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International Postgraduate Diary

Royal Free Hospital School of Medicine, London
9–13 June 1997: MRCP Part II course
Details: DG James, Department of Medicine, Royal Free Hospital, Pond Street, London NW3 2QG, UK. Tel +44 171 830 2108

Royal National Orthopaedic Hospital
Trust Courses, London
17/18 April 1997: Spinal injuries
13–15 May 1997: Foot and ankle surgery – hands-on skills
4 June 1997: Fixation of fractures above the knee – hands-on skills
27 June 1997: Seddon Society annual scientific lectures
8–10 July 1997: Hand anatomy (hands-on cadaver skills)
1 September 1997: Principles of foot and ankle surgery
24 September 1997: Basic arthroplasty
Details: Carol Winston, Postgraduate Manager. Tel +44 181 954 2300 ext 326; fax +44 181 954 6933

Royal Postgraduate Medical School, Institute of Obstetrics and Gynaecology
12–14 May 1997: Advanced course in fetal medicine
16–20 June 1997: Advanced course for obstetricians and gynaecologists
15–17 October 1997: Medical problems facing obstetricians and physicians in pregnancy
Details: Symposium Secretary, RPMS Institute of Obstetrics and Gynaecology, Queen Charlotte’s and Chelsea Hospital, Goldhawk Road, London W6 0XG, UK. Tel +44 181 383 3904; fax +44 181 383 8555; email symposium@rpms.ac.uk

University College London Medical School, Institute of Laryngology and Otology
12–23 May 1997: Basic Science for Part I DLO
Details: Administration, Institute of Laryngology & Otology, 330/332 Gray’s Inn Road, London WC1X 8EE, UK. Tel +44 171 915 1514/92; fax +44 171 837 9279

Institute of Psychiatry and Bethlem and Maudsley NHS Trust
4 July 1997: Primary care meets old age psychiatry
Details: Mrs Lee Wilding, Conference Office, Institute of Psychiatry, De Crespigny Park, London SE5 8AF, UK. Tel +44 171 719 3170; fax +44 171 740 5172

Obstetric Anaesthetists’ Association
10/11 April 1997: Annual meeting (Guildford)
Details: OAA Secretariat, PO Box 3219, London SW13 9XR, UK. Tel +44 181 741 1311; fax +44 181 741 0611

Oster Club of London (evening meetings)
3 April 1997: Mrs John Hunter – a life of her own
8 May 1997: AGM; Egyptian medicine
10 July 1997: Osterian oration and banquet
Details: Oster Club of London, Thomas Cotton Room, Royal College of Physicians, Regents Park, London NW1 4LE, UK

Primary Care Rheumatology Society
24/25 April 1997: 10th Spring meeting (Harrogate, UK)
Details: Helen Livesley, PGR Society, Freepost Box 42, Northallerton, Yorks DL7 8YG, UK. Tel/fax: +44 1609 774794

British Endocrine Societies
7–10 April 1997: 16th joint meeting (Harrogate, UK)
Details: Society for Endocrinology, 1718 The Courtyard, Woodlands, Almondsbury, Bristol BS12 4NZ, UK. Tel +44 1454 619036; fax +44 1454 616071

Falk Symposia
24–30 May 1997: Intestinal week in the Black Forest (Titisee & Freiburg, Germany)
22–24 September 1997: 5th International Symposium on Inflammatory bowel diseases (Jerusalem, Israel)
1–6 October 1997: Liver week (Freiburg, Germany)
Details: Falk Foundation eV, Congress Division, PO Box 6529, D-79041 Freiburg, Germany. Tel +49 761 130346; fax +49 761 1303459

University of California, San Francisco
24–26 April 1997: Postgraduate course in general surgery
9/10 May 1997: Advanced dermatology update: a consultant course for practising dermatologists
10 May 1997: Current topics in pediatric anesthesia
15–17 May 1997: Advances and controversies in clinical pediatrics
22–24 May 1997: Current issues in anatomic pathology
5–7 June 1997: Neurology for the primary care practitioner
7 June 1997: Practical dermatology review course
Details: University of California, Office of Continuing Medical Education, 18555 Satus, Suite 300, San Francisco, CA 94143-0742, USA. Tel +1 415 476 4521; fax +1 415 476 0318

University of California, San Diego
30 March–4 April 1997: 17th annual residents radiology review course (San Diego)
4–6 April 1997: Breast imaging and interventions (San Diego)
25–29 August 1997: Multispecialty radiology course (San Diego)
Details: Ryals & Associates, PO Box 1925, Roswell, GA 30077-1925, USA. Tel +1 770 641 9773; fax +1 770 552 9859

American Association of Physician Specialists/International Institute for Continuing Medical Education
10–13 April 1997: Building a multidisciplinary team for the diagnosis and management of breast disease (New York)
17–20 April 1997: Problem solving in imaging of the brain, spine, head and neck (Amelia Island, Florida)
16–20 June 1997: Practical approaches to diagnosis, image quality, and meeting changed standards of care (Banff Springs, Canada)
28 July–1 August 1997: Imaging in Santa Fe (New Mexico)
4–8 August 1997: Breast imaging for today and tomorrow (Santa Fe, New Mexico)
7–10 August 1997: Neurology update (Santa Fe, New Mexico)
Details: Ryals & Associates, PO Box 1925, Roswell, GA 30077-1925, USA. Tel +1 770 641 9773; fax +1 770 552 9859

University of Florida, College of Medicine
19/20 April 1997: 2nd Angio/interventional review course (Orlando)
20–25 April 1997: 9th Annual radiology review course (Orlando)
25–27 April 1997: 2nd Annual mammography review course (Orlando)
Details: Ryals & Associates, PO Box 1925, Roswell, GA 30077-1925, USA. Tel +1 770 641 9773; fax +1 770 552 9859

Second European Forum on Quality Improvement in Health Care
24–26 April 1997: Paris, France
Details: BMA, Conference Unit, PO Box 295, London, WC1H 9TE, UK. Tel +44 171 383 6876; Fax +44 171 383 6869

IVth International Dermatology Symposium: the sebaceous gland and its disorders
11–13 April 1997: University Medical Centre Benjamin Franklin, Berlin, Germany
Details: Dr Ch C Zouboulis, Department of Dermatology, University Medical Centre Benjamin Franklin, Free University of Berlin, Hindenburgdamm 20, D-12200 Berlin, Germany. Tel +49 30 8445 2808; fax: 149 30 8445 4262

INSTRUCTIONS TO AUTHORS

The aims of the Postgraduate Medical Journal are three-fold. Firstly, to help doctors in training to acquire the necessary skills to enable them to deliver the highest possible standards of patient care. Secondly, to help the trainers to develop suitable training programmes for their trainees. Finally, once that training is completed, to allow these doctors to maintain those high standards by a process of continuing medical education.

To achieve these aims we publish original papers, short reports and commissioned editorials and review articles. We are also delighted to receive unsolicited editorials and reviews, from doctors and others. The Postgraduate Medical Journal peer reviews all the material it receives. Other items may include Self-assessment questions, Letters to the Editor, Book reviews and an International postgraduate diary. The full proceedings of meetings may be published as supplements to the Journal. The Postgraduate Medical Journal is published monthly in the English language, and has an international readership.

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The principal author
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Style
Abbreviations and symbols must be standard and SI units used throughout except for blood pressure values which are reported in mmHg. Acronyms should be used sparingly and fully explained when first used. Whenever possible, drugs should be given their approved generic name. Where a proprietary (brand) name is used, it should begin with a capital letter. Statistical analyses must explain the methods used. Words to be italicised should be underlined. The Concise Oxford English Dictionary is used as a reference for spelling and hyphenation. Figures and tables should be referred to in the text.

Articles
Original articles are usually up to 3000 words long with up to six tables, illustrations and 30 references. They should be divided into: Title page, Summary, Introduction, Materials and Methods, Results, Discussion, Acknowledgements, References, Tables, Figures and captions. The summary should not exceed 250 words and should state concisely what was done, the main findings and how the work was interpreted. Numbered paragraphs should be avoided. The use of boxes with learning/summary 'bullet' points is encouraged.

References
References should follow the Vancouver style. In the text, they should appear as superscript numbers starting at 1. At the end of the paper they should be listed (double-spaced) in numerical order corresponding to the order of citation. All authors should be quoted for papers with up to six authors, for papers with more than six authors, the first three only should be quoted, followed by et al. Titles of medical periodicals should be given in full or abbreviated in line with the latest edition of Index Medicus. The first and last page numbers for each reference should be provided. Abstracts and letters must be identified as such. For example,


Responsibility for the accuracy and completeness of references rests entirely with the authors.

Figures and tables
Photographs, photomicrographs, line diagrams and graphs should be prepared to professional standards and submitted as originals or as unmounted glossy photographic prints. The identity of all patients should be masked (using a bar over the eyes) and written permission from the patient included with the submission. When preparing illustrations which include lettering or symbols, remember they may be reduced in size. All histology slides should contain a scale bar. Three copies of each illustration should be submitted, each bearing a label, the back marked in pencil with the author's name and the number of the figure. Figure legends and tables should be typed on separate sheets. Figures and tables should be numbered in arabic numerals.

Short reports
Short papers or case reports should not exceed 1000 words, inclusive of summary, introduction, report and discussion. Up to 10 references and two illustrations or tables will be accepted. Each report must include (on a separate sheet) a list of learning or summary points.

Self-assessment questions
Self-assessment questions may take several formats, including multiple-choice questions, (each consisting of a question stem and five items, with discussion of the correct answers, and up to five references per question) and photographic material (eg, clinical photograph, X-ray, histological section) or data interpretation (eg, ECG, arterial blood gases), with clinical information and up to three questions with discussion of the correct answers, and up to five references per case. Authors whose case reports are rejected may be asked to consider resubmitting their report as a self-assessment question.

Review articles
The Editor welcomes review articles of up to 3000 words, provided they contain a clear educational message. The use of boxed case histories, learning/bullet points and structured tables/summaries is encouraged. Guidelines for authors of review articles are available from the Editorial Office, who are also happy to discuss proposed articles.

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Covering letter
The covering letter must be signed by all authors and include a declaration that the paper is not under consideration by any other journal at the same time and that it has not been accepted for publication elsewhere.

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All papers are peer reviewed. Some are rejected after review by one or more members of the Editorial Board. The remainder are also reviewed by one or more external advisors. Reasons for rejection will be indicated to the principal author. The Editor retains the customary right to determine style and, if necessary, to shorten material accepted for publication.

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Letters to the Editor related to articles published in the Postgraduate Medical Journal are welcome. Only one copy need be sent, which should not exceed 500 words and five references. Authors whose short reports are rejected may be asked to consider resubmitting their report as a letter.

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