

Tinnitus

Newsletter of the NZMA Doctors-in-Training Council

SEPTEMBER 2011

National Trainee Forum

Moving from medical school to vocational training seems to happen in an instant. Once we hit the vocational trainee years it often becomes all about our college. Our **National Trainee Forum** broadens this perspective, from being trainees within a college to being trainees in the New Zealand health system. Two weeks ago, 20 of us (DiTCs and trainee reps from nearly all of the colleges and societies) sat down on a Saturday to talk it out with the chairs of the national bodies that affect/advocate for us - the Medical Council of New Zealand, the NZMA, and Health Workforce New Zealand. Contact your college rep to find out how they found the day!

Three key questions every doctor in training needs to know the answers to are:

1. **What are the key workforce innovations suggested by HWNZ that will be implemented over the next few years?** *Answer:* The four Regional Training Hubs, the intended use of Physician Assistants, and the move to generalist type training (see <http://www.healthworkforce.govt.nz/our-work>).
2. **As specialists in training, like many of us are, where do we fit in this generalist model?** *Answer:* Guarded and under active review, but there is a place.
3. **The proposed revamp of the prevocational years - will this affect vocational entry and how will the wards operate?** *Answer:* Yes, but change can be a good thing if done properly. Again, this needs close review, monitoring, and our input.

Dialogue is crucial - the trainee's voice is often hidden because of our clinical commitments and lack of access. The 20 of us really dug deep into these issues with Professor Gorman (HWNZ), Dr Adams (MCNZ), and Dr Ockelford (NZMA) and it really was an enlightening day to hear from our senior colleagues who direct our health sector. As trainees, we sometimes forget that we are going to inherit these challenges. Yet at the same time, we are highly trained professionals who desire an autonomous career as opposed to a coerced one. I think that the insightful input and very frank discussion were valued by HWNZ and MCNZ.

Survey update and your feedback

As we mentioned in the last Tinnitus, we greatly appreciated your feedback. Ciaran and others on the DiTC are in the process of compiling that information into a publishable paper as we believe our input should be widely considered.

In the meantime, please join in on our Facebook discussions (search: NZMA Doctors-in-Training Council) or drop us an email (ditc@nzma.org.nz) if you have further thoughts and ideas about the current developments affecting training!

DiTC Council 2011-12

Brandon Adams (Wellington) and Nick Fancourt (Auckland) have completed their terms on the Council and we thank them for their efforts over the years. Emily Gill (Whakatane) and Ciaran Thrush (Christchurch) have been re-elected for another term. Kathryn Hagen (Auckland) and Richard Pole (Whangarei) have been newly elected and we welcome them. These colleagues represent you and if you have questions and concerns - please say hi to them at the wards and the hospital.

Kind Regards,

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Tinnitus is an e-newsletter by the NZMA's Doctors-in-Training Council (DiTC). It aims to keep student and RMO members in touch with the DiTC's work, and complements the NZMA newsletter Anatomy. If you do not wish to receive Tinnitus, please reply with the word "unsubscribe" in the subject line.