

The Society for Acute Medicine (UK)

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Dear Colleague

This has been an extremely busy year for the Executive Committee.

The term 'Acute Medicine' is beginning to creep into the medical vocabulary and the number of posts appointed in Acute Medicine throughout the country is still increasing. This is beneficial for the Society as a whole but more importantly gives us the opportunity to continue to improve the care of patients admitted as a medical emergency and, where possible, shorten their care pathway. Professor Sir George Alberti who recently completed his term of office as President of the Royal College of Physicians of London, has mentioned Acute Medicine in his closing letter. It is clear from his note that the future of Acute Medicine will be linked to the NHSME document reforming Emergency Care and working groups have been set up under the auspices of the Colleges to look more closely at the interface between Accident and Emergency and Intensive Care.

In addition to the appointment of Consultant posts in Acute Medicine, a number of regions have been successful in developing programmes for Specialty Registrars in Acute Medicine. These include Grampian, Tayside and Edinburgh, all of which have made appointments in the last few months. I am sure other areas are progressing along a similar route and the Society would obviously be interested in hearing from all those involved and, as usual, is keen to share information.

Changes in the Postgraduate curriculum also are likely to increasingly support training for House Officers and Senior House Officers in the Emergency Care, something which the Society is also keen to support.

There has been increased cooperation with others, particularly in relation to therapists and guidelines have been developed for Occupational Therapy which will be discussed at the meeting in Dundee in October of this year.

Finally, it is clear now that the Society's views are being sought by Colleges and Government, when it is considered appropriate. This is a considerable step forward for those wishing to develop Acute Medicine, improve care for patients plus improve the working environment for all staff involved in the management of this group of emergency admissions.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all Society members for their support over the last 12 months and look forward to their continuing support of the Society.

Kind regards.

DR DEREK BELL
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