

## **Dear Foundation Programme Trainees and recent 'graduates' of the Programme**

My name is John Collins. I am chairing an evaluation of the Foundation Programme and I am keen to hear your views and experiences of this area of your training. This e-mail sets out the background to the evaluation and invites you to attend one of the five events we are running across England specifically aimed at trainees so that we can gather valuable first hand information that will help us with our report and recommendations.

By way of background, I am currently Visiting Professor in the Nuffield Department of Surgery at the University of Oxford and Visiting Research Fellow at Green Templeton College. I am a general surgeon with a long history of interest and involvement in medical education at both the undergraduate and postgraduate level. I attach a fuller CV with this letter.

### **Background**

As you may be aware, Medical Education England (MEE) has commissioned a formal, evidence-based evaluation of the Foundation Programme.

Trainees are the future medical workforce and this evaluation is very keen to hear the views and experiences of trainees currently involved in the Foundation Programme and those who have completed the Programme in the last two years. I am very pleased to be able to say trainee representatives are involved in supporting this evaluation as you will see from their comments below:

*'This review of Foundation training will help to clarify the aims, function and structure of a fundamental aspect of doctors' careers. We encourage you to attend these sessions as it is crucial that a range of trainees' views are actively fed into the review process. This will help to ensure that we, as trainees, will be able to influence the future structure and content of our training.'*

**Johann Malawana**  
Deputy Chair, Education and Training  
UK Junior Doctors Committee

**Ollie White**  
Co-Chair, Academy Trainee Doctors  
Group, Academy of Medical Royal  
Colleges

The evaluation will review all of the evidence available on the Foundation Programme. We are currently undertaking oral evidence hearings and have also sent invitations for written evidence to a wide range of people and organisations across the NHS with an interest in the Foundation Programme. These include representatives of trainees, medical students, trainers, the Regulators (GMC and PMETB), Royal Colleges and Faculties and employers. We are also undertaking a literature review of academic evidence from the UK and internationally relating to education and training and in particular the first two years after graduation from medical school.

A report of the findings and recommendations of this evaluation will be provided to the Secretary of State for Health after first being considered by the MEE Board.

## Invitation

As part of this evaluation, it is vital that we hear from you – the trainees. We would like to invite you to attend an oral evidence session to allow you to provide your views and opinions to help shape the final report and recommendations.

These sessions will be lead by myself and will also be attended by some members of the Expert Advisory Panel who are supporting me on this evaluation.

In particular, I am keen to understand what aspects of the programme should be maintained, which could potentially be changed and how successfully you believe the programme has prepared you for your future careers.

The sessions will take place on the following dates, at the locations below:

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

Please could you respond with your preferred date and location by completing the booking form attached to this invitation by Friday 24 April. Please note that your place will not be reserved without completion of this form. Upon receipt of your booking form, we will reply to confirm your reservation.

The Foundation Programme does not exist in isolation but is part of the whole postgraduate training pathway. Our findings will also help to inform a broader piece of work being undertaken by MEE on this wider area.

I would like to give you my assurance that your 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.

Your support and input into this evaluation is greatly appreciated. I look forward to hearing from you and your colleagues.

Yours sincerely



Professor John Collins  
Independent Chair  
MEE Evaluation of the Foundation Programme