

Tinnitus

Newsletter of the NZMA Doctors-in-Training Council

JANUARY 2012

The New Year is always a time for reflection of the past year's significant events. 2011 was a memorable year, from the Christchurch Earthquake to the Rugby World Cup and our recent elections. Amidst these momentous events, the training of the future medical workforce is under significant review.

HWNZ - update

Regional Training Hubs

During our recent Nov Doctors-in-Training Council (DiTC) meeting, we discussed the Regional Training Hubs with Brenda Wraight from Health Workforce New Zealand (HWNZ). There will be four regional hubs but to date, they are developing in variable ways with the 'North' hub being the most established. HWNZ is working to improve consistency between the hubs.

Role-extenders

Though a formal report is still pending, Middlemore Hospital's trial with two US Physician Assistants working with surgical teams was apparently a success. HWNZ explained that their aim is to focus on ways allied health professionals can enable doctors to focus on core tasks. As such, HWNZ assures us that any such role is meant to enhance our training and not detract from it.

We discussed that such roles may already exist in the current workforce such as neonatal intensive care unit (NICU) specialist nurses, anaesthetic techs, nurse practitioners in rural GP settings, midwives etc. We would be keen to hear from you as to how these roles have enhanced or detracted from your training.

NZMA survey for vocational trainees

After hearing your valuable thoughts about prevocational training, we would like to collect information about your vocational training experience, in line with a recent survey undertaken by the Australian Medical Association (AMA). At the annual NZMA DiTC Trainee Forum, trainee representatives from the colleges and societies agreed a New Zealand based survey could provide useful information on the overall thoughts of New Zealand trainees, especially with the various HWNZ strategies being proposed at the moment. The link to the survey is:

<http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/85QX283> and we would be most grateful if you could respond to the survey by Wednesday 31 January 2012.

DiTC misc news

Prevocational training survey

Ciaran and others on the DiTC continue to work towards a publishable paper of these results.

Career plan requirements

The reports we've had indicate implementation of this requirement has varied from useful to useless across the country. We would welcome your input as to what improvements could be made to this process.

North Shore Elective Centre

Mr John Cullen, head of surgery at Waitemata DHB, met with the DiTC to discuss this publically funded initiative that aims to utilize concepts of efficiency that seem to work best in the private sector. We were assured that while this centre will not depend on RMOs, there will be a place for RMO training in this model.

GP training review

DiTC continues to monitor the current review of GP training. At this stage, we have not identified a specific role that DiTC can play.

DiTC meeting

The next DiTC meeting will be on 18 February 2012 so please contact us if you have particular issues that need addressing.

Facebook

For more musings etc go to our Facebook page - NZMA Doctors-in-Training Council. Promise we won't spam.

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.