

PHEMTA Newsletter

August 2016 Edition

Pre-Hospital Emergency Medicine Trainees' Association August 2016 Newsletter

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1. Welcome to new trainees

At the beginning of August, the 2016 intake of PHEM trainees started in their posts. The PHEMTA Committee would like to welcome you all and wish you well for your PHEM training.

A few pieces of information that you may find useful:

- **Life as a PHEM trainee presentation**
Attached to this newsletter email is a copy of the PHEMTA presentation given at the National Induction Course at Moreton-in-Marsh. This covers many aspects of PHEM training, including the curriculum, workplace-based assessments, examinations, logbooks, gaining experience, wellbeing, and the training assessment panel. It is intended to point you in the right direction early in your training and to help you understand things better. TPDs and Educational Supervisors may also find the contents useful.
- **PHEMTA**
PHEMTA is the trainee association for PHEM trainees. You are all members from the moment you start PHEM training and continue to be until 2 years post-PHEM training.
We have a home within the Faculty of Pre-Hospital Care, who provide us with a range of support and funding. We advise you to become FPHC members as this organisation represents all levels of pre-hospital practitioners. Follow [this link](#) for more information.
We are here to help you in any way we can and provide trainee representation to IBTPHEM Committees and the Board along with running a bi-annual survey and many other activities.
- **PHEMTA website**
We have a website kindly designed and hosted by the FPHC. It contains information we hope is useful to you, and in the coming months will continue to be updated with the latest events. Follow [this link](#).
- **Contacting PHEMTA**
Please use our email address PHEMTA@RCSEd.net and include in the subject line an indication of the area of PHEM training that your email concerns. This will help us direct your email to the most relevant of the Committee.
- **Contacting IBTPHEM**
There is a single point of contact and an administrator for IBTPHEM – Marko Dardel Jessop – who can be contacted at IBTPHEM@RCSED.ac.uk

2. Exam results, July 2016 diet

Firstly, congratulations from the PHEMTA Committee to all who passed examinations in July. During this diet of exams a couple of points require specific mention and will be key areas of focus for PHEMTA over the next few months.

Whilst the pass rate for the DIMC remained high during this diet, the pass rate for the FIMC fell to its lowest level, only 31%. The written element of the paper accounted for a greater proportion of the failures. We are concerned that this reflects feelings that this examination may be 'difficult' to prepare for. We are working closely with Rod Mackenzie as outgoing Chair of the Examinations Committee and Phil Hyde as incoming Chair, along with others, to see how we can help individuals better prepare for this examination. In the meantime we would encourage all trainees to consider the following advice:

- Read the curriculum carefully. Use it as a guide to map your reading, WPBAs and revision for the examinations. The questions sample from across the whole curriculum, which means you need to know elements from Cross-cutting Theme B to the same depth as you would for Theme 4 for example!
- Remember the FIMC is a Fellowship Examination. Whilst that might seem obvious it aims to stand alongside FCEM and FRCA in terms of level of knowledge required to pass. Therefore a rough guide to the question: 'am I revising hard enough?' might be to think about how much time/effort you put into other professional examinations of a similar level.
- Utilise supervisors, TPDs, local college examiners and previous PHEM trainees who have sat the examinations to help guide you to the correct depth of understanding/knowledge for each subject area.
- Use each other and form revision groups. The ED physicians amongst you can help the Anaesthetists with more EM aspects to the curriculum and vice-versa. Writing mock questions for each other and setting mock OSPE exams is a really valuable use of time and also helps you appreciate what sort of things an examiner might be looking for in order to pass a candidate.
- Utilise resources on the College website with regards to the examinations and read all the instructions carefully.

In addition to the advice above, PHEMTA is working closely with the Examinations Committee through Jon Birks as Assessments Representative and Scott Grier as Chairman to improve resources to help candidates prepare for the examinations. We hope to be in a position shortly to be able to direct you to some past questions (which will be released by the RCS Ed) that have featured in previous diets to help candidates gauge the depth and spread of knowledge required. We have suggested somehow helping supervisors / TPDs more to gauge the depth required. This may be via further 'train the trainer' days and we have suggested allowing them to 'observe' sittings of the examinations. We hope that updated guidance will be provided for the next sitting of the FIMC and we are also keen to work towards further national training days with perhaps a specific 'exam revision' focus. Currently all these are suggestions for improvement and we hope to bring you more details over the coming months. Equally we would like to hear from you as trainees, your supervisors and TPDs any suggestions you have that might make preparing for the exams easier so we can take them forwards with the Examinations Committee. Please get in touch via the usual email: PHEMTA@RCSED.net

Secondly we were saddened to hear that, due an administrative error occurred at the RCS Ed, the published results led to a trainee believing that they had passed the FIMC when in actual fact they had failed an element. We have been asked to make it explicitly clear that all candidates who have sat this examination now know their correct results. We have been assured that the candidate in question has received a full written apology and waving of the re-sit fees. Whilst we have highlighted our disappointment to the College on how this matter occurred and was initially handled on behalf of the trainee concerned, we are committed to working with the Examinations Committee to try to ensure something like this never affects anyone else in the future.

For that reason, at the present time we cannot make any further comments on what happened, how such an error occurred etc. as this matter is currently the focus of a College investigation. We can say that PHEMTA will be involved in hearing the outcome of that investigation and will continue to work with the Examinations Committee to ensuring any 'learning' is rapidly put into place.

3. PHEMTA elections

All PHEM trainees who are eligible to stand for election to the PHEMTA Committee have now received an email invitation for self-nomination. Election is open to all current PHEM trainees along with all trainees who have completed PHEM subspecialty training in the past 2 years (ie. since August 2014). The form has information about the election process and each position available. The entire PHEMTA Committee will be replaced between September 2016 and January 2017.

We have extended the deadline to Monday 5th September for nominations to be received to IBTPHEM@RCSED.ac.uk. If there is insufficient interest, then there is a very real risk that PHEMTA will not exist from the beginning of 2017 as the existing Committee members will be stepping down from September onwards. This would potentially leave IBTPHEM with no trainee representation and be a significant step back for us all.

4. PHEMTA survey

The mid-2016 PHEMTA Survey has now been sent out to all PHEM trainees who were in post on 1st August. PHEM is such a small subspecialty that it is not included in the GMC annual survey, and is unlikely to be in the future. The PHEMTA Survey is designed by us with input from trainers and the Training Committee and administrative support from RCSEd. It provides essential information to IBTPHEM about your experiences and allows PHEMTA to work with IBTPHEM to highlight good practice and help make changes where they are needed.

Please take the time to complete the survey (it will take you around 10 minutes) and be as detailed and honest as you can be with your responses. We will circulate a summary of results later in the year.

5. Upcoming Events

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| 21 st September | FPHC Consensus Day – Crush and Suspension Injury
Emergency Services Show, National Exhibition Centre, Birmingham
See https://fphc.rcsed.ac.uk/education-resources/consensus-days/crush-and-suspension-injury-consensus-day for more details |
| 13 th October | FPHC Consensus Day – Immobilisation and Extrinsication
PGME Centre, University Hospital Birmingham
See https://fphc.rcsed.ac.uk/education-resources/consensus-days/immobilisation-and-extrinsication-consensus-day for more details |
| 14 th – 15 th October | BASICS & FPHC Annual Conference at Woodland Grange, Leamington Spa
See www.basics.org.uk/Conference/conference_2016 for more details
<i>PHEMTA are running a breakout session for prospective PHEM trainees, so please encourage anyone you know who is interested in doing PHEM in the future to consider attending</i> |

14th November

PHEM Trauma Masterclass

Birmingham

This study day will provide an up to date review of the management of major trauma in the pre-hospital environment including the latest evidence and future strategies. Every session incorporates adult and paediatric trauma. Speakers include Mark Wilson, Keith Porter, Tim Harris, Anne Weaver, Gareth Grier, Jules Blackham, Anil Hormis, Maria Smith and Caroline Leech. Awarded 6 CPD points by RCEM. Registration opens soon via www.traumacare.org.uk. Early bird price £55. Follow #PHEMtrauma on social media and email traumacareadmin@uhb.nhs.uk for any queries.

17th November

PHEM Emergency Surgical Skills Course

Coventry

This one-day course provides candidates with the knowledge and practical experience (using human cadavers) to perform emergency surgical procedures in the pre-hospital setting. The course covers the emergency surgical skills of surgical cricothyroidotomy; emergency thoracotomy; upper and lower limb amputation; and intra-osseous vascular access. Awarded 6 CPD points by RCSEd. Cost £550. Instructors can fill out DOPS for PHEM trainees on each of the procedures. Registration https://www.mededcoventry.com/Courses/Surgical_Training_Centre/PHEMESS/Doctors1116.aspx or email elaine.blair@uhcw.nhs.uk

26th January 2017

PHEM Obstetrics & Neonatal Simulation Day at Northampton General Hospital

Early date for your diaries. This is an excellent day that covers most of the obstetric and neonatal competencies in the PHEM curriculum. To register, complete the registration form included in the newsletter email and return to the address given. Contact Vicky.garrod@ngh.mhs.uk for more information.

PHEMTA is here for you – please get in touch if we can help in any way. If you have an event or information you would like including in the next newsletter, please get in touch.



Scott Grier

PHEMTA Chairman *on behalf of the PHEMTA Committee*

Contact

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