

VTS NEWSLETTER

Letter from the Editor

Dr Jim Noble

Without being accused of "Bah Humbug", it does feel that no sooner have we unpacked the cases from our summer holidays, than we're sitting down to pull the first cracker of Christmas 2006, then it's headlong into the season of reflection of the events of this year and the prediction for 2007.

Such was my feeling as I sat at a function in Scotland a few weeks ago where the guest speaker was a retiring judge. As you would expect he provided an unending collection of very amusing and terribly interesting stories and ended with a very telling comment as he said: "I'd be happy to join the profession I joined but I'm not at all sure I'd be happy joining the profession I leave". As I reflected on that relating to our situation in General Practice, I felt how easy it is for us old fogies with furrowed brow, increasing waist and wise long beard to depressingly fill the ears of our up and coming younger colleagues, of how wonderful the old days were and how terrible the future will be. But is that really

true? Certainly General Practice now is not what it was when I started, but there again neither is the population, nor is the politics, nor is the finance. While we may mourn the wonderful things we have lost there are a lot of good things about General Practice at present and for the future, especially things pertaining to patient care. However it is very important that we do our very best, wearing our broadest spectrum spectacles to see into the future with a positive note, to encourage and support our younger colleagues whom we meet at the VTS whose enthusiasm embarrasses us as we sometimes wallow in a pool of self-pity.

What advice can we hand on to our young colleagues to try and make General Practice strong and robust for what lies ahead?

Firstly, we should be true to ourselves at all times so that we can put our heads on the pillow at night knowing that we've done the job to the best of our ability and are being true to the highest possi-

ble professional standards. If that doesn't always fit in with the PCT and above, then I am afraid we have to stand true to ourselves.

Secondly, there are wonderful opportunities out there, perhaps not the kind of opportunities we've had in the past 10 years, but opportunities to provide the same high standard of medicine and care but in a wider and novel fashion.

Thirdly, despite the attempts of the PCT to make us into super, all singing, all dancing mini district general hospitals, never forget that our Practices are there to serve the community.

Finally, I still believe, after 30 years, that there's not a job that stretches me intellectually and fulfils me as much as General Practice. I'm very proud to be a General Practitioner and my hope is that all our Registrars feel that same excitement and that same level of fulfilment, as they set out in whatever facet of General Practice that will be open to them.

It's Video Time!

Dr Jim Noble

The November/December interface means time should be moving from audit to video. By now all of our Registrars should have completed their audit and be waiting only for the figures from the second data collection. It's worthwhile checking that we've all arrived at this point and if not then we really need to be encouraging our Registrars to be working a lot harder on this issue and I

would be delighted to receive a phone call from a Registrar or a Trainer who feels that they are a little behind in this.

The videos should be underway by now – both the technicalities of them and discussed technique with your Trainer – because by January we really need to start to look at producing videos suitable for the exams and Summative Assessment.

By mid-January we should be finely honing our academic skills to take the MRCGP. It would be a good idea for our Trainers to be going over with the Registrars, the kind of things that are going to be needed for the Trainers Report. I know these things sound very boring and we all know they have to be done, but the question is HAVE they all been done?!

FORTHCOMING TEACHING SESSIONS

1st YEARS

13/12/06	CHRISTMAS SOCIAL (Evening)	N/A
03/01/07	My Child's Really Off It	CALAMUR
17/01/07	Palliative Care	MAXWELL-JONES
31/01/07	Diabetes: Type 2	BAYLEY
21/02/07	Common Dermatological Problems	BLACKWELL

2nd YEARS

13/12/06	CHRISTMAS SOCIAL (Evening)	N/A
10/01/07	Alcohol / Substance Abuse	BELL
24/01/07	Practical Diabetes Management	KRUNTCHEVA
14/02/07	Common Problems in Palliative Care	ALDERSON

3rd YEARS

13/12/06	TBC / CHRISTMAS SOCIAL (Evening)	MISTRY
03/01/07	Minor Surgery– Theory (Dr Noble)	N/A
10/01/07	Minor Surgery– Practice (Dr Noble)	N/A
17/01/07	MRCGP (Videos)	OMODARA
24/01/07	CPR TRAINING (DRI)	N/A
31/01/07	<i>To be confirmed</i>	SWAMY
07/02/07	<i>To be confirmed</i>	AUGUSTINE
14/02/07	<i>To be confirmed</i>	WATERFALL

Please contact the office if you have any questions about the teaching programme.

If you are unable to attend any of your year group's teaching sessions, for whatever reason, please to let the VTS Office know in plenty of time.

No 1st or 2nd Year Teaching on 7 February due to Rotation Change

The next **Trainers' Workshop** will be on Wed 24 January 2007 in Devonshire House at 6pm (buffet tea provided). The topic will be "**New MRCGP**" and all VTS SHOs & GPRs who intend to take this examination are invited to attend.

Core Curriculum Dr Jim Noble

We may all have our personal feelings of the relevance of this very large tome, since it doesn't really contain anything new and it's too simplistic to say "Well that's what I've been doing for years", but it has been produced by the College and I think is going to be a fairly significant plank for the future. I think it would be a good thing for us as a scheme, to at least have some working knowledge of the curriculum and it might be something that we could consider for Trainers' Workshop or perhaps as a topic for the Trainers' Course in May.



THE DERBY VTS
COURSE
ORGANISERS
AND OFFICE
STAFF
WISH YOU ALL
A VERY MERRY
CHRISTMAS
AND A HAPPY
NEW YEAR

NOTICES & REMINDERS

1st Years

Please can you make sure that you have returned:

- ◆ Any outstanding 5 Week Assessment Forms (on CD and website)

Please note: 5 Month Assessment Forms (on CD and website) are due during the first week in January.

Are you remembering to arrange your practice visits?

2nd Years

Please can you make sure that you have returned:

- ◆ Any outstanding 5 Week Assessment Forms (on CD and website)
- ◆ Any outstanding 5 Month Assessment Forms (on CD and website)
- ◆ Any outstanding VTR2s (on CD and website)
- ◆ Any outstanding Hospital Job Assessments (on CD and website)

Please note: 5 Month Assessment Forms (on CD and website) are due during the first week in January.

3rd Years

Please can you make sure that you have returned:

- ◆ Any outstanding 5 Month Assessment Forms (on website)
- ◆ Any outstanding VTR2s (on website)
- ◆ Any outstanding Hospital Job Assessments (on website)
- ◆ Residential Course Receipt & Claim Form (still waiting for a couple of these!)

Please note that your form showing OOH completed up to 31 December should be sent to the VTS Office before 10 January.

**Are you remembering to complete your OOH Workbook?
(Download from Trent Deanery website)**



CHRISTMAS SOCIAL—REMINDER

For those of you who have reserved a place (and paid your deposit!)—this year's VTS Christmas Social is on Wednesday 13 December at 6:30pm at Anoki on London Road.

