
COLLEGE NEWS

COLLEGE TELEPHONE NUMBER

The telephone number of the College Headquarters, 14 Princes Gate, Hyde Park, London SW7 1PU, is being changed and from 16 August 1979 will be: 01-581-3232.

MRCGP EXAMINATION

The dates for the next MRCGP examinations are as follows:

November/December 1979

Written papers: Thursday, 1 November 1979.

Orals: In Edinburgh and London during the week ending 15 December 1979.

Closing date: 6 September 1979.

May/July 1980

Written papers: Thursday 15 May 1980.

Orals: In Edinburgh during the week ending 29 June 1980 and in London during the week ending 5 July 1980.

Closing date: 20 March 1980.

The written papers will be held in London, Leeds, Birmingham, Manchester, Edinburgh, Newcastle, Aberdeen, Cardiff, Belfast, and Dublin. These and other centres may be used as required, subject to a minimum (and in some centres maximum) number of candidates. It may be necessary to limit the total numbers and candidates are therefore advised to apply well in advance of the closing dates.

The application fee is £50 and the re-application fee £25. Entry is free to members of the College. Application forms may be obtained from the Membership Secretary at 14 Princes Gate, London SW7 1PU.

PRACTICE ORGANIZATION ROOM

The 'General Practitioner's Office' is the theme of the exhibitions in the Practice Organization Room during the

next few months. It is proposed to explore the role and training of the receptionist, the equipment she uses, including medical records, the equipment and communications systems used by the doctors, and some of the furnishing problems which may arise.

The monographs on different facets of organization in general practice are being updated, and the display cabinets now show instruments which may be carried by the general practitioner.

The results of the practice organization questionnaire kindly completed by many College members have now been analysed and collated in the form of a gazetteer, so that doctors may identify any facet of organization which particularly interests them. Further information about practices which have made innovations is still welcome and questionnaires can be obtained from Mrs J. Mant at 14 Princes Gate, London SW7 1PU.

MEDICAL NEWS

MD THESIS

Dr C. R. Martys, MRCGP, General Practitioner, Darley Dale, Matlock, Derbyshire, has been awarded the degree of MD from the University of Sheffield for his thesis on Adverse Reactions to Drugs in General Practice.

DR STUART COX

Dr Stuart Cox, MB, B.Ch, General Practitioner, Rainham, Kent, has been elected Chairman of Kent County Council and took office on 17 May 1979 for a period of two years.

Dr Cox has been Vice Chairman for the past two years and was previously Deputy Leader of the Council and Chairman of the Kent Police Authority.

He is a member of the Police Council for the United Kingdom and served in the Royal Air Force from 1940 to 1946.

JOINT COMMITTEE ON POSTGRADUATE TRAINING FOR GENERAL PRACTICE

Dr S. E. Josse, FRCGP, DMJ, General Practitioner, London, and Regional Adviser in General Practice for North-East Thames, has been elected Chairman of the Joint Committee on

Postgraduate Training for General Practice in succession to Dr J. A. R. Lawson.

Dr Josse is the author of articles in the *British Medical Journal* and the *Journal of the Royal College of General Practitioners*.

Approval of vocational training schemes

The Joint Committee on Postgraduate Training for General Practice and the Royal College of General Practitioners have approved the vocational training scheme at Queen Mary's Hospital, Sidcup (2nd rotation).

Schemes have been re-approved at: Queen Mary's Hospital, Sidcup (1st rotation); Central Middlesex Hospital, London; and Worksop.

These schemes are recognized by the College for the purpose of the MRCGP examination.

NINTH WORLD CONFERENCE ON GENERAL PRACTICE AND FAMILY MEDICINE

The American Academy of Family Medicine will be hosts for the Ninth World Conference to be held in New

Orleans from 5 to 9 October 1980 and once again the Royal College of General Practitioners is arranging group travel for those who are interested. The meeting will coincide with the Annual Convention of the American Academy.

In addition, the travel agents (VIP Travel Ltd, 42 North Audley Street, London W1) will be happy to arrange visits to other parts of the United States for those who wish to extend their stay.

At present the estimated cost for the return air journey, plus five or six nights at the conference hotel (bed only) is £500 per person. As this is an educational exercise, those who are going might wish to discuss with their accountants the possibility of charging this as an expense for tax purposes.

Full details of the programme will be published shortly.

BASICS

The Department of Health and Social Security is making an annual grant of £20,000 for the next two years to BASICS towards the central administrative expenses in England.

Reference

Journal of the Royal College of General Practitioners (1979). BASICS. Editorial, 29, 133-135.

GENERAL PRACTITIONER BEDS

The first patient in a separate general practitioner ward in a new district hospital in North Devon was admitted in April 1979.

It is thought this is the first time a separate general practitioner ward has been created within a new district hospital. Further details can be obtained from Dr D. T. C. Barlow, FRCGP, 110 Boutport Street, Barnstaple, Devon.

CHARTERHOUSE RHEUMATISM CLINIC

The Trustees regret to announce that the Clinic closed on 30 June 1979, owing to the expiry of the lease on the Clinic premises.

The doctors are willing to see patients at their consulting rooms, or at out-patient clinics, if required.

For further information please contact the Secretary of the Clinic at 60 Weymouth Street, London W1N 4DX.

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

In the academic year 1977/78, of 9,074 medical students who graduated from 82 medical schools with family practice in the curricula, 1,438 (15.8 per cent) chose family practice as their specialty.

Conversely, in the same academic year, of 639 medical students who graduated from five medical schools which provided no exposure to family practice, only 44 (6.9 per cent) entered family practice residencies.

Reference

AAFP Reporter (1979). Study shows family practice credibility in medical schools, 6, No. 4, p. 1.

GRAVES MEDICAL AUDIOVISUAL LIBRARY

In 1978 Graves Medical Audiovisual Library offered a free catalogue giving details of over 1,000 titles. In the same year 28,078 tapes were sent from the Library, compared with 25,000 in 1974 and 10,000 in 1968.

A medical audiotyped slide producers association (MASPA) has been formed,

information about which can be obtained from Graves Medical Audiovisual Library, PO Box 99, Chelmsford, Essex.

National medical slide bank

The Graves Medical Audiovisual Library in conjunction with the Institute of Medical and Biological Illustration have commissioned Miss P. M. Turnbull, FIIP, FRPS, AIMBI, who has recently retired from the post of Director of the Department of Medical Illustration, Charing Cross Hospital, London, to carry out a three-month pilot study preliminary to setting up a National Slide Bank.

The proposed bank would hold a catalogue and supply colour slides to medical and nursing teachers from a central collection of characteristic medical conditions. It would be built up from the varied collections held by medical illustration departments, specialist units, and individual doctors, with the help of medical photographers, many of whom are members of the Institute of Medical and Biological Illustration.

DENTAL MANPOWER

The following table shows the number of dental practitioners working in the National Health Service in Great Britain for the years 1968 to 1977:

Dentists working in Great Britain 1968 to 77

Year	Dentists
1968	14,020
1969	14,130
1970	14,340
1971	14,570
1972	14,900
1973	15,150
1974	15,260
1975	15,690
1976	16,030
1977	16,440

These figures are based on the number of general dental practitioners at 30 September each year and the whole-time equivalent of those dentists who work in the hospital and community health services. Some general dental practitioners also work in the hospital and

community health services and to this extent the above figures will include some duplication. The figures are rounded to the nearest 10.

Reference

Family Practitioner Services (1979). Dental services, 6, No. 4, 79.

POST-NEONATAL DEATHS

The Secretary of State for Scotland reports that mortality per thousand live births in all classes rose to 4.8 in 1977, from 4.5 in the previous year. In 1975 the rate was 5.4, in 1974, 6.1, in 1973, 6.3, and in 1948 it was 19.6.

For social class 1 the figures have risen from 1.8 in 1975 to 2.2 in 1976 and 2.5 in 1977, while among social class 5 in Scotland the corresponding figures fell from 10.8 to 7.5 and 7.0.

Reference

BMA News (1979). March. p. 84.

ASSOCIATION FOR FAMILY THERAPY

A course on family therapy organized by the Association for Family Therapy will be held from 20 to 22 September 1979. Further details can be obtained from AFT Conference, c/o NMGC, 34 King Street, Lancaster LA1 1RE.

SYMPOSIUM ON NUTRITION AND KILLER DISEASES

A symposium on nutrition and killer diseases will be held in New York city on 29 and 30 November 1979. Enquiries should be made to the Director, Institute of Human Nutrition, Columbia University, 701 West 168th Street, New York, NY 10032, USA.

BIRTH RATE

The birth rate in Scotland in 1978 showed the first annual increase since 1964. The stillbirth rate was the lowest ever recorded at 8.1 per thousand live and stillbirths, and the infant mortality rate was 12.9 per thousand live births, also the lowest ever recorded.