

PHEMTA News Letter

February 2016 Edition

Pre-Hospital Emergency Medicine Trainees' Association (PHEMTA) February 2016 Newsletter

Welcome to the February PHEMTA Newsletter. Thank you to those of you who provided feedback following the inaugural January edition.

Items covered in this month's edition:

1. PHEMTA Annual General Meeting
2. Regional Representatives
3. Training Assessment Panel (TAP) guidance
4. National Training Days advice
5. Changes to RCSEd Examination Regulations for NSA 1 and 2
6. Cost of examinations
7. Conference representation for PHEM / PHEMTA
8. PHEMTA 2016 Survey – what happens next
9. Upcoming events

1. Annual General Meeting

The first PHEMTA Annual General Meeting is going to be held on Friday 4th March at the Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh's Regional Offices in Birmingham. The meeting is open to **all** current PHEM trainees, and those who have completed PHEM in the past two years.

There has been little interest from current PHEM trainees in attending (thank you to those of you who have contacted us to say you would like to attend but are unable to). Therefore, this will be a business meeting only. We would still welcome anyone who would like to attend, or to talk to us about experiences in their region via teleconference for 10-15 minutes during the day.

If you are interested in a teleconference, please email me (phemta@rcsed.net)

2. Regional Representatives

Last month we asked you to agree amongst yourselves in each region and put forward a Regional Representative to PHEMTA that we can involve in the Annual General Meeting and future plans.

We have had contact from a couple of regions, but are yet to hear from the remaining regions. If your region has a blank in the table below, please agree a representative and contact me (phemta@rcsed.net) by 4th March.

Region	Representative
East of England	Sarah Hazleman
North Central & East London	Vacant
North East	Jonathan Howes
South West	Greg Cranston
Thames Valley	Ed Norris-Cervetto
Wales	Vacant
West Midlands	Ali Husain
Yorkshire and the Humber	Vacant

3. Training Assessment Panel (TAP) guidance

The next TAP is due to take place in late July for those of you finishing PHEM this year. This will be the largest cohort yet to complete subspecialty training and, as such, will present new challenges to the Panel in terms of reviewing evidence.

In the coming weeks, a new Guidance Note will be issued by IBTPHEM regarding submission of TAP evidence. This has been written by Simon Lewis, Chairman of the Training Committee and Scott Grier, PHEMTA Chairman, with input from the Training Programme Directors (TPDs) and PHEMTA.

We urge you to read this guidance carefully when it arrives and start the process of gathering and organising your evidence early. The majority of the PHEMTA Committee have been through a TAP and so are very happy to provide informal advice and guidance.

4. National Training Days

Last month, the Training Committee and TPDs launched a live spreadsheet that allows them to keep information about planned National Training Days up to date. It also means that you know who to contact about individual days.

This spreadsheet is accessible here:

<https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1tDlxU5myMRmv3dofggIH61wJ7QQbUj3g23axZRvzpq0/edit?usp=sharing>

Following some questions from trainees, the following is clarification from Simon Lewis, Chairman of the Training Committee regarding these days:

These days are in no way mandatory and we are just sharing opportunities that others might like to join in with. The most important training should be your local 'regional training days' for which, as with other specialties, there will be an expectation of a level of attendance.

5. Changes to RCSEd Examination Regulations for NSA 1 and 2

The following information comes from Jon Birks, PHEMTA Assessments Committee Representative:

Please be aware that some significant changes to the structure of both the DIMC and FIMC have been proposed and/or implemented. This mainly relates to removal of 'Projected Material' questions and 'Extended Matching' Questions. They have been/will be replaced by Single Best Answer style questions.

I would advise you all to read the regulations for the relevant examination on the RCS Ed website prior to starting your revision and prior to sitting the examination. It is likely that both examinations will have the written components comprising of a single, 3-hour SBA only paper by the summer.

PHEMTA will endeavour to keep you abreast of any further changes if they occur. If you have any questions, please contact Jon.

6. Cost of examinations and RCSEd fees

The cost burden of undertaking PHEM training has been a continual source of concern since PHEMTA started. As trainees ourselves, we appreciate the significant costs associated with moving regions and the various courses required. We also appreciate that, especially for those of you in a Scheme C post, the cost of examinations (and associated travel and board in Edinburgh) are not insignificant.

The Assessments Committee, and in particular its Chair, Rod Mackenzie have worked extremely hard in recent years to keep the costs of the examinations to a minimum. Given the complexity of both NSA 1 and 2, the examinations are very costly to conduct.

PHEMTA, through the Assessments Committee Representative (Jon Birks) and through the IBTPHEM Board have continually highlighted our concerns, especially when changes to costs are discussed.

One cost that is not well publicised is that the RCSEd levy an 'election fee' to all successful NSA 2 (FIMC) candidates. This fee, which is asked for in the results letter, is required to be paid in order that you may use the post-nominals. It is currently in the region of £350. You don't need to pay this fee to gain subspecialty accreditation, but do need to pay this (and annual membership of RCSEd, currently £128 per year).

PHEMTA is currently in communication with the RCSEd regarding this fee. We are also attempting to clarify the approach that RCSEd take to PHEM trainees in terms of membership fees as all of you are non-surgical trainees but they are billing at a higher rate. We hope to publish some concise guidance and explanation about this in the coming months.

7. PHEMTA conference representation

To raise the profile of PHEM training and PHEMTA, we are intending to undertake a pilot presence at a national conference this year and are looking for volunteers to help us.

If you are attending the Trauma Care Conference PHEM / HEMS day on Tuesday 19th April, please contact Jon Birks.

8. PHEMTA Survey – what happens next?

Thank you to those of you who have completed the survey. Several trainees have asked what happens to the results and whether we will publish them. Here is a brief summary:

19th February – survey closed

4th March – survey results presented to PHEMTA Committee at AGM

16th March – survey results presented to IBTPHEM Board

Following presentation to the IBTPHEM Board and Training Committee, PHEMTA will produce a summary for each region, which will be circulated to Training Programme Directors. We will also produce a Trainees Summary, which I hope to be able to send to you with the March or April PHEMTA Newsletter.

If you have any comments about the survey, its conduct or have ideas about how we can improve it in the future, please get in touch.

9. Upcoming Events

4th March: PHEMTA AGM

16th March: IBTPHEM meetings in London

PHEMTA is here for you – please get in touch if we can help in any way.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Scott Grier', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Scott Grier

PHEMTA Chairman *on behalf of the PHEMTA Committee*

Contact

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