

Foundation Programme Evaluation team seeks trainee views at national discussion sessions

A series of national events has been organised to seek trainee views and experiences as part of Medical Education England's (MEE) formal evaluation of the two-year medical Foundation Programme.

Five events have been organised around England specifically aimed at trainees to gather valuable first hand information as part of the evidence gathering that will form part of the final report and recommendations.

The national trainee sessions – taking place in Birmingham, Leeds, Manchester and London during May – are aimed at current Foundation Programme trainees and those who have completed this part of their training within the last two years.

MEE was asked to commission a formal evaluation of the Foundation Programme as part of the *NHS Next Stage Review*.

The evaluation is being led by Professor John Collins who is Visiting Professor, Nuffield Department of Surgery, University of Oxford, and Visiting Research Fellow at Green Templeton College, Oxford.

Professor Collins is a general surgeon with a long history of interest and involvement in medical education at both the undergraduate and postgraduate levels.

Professor Collins said: 'Trainees are the future medical workforce and I am very keen to hear the views of those currently involved in the Foundation Programme and those who have completed it in the last two years.'

He said: 'I can give trainees my personal assurance that their views will be listened to and taken into account in considering the best way forward in managing the transition points as doctors move through their training.'

'We need to ensure that we are helping to provide the best education and training for the doctors of the future so that we can provide patients with the highest quality care.'

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Professor Collins is being supported by an expert advisory panel drawn from across academia and the NHS. They will be collecting evidence from a wide range of individuals and organisations with an interest in the Foundation Programme including educators and trainers, regulators, Royal Colleges and Faculties, employers, trainees and medical students.

There will also be a review from the UK and internationally of academic evidence relating to medical education and training during the first two years after graduation from medical school.

While the evaluation has a specific focus on the Foundation Programme, it may also consider other recommendations in the context of MEE's responsibility to review the shape of the whole postgraduate training pathway.

Professor Collins will provide a report, including recommendations for the future, to the MEE Board, which in turn will consider advice for the Secretary of State for Health. The report is scheduled to be completed by the end of June.

Ends

For further information please contact Richard Green, MEE Head of Communications, 0207 972 5053/07818 588718.

Notes for information: the national trainee doctor discussion events will take place as follows:

- 4 May – London
- 6 May – Manchester
- 17 May – Birmingham
- 19 May – London
- 20 May, Leeds

March 2010

MEE/10/003