



# SOMERSET GP EDUCATION TRUST

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## **EARLY YEARS GP GROUP**

Following a positive response to the invitation in last month's newsletter we have set dates for the first two meetings of a new small group for GPs in the early years of their GP life in Somerset.

We meet on Monday November 3<sup>rd</sup> and Wednesday December 10<sup>th</sup> in Street from 7.30 - 9.30pm (venue TBC). The group is aimed at GPs who feel they are at the stage of getting established as a GP in Somerset. Precise entry criteria are impossible but this group is probably aimed at GPs who have completed Specialist Training in the last 5 years or so, GPs who after a time working in a variety of practices have now chosen to be permanent in one practice and GPs who have recently moved to Somerset. Basically if you think a group like this could help you, then this group is for you.

The meeting will be facilitated, sponsorship will provide a meal and there will be plenty of opportunity to share ideas and experiences, and get help with problems and plans. Subsequent dates, venues, content and arrangements will be decided by those taking part. If you have not already committed but meant to please e-mail to Rachel at [sgpet@somerset.nhs.uk](mailto:sgpet@somerset.nhs.uk). Also let Rachel know if you are interested but cannot make these dates and we will make sure you are informed about meetings in the New Year.

## **REFLECTION AND EVALUATION –ESSENTIAL PARTS OF ALL EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITIES**

Effective learning always changes behavior and the main lever in turning attendance at an educational meeting into applying new knowledge and skills is reflection. To help you with this important process, after any SGPET meeting the organiser will give you a Summary of Learning form which asks you to specify what your objectives for the session were and what important things you got from it. It also asks what you will tell the colleagues you work with about the meeting as sharing learning is a useful way to organise our reflections and commit to making good use of learning. Finally the form asks what new or unmet learning needs you still have in this area; this can stimulate your reading, e-learning or attendance at subsequent meetings.

The meeting organiser will also give you an evaluation form to complete which is your feedback to us about the session. We put a lot of time and thought into planning our programmes and each individual meeting but these meetings are for you, not us, and your comments are crucial.

## **REVALIDATION AND LICENSING**

The new licence to practice will be introduced this time next year and will require revalidation through an enhanced form of the appraisal process. We still await details but when available we will be liaising with the LMC and the PCT to provide a series of educational meetings to explain the new system and how GPs can respond to it with confidence and certainty. It is likely that a requirement will be for GPs to take part in 50hrs of education a year and to demonstrate that the learning has been worthwhile. In April every year SGPET will send you a summary of which sessions you have attended listing the hours involved and the topics covered. Putting the completed Summary of Learning form from each meeting you attend in your portfolio will clearly show to you, and your appraiser, how you have reflected on your learning.

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## TELE- LEARNING

A young man saw a couple of the practice GPs recently with raised areas in both his longstanding shoulder tattoos. We were not sure of the reason and referred him to dermatology. Before he could be seen in clinic he developed an acute arthropathy and respiratory problems requiring acute admission. Investigations confirmed sarcoidosis – associated, as you probably know, with eruptions in scar tissue and tattoos. We included this patient in a recent practice teaching session for a group of 3<sup>rd</sup> year Bristol Medical students and challenged them to come up with a diagnosis based on his skin problem. “Sarcoidosis”, one of them piped up and went on to say “I remember it from an episode of *House* on TV.”

### DERMATOLOGY MEETING – A FEW LEARNING POINTS

At the meeting with Dr Wachsmuth in Ilminster on 13.10.08 the GPs who attended included the following amongst things they got from the session. In women with diffuse hair loss ferritin level needs to be above 70 for optimal hair growth and consider supplements if less than this. Treating fungal toe nail infections might require 9 months of terbinafine so should always get positive microscopy/culture before embarking on this. It is still better for a dermatologist to see a rash in the flesh than work wholly on photos but a photograph taken when the rash is at its worst is a useful addition to a referral. Dovobet remains a good choice for the topical treatment of psoriasis.

All this, a discussion about dermatomyositis and a play with the dermatoscope – tremendous.

## MEETINGS SCHEDULED FOR OCTOBER AND NOVEMBER 2008

| DATE      | VENUE                                 | TIME        | SPEAKER           | GROUP                             |  |
|-----------|---------------------------------------|-------------|-------------------|-----------------------------------|--|
| 23 Oct    | The Queens Arms<br>Pitminster         | 19.30-22.00 | Dr T Solanki      | Osteoporosis                      | Somerset GP Education Trust<br>C/o Somerset LMC<br>Crown Medical Centre<br>Venture Way<br>Taunton TA2 8QY              |
| 29 Oct    | Corner House Hotel, Taunton           | 19.30-22.00 | Dr R Wachsmuth    | Lupus-Aspects of relevance to GPs |  |
| 3 Nov     | Street                                | 19.00-21.00 | Dr M Hughes       | New GP Discussion Group           | Phone: 01823 331428<br>Fax: 01823 338561<br>E-mail<br><a href="mailto:SGPET@somerset.nhs.uk">SGPET@somerset.nhs.uk</a> |
| 4 Nov     | Lord Poulett Arms<br>Hinton St George | 19.00-22.00 | Dr M Hughes       | Case Discussions                  |  |
| 13 Nov    | Yeovil Academy<br>YDH Level 4         | 18.45-21.15 | Dr Ricketts       | Palliative Care                   |  |
| 17 Nov    | Shrubbery Hotel<br>Ilminster          | 19.30-21.30 | Dr Footitt        | Epilepsy                          |  |
| 20 Nov    | Fountain Inn<br>Wells                 | 19.30-22.00 | TBC               | Case Discussion                   |  |
| 24-28 Nov | Musgrove Park Academy                 | 9.30-17.00  | Various           | Fresh Looks                       |  |
| 27 Nov    | The Rising Sun<br>West<br>Bagborough  | 18.45-21.30 | Miss Orla McNally | Gynaecology                       |  |