

## Revalidation – developing the assessment criteria

Earlier this year we advertised for a team of experts to draft the assessment criteria for the revalidation scheme. Interviews and appointments took place in March and the successful candidates have begun work on developing the criteria.

### The Assessment Expert Team

#### Caitrian Guthrie

Caitrian is the Assessment Expert Team Leader. She has been a staff nurse for almost 10 years and has developed a strong interest in education, subsequently teaching at Robert Gordon University, Aberdeen. She has carried out a wide range of work relating to assessment and work strategies for the Nursing and Midwifery Council, NHS Education for Scotland, the Healthcare Professions Council, the Faculty of Homeopathy, and the out of hours service for NHS Scotland.

Caitrian has a number of postgraduate qualifications, and is currently taking a doctorate in education in which her research area is the maintenance of continuing professional development through online learning. She has extensive experience in designing and implementing a range of educationally sound assessment strategies for practitioners to undertake in traditional face-to-face settings, in virtual learning environments and in the workplace.

#### Simeon London

Simeon is a practising osteopath, based in Howwood, Scotland. He graduated from the British School of Osteopathy (BSO) in 1995, has since been involved in osteopathic education at all levels, and is currently head of clinical practice at the BSO.

Simeon has designed many varied assessment tools at a Masters level (both practical and written assessments) and has experience in developing, delivering and evaluating postgraduate training courses for qualified osteopaths. He has also been involved in the development of postgraduate and undergraduate Masters programmes both in the UK and internationally.

#### Judith Neaves

Judith is a practising osteopath, with her own private clinic. She has 10 years' experience in the use of osteopathy within NHS settings in primary and secondary care and is a qualified medical practitioner. Currently the head of the London College of Osteopathic Medicine, Judith has extensive experience of osteopathic and medical education, both at undergraduate and postgraduate levels, and is involved in the assessment of portfolios submitted by GPs in their application for membership of the Royal College of General Practitioners.

## **Caroline Penn**

Caroline is a practising osteopath working in a busy multi-disciplinary clinic in Hatfield, Hertfordshire, having qualified from the British School of Osteopathy (BSO) in 1979. She immediately began postgraduate studies in cranial osteopathy and joined the BSO postgraduate faculty in 1982. Caroline completed a Masters degree in osteopathy in 2003, undertaking research with infants under three months old with breathing difficulties.

Caroline has been involved in teaching osteopathy at undergraduate and postgraduate levels across the world, including countries such as Germany, France, Switzerland, Denmark, New Zealand, Australia, and the USA. She is a qualified teacher and established an accredited teacher training programme specifically for osteopaths in 1993.

Caroline is a founder member of the Sutherland Cranial College and also a founder osteopath with the Osteopathic Centre for Children (now the Foundation for Paediatric Osteopathy). She is an authority on problems in babies, having worked with infants in special care baby units in Hertfordshire and London, and collaborated with audiology services in Hertfordshire for glue ear problems in children. Caroline has also taken further study in areas including gestalt psychotherapy, traumatic and disc injuries, and neurodevelopmental and behavioural issues.

## **John Patterson**

Until retirement in September 2009, John was Associate Dean for Undergraduate Medical Studies and Head of Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery (MBBS) Assessment at Barts and the London School of Medicine and Dentistry. He was responsible for developing MBBS degree regulations, assessment strategy and academic aspects of all MBBS assessments.

Originally trained to PhD level as a zoologist and comparative neurobiologist, John became a teacher of human physiology shortly after joining the Medical College of St Bartholomew's Hospital in 1978, a role in which he continued for 30 years. In 1999, John was appointed Head of Undergraduate Medical Studies and helped to introduce an innovative medical curriculum and major revisions to the School's assessment profile, for which he was awarded a Queen Mary University of London Drapers' Prize for Excellence in Teaching in 2001.

John continues to teach, and advise about, medical education and assessment, and assists with three assessment training courses. He also acts as an external examiner for osteopathy programmes in Italy and Canada.

## **The work of the Assessment Expert Team**

The work of the team involves the following:

- A valid, fair and fit for purpose set of assessment criteria to support revalidation.
- Advice on evidence that may be submitted by osteopaths to fulfil the criteria.
- Advice on any changes to the standards required.
- Advice on appropriate moderating mechanisms and processes to ensure assessment is carried out in an open, transparent and fair way.
- Advice on appropriate skills and expertise for assessors to enable them to undertake the assessment during the pilots.
- Advice on appropriate preparation and training for assessors during the pilots.

To ensure the draft assessment criteria are as broad as possible in terms of osteopathic perspectives further osteopathic input will be sought. A 'virtual' online reference group will comment on the criteria and associated work before these are presented to the Revalidation Standards and Assessment Working Group and Council. This group will consist of a variety of stakeholders, including osteopaths with a broad spectrum of practice and experience, patients, members of the public and researchers and educators.

As well as developing the draft assessment criteria for the revalidation pilots, due to take place in 2011, the Assessment Expert Team is also developing guidance and advice on the templates osteopaths will use to submit evidence, completed examples of templates, and grids for assessors to use.