

## **ACADEMIC DERMATOLOGY**

### **Raising the Profile of Academic Dermatology**

#### **Academic Dermatology On-line Survey 2008**

As promised in my Spring Newsletter article, this summer I will be sending out the Academic Dermatology On-line Survey to individual members of the BAD. I am very interested in learning about dermatologists' involvement in academic dermatology, including your roles in and contributions to research, teaching and learning (including clinical publishing) and assessment (as examiners / assessors). I do understand that many of our members will have very busy clinical jobs but there are plenty of ways, using a broad definition, for dermatologists to remain academic.

My aim is to form an Academic Dermatology Database at the BAD that can be updated by members when they have something to add. In order to create a 'level playing field' between full-time clinical researchers and others, in the section on research achievements I have deliberately omitted a request for details of grants, number of publications and journal impact factors but these may be included in the free text.

For the Trainee members, a quick read through the template (Box 1) should provide you with ideas on how to make an academic contribution throughout your dermatology career. Consultants may be interested to see that some of the headings are similar to those used the Clinical Excellence Awards scheme. The more dermatologists who are successful in that increasingly transparent process, the better for the image of UK Dermatology!

Here is an update on the activities of the BAD Research and Education Committees.

#### **Research initiatives**

##### **Research Funding**

The British Skin Foundation continues to be successful in raising funds for dermatology research, and this year has approved the principle of providing 3-yearly (rather than one-year) research training fellowships. The BAD has always been a strong financial supporter of the BSF, and I am delighted to say that there will be **two jointly funded BAD/BSF Clinical Research Training Fellowships** in the forthcoming round of applications. I am most grateful to Mark Goodfield and Graham Ogg for their help in making this happen.

This year the BSID and BAD jointly funded 12 travel awards, each worth £1250, to enable junior researchers to attend the International Investigative Dermatology (IID) meeting in Kyoto.

##### **Research Mentoring Scheme**

I would also like to draw your attention to the BAD's Research Mentoring Scheme which was conceived two years ago. A number of clinical researchers and clinicians

have offered to act as mentors for trainees (or consultants) interested in research. This can be organised on a regional basis or nationally, and those seeking advice may contact the BAD Academic Administrator, [@bad.org](mailto:@bad.org) for a list of potential mentors.

We will continue to encourage trainees to attend the BSID and THESIS meetings: the next THESIS/BAD/BSID Research Course is scheduled for Thursday 11 - Friday 12 June 2009. In addition we will be developing the website to provide information on academic centres, areas of expertise, routes of training, sources of support for research funding and information for Educational Supervisors.

## **Education initiatives**

### **Revalidation**

The RCP recently sought the BAD's views on the GMC document 'standards framework for appraisal and revalidation'. Discussions are ongoing but it is considered reasonable for consultants to be expected to be involved in multisource feedback and patient surveys, and for CPD to be developed further.

### **Assessment**

With regard to training the assessors involved in competency-based assessments, a very successful annual STC Chairmen and Programme Directors' meeting was held at Willan House on 24 April 2008. Next year's meeting will again be held towards the end of April and there are plans also for two half-day 'Assessment for the Assessors' courses at Willan House before the RSM clinical meetings next December and February.

Following negotiations between the RCP Federation and the specialist societies, the first dermatology knowledge based assessment (KBA) is scheduled for April 2009. The KBA is due to be taken by registrars with an NTN after completion of Year 2 of their training. Doctors with MRCP (UK) who pass the KBA should receive a Certificate in Dermatology (RCP) but the qualification of MRCP (Dermatology) will be granted to those with an NTN only, following the award of their CCT in Dermatology.

### **e-learning Projects**

Delivery of the PMETB-approved curriculum for Dermatology should be enhanced over the next 3 years by two DoH-funded e-learning projects, provided on behalf of the BAD. Jane McGregor will be acting as clinical lead on an e-learning project, mapped to the curriculum and the KBA. We have set up an e-learning Editorial Strategy Group and will be looking to recruit around 15 module editors and numerous authors to design individual 'e-learning bites'. The 'Validated Case Archive' is a separate e-learning initiative and will be led by Ginny Hubbard. More about these projects at the BAD annual meeting.

We are also working with the RCGP on some e-learning guidance for GPs on common dermatological problems.

### **Introducing *DermSchool***

It is essential to encourage interest in Dermatology at undergraduate level. Some medical students from the student dermatology societies will be attending the Trainee

Pre-conference Session at this year's BAD annual meeting, and there are plans for a student / FY doctors' ***DermSchool*** at next year's annual meeting, emphasizing the joys of Dermatology as a career, including the importance of research. Thanks to John McGrath for coining the term!

**Dr Clive Archer**  
**Academic Vice President**

## **Box 1. Academic Dermatology On-line Survey 2008**

**Job title:** (eg. Consultant Dermatologist, Registrar, Research Registrar, Research Fellow)

**How many hours per week are there for research in your job plan?**

**University Status:** (if applicable) (eg. University-employed \*Professor, Reader, Senior Lecturer, Lecturer, Tutor or

For NHS doctors: Hon. Professor, Hon. Clinical Senior Lecturer, Hon. Clinical Lecturer, Hon. Clinical Tutor)

\*if a Professor, is it a 'Permanent' Chair or Personal Chair?

**Basic Medical Degree and/or Diplomas:** (eg. MB.BS., MB.ChB., BM.BChir., MD. (USA), MRCS.LRCP.)

**Other Degrees, Diplomas, etc:** (eg. BMedSci., BSc. (Hons), BA. / MA. (Cantab), BA. / MA. (Oxon), MSc. by course / dissertation, higher degrees such as \*MD. or PhD., honorary diplomas / degrees)

**Summary of Research Achievements:** (up to 100 words)

**Details of Doctoral Thesis:** (eg. MD. (Lond), DM. (Oxon), PhD. (Lond), DPhil. (Oxon), if applicable)

What higher degree was awarded?

Awarding university?

What year was the higher degree awarded?

Title of thesis:

Over what period of time was the research carried out?

**Details of Masters Dissertation:** (eg. MSc., if applicable)

What higher degree was awarded?

Awarding university?

What year was the higher degree awarded?

Title of dissertation:

Over what period of time was the research carried out?

**Basic Science or Clinical Research Publications:** (not case reports - see below)

(for all publications please use Br J Dermatol style)

a, The 5 most important in your career

b, The 3 most important in last 5 years (if applicable)

**Did you receive a higher degree by publication?**

If yes, what higher degree was awarded?

Awarding university?

What year was the higher degree awarded?

**Clinical Publications:** (ie. Clinical Research, if not included above, or Case Reports)

a, The 5 most important in your career

b, The 3 most important in last 5 years (if applicable)

**Review articles and Book chapters:** (up to the 5 most important in your career)

**Books:** *(as author or editor)*

**Editorial work:** *(up to 40 words)*

**Summary of Teaching and Learning Activities** *(up to 100 words)*

*(including undergraduates, postgraduates and courses organised, if applicable)*

**Roles in Assessment** *(eg. MRCP Examiner, if applicable)*