craig, Senior Research Associate, Australia and New Zealand Medical Deans Group.

The annual joint meeting with the Association of UK University Hospitals (AUKUH) was held in Bath. *Academic Healthcare in a Changing World: Positioning for Success* brought together the Medical Schools Council, AUKUH and US and Canadians colleagues in our first international meeting. It was extremely well attended, with the international dimension fostering a good environment for debate. Dr Victor Dzau flew over from the US for the day and opened the meeting with a comprehensive review of Academic Health Science Centre (AHSC) models – and an exciting vision of the global possibilities of AHSCs. After challenging and inspirational discussions around the barriers and bridges to forging academic and healthcare partnerships, the meeting concluded that a variety of models was necessary for success – and that optimal use of a range of skills would be needed (see figure 1).



Above: Dr Victor Dzau

Figure 1: Process diagram showing a model for developing partnerships locally



Annual joint meeting of Medical Schools Council and AUKUH



Top left (L-R): Professor Patrick Sissons, Dr Jack Kitts, Maggie Boyle and Andrew Cash  
 Bottom left: Reception at the Roman Baths  
 Top right (L-R): Professor Hugh MacDougall and Dr Ken Fleming  
 Bottom right: Joint meeting of the Medical Schools Council and AUKUH

## June 2008

The Medical Schools Council responded to the DH's Select Committee's Report on Modernising Medical Careers. Members worked with the Universities and Colleges Employers Association Clinical Academic Staff Advisory Group in relation to employment arrangements for Academic Clinical Fellows, and on the response to the DH consultation on Responsible Officers. The Medical School Secretaries met in Exeter in June to discuss issues of current interest – and were grateful to Chris Lindsay for arranging an extremely pleasant 24 hours. The end of June saw the publication by the Department of Health of *High Quality Care for All* and of *A High Quality Workforce*.



The Medical School Secretaries at their Annual meeting, in Exeter

The Medical Schools Council's annual report on *Clinical Academic Staffing Levels in UK Medical Schools* showed that on July 31<sup>st</sup> 2007, there were 2977 FTE clinical academics in medicine – a 2% increase over the previous year. The number of lecturers had also increased by 6% compared with the 2006 data.

## July 2008

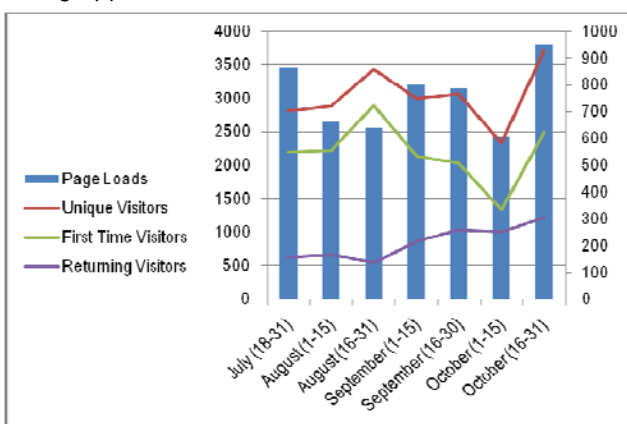
July saw some controversy over the admission of students with criminal convictions. There was a well received article in the Guardian by Katie Petty-Saphon on selection issues, and important progress made with UCAS around the clarity of the advice given to applicants with regard to criminal convictions.



Above: The main webpage for [www.clinicalacademicjobs.org](http://www.clinicalacademicjobs.org)

The website is a collaborative venture between the 32 UK Medical Schools, who access and update the job listings, and it is hosted free of charge by the Medical Schools Council. It is widely supported by partner organisations, including NCCRCO, NIHR and the AMS. The website continues to generate new visitor traffic and encouragingly demonstrates a steady increase in the number of returning visitors to the website.

[www.clinicalacademicjobs.org](http://www.clinicalacademicjobs.org) was launched in mid-July, generating 5,300 website visitors from 35 countries in its first three months. Council members had recommended the creation of a central recruitment facility for clinical academic jobs, and the website acts as both a recruitment portal – signposting job seekers to vacancies advertised by UK Medical School websites – and as an information source for research and other funding opportunities.



Above: Graph showing number of visitors and page loads since July

The Senior Clinical Academic Leaders programme, run in conjunction with the Leadership Foundation, had been attended by 14 senior clinical academics over the preceding year and was viewed as a success overall. Plans are in hand to develop it further.

## August 2008

A Medical Schools Council/UK Foundation Programme Office working party, including Professor Paul O'Neill and Katie Petty-Saphon, concluded its work on revising the guidelines for application to the Foundation Programme for those with Special Circumstances.

The Medical Schools Council and the GMC Advisory Group also concluded its work around the implications of Medical Education delivered outside the UK by UK Medical Schools. The GMC published the resultant guidance for medical schools.

## September 2008

Developing fair mechanisms to allocate places in the Foundation Programme came to the fore in September and discussions are on-going. It has been concluded that a national exam would add no value and could even damage innovation in the delivery of medical education, a view strongly supported by the BMA Medical Students Committee.

The Council also agreed to form an International Sub-Group, chaired by Professor Hugh MacDougall. This coincided with an initiative led by Lord Crisp to provide 1.5 million new health workers in Africa who came to Council in September to brief members. A survey of current and future links with overseas Medical Schools is underway.

On the employment front, a survey of Deans' Terms and Conditions, led by Professor Day, was carried out. In addition, a meeting between Professor Stephenson, Chair of the Clinical Staffing and Employment Sub-Committee, and the BMA's Medical Academic Staffing Committee was held to discuss issues including Academic Clinical Fellows, Women in Medicine and Clinical Excellence Awards.

Katie Petty-Saphon and Professor Debbie Sharp, Chair of the *Women in Academic Medicine* working group which reported in June 2007, were invited to sit on the CMO's National Working Group on Women in Medicine, which first met during September. The group is chaired by Baroness Deech.

The Medical Schools Council was joined by its first Communications Officer, Amy Stringer.



## October 2008

Recommendation 5 of the Tooke Report asked that consensus be reached on the Role of the Doctor by the end of 2008. The Medical Schools Council took the lead by bringing together the AoMRC, AUKUH, the BMA, the DH, the GMC, the King's Fund, NHS Employers and PMETB to hold a conference around the *Role of the Doctor: Past, Present and Future*.

Held at the Royal Society in London on 21 and 22 October, the BMA described the delegates as a veritable *Who's Who* of Medicine and Health Policy. Speakers included the CMOs of England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland, the CNO of England, Professor Kenneth Ludmerer, author of *Time to Heal, A History of American Medical Education*, Peter Rubin Chair, GMC Education Committee and an after dinner speech from Professor Sir Graeme Catto, President, GMC. Provocative and insightful debate was stimulated by panel members Baroness O'Neil, Baroness Cumberlege, Harry Cayton, Patience Wheatcroft and Professor Alison Wolf – ably chaired by Niall Dickson.



**Left:** Professor Sir John Tooke opening the Role of the Doctor conference

**Right:** Professor Sir Graeme Catto's dinner speech



Above: A lively panel debate, supported by touch pad voting  
 Right: Delegates enjoying a drink before dinner

A lively debate, supported by touch pad voting in addition to a YouGov survey carried out on the public's view of doctors, provided a wealth of information around critical issues still to be addressed by politicians and the profession. It is intended that the agreed consensus statement on the Role of the Doctor will be published in the BMJ in December.



The influence of Lord Darzi's reports also continued to shape the work of the Medical Schools Council, which responded to consultations on the proposed Centre of Excellence and the draft NHS Constitution.

### November 2008

Earlier in the year, all Schools agreed to nominate their top five innovations over the last 150 years as part of our celebration of the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Medical Act – and the profoundly beneficial effect of ever-improving standards. This resulted in difficult choices for some but, supported by fantastic imagery, *Improving Lives: 150 years of UK Medical School Achievements* illustrates the global impact of the dramatic advances in British medicine over the last 150 years and demonstrates the benefit to society of investment in medical education and research. As part of a targeted campaign to raise the profile of the Medical Schools Council among politicians, *Improving Lives* was sent out to all parliamentarians in the UK in November.



### December 2008



Following the annual residential meeting at Ditchley Park, Council agreed to create the Medical Schools Council Assessment Alliance and to take forward work to improve assessment expertise within UK Medical Schools.

The Medical Schools Council contributed to the UUK conference *Ensuring a Healthy Future*, at which Vice Chancellors debated future developments in health education.

Left to right: Professor Peter Kopleman and Professor Sam Leinster

### Ongoing relationships

Liaison continues with the Scottish Board for Academic Medicine, chaired by Sir David Carter, which met in March in Dundee and in Edinburgh on three other occasions during the year and took forward effective collaborative work in particular around SCREDS – the Scottish Research Excellence Development Scheme.

For further key facts and information about all our current and recent work streams please see [www.medschools.ac.uk](http://www.medschools.ac.uk).

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