

Postgraduate Medical Journal

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Further details of the Fellowship of Postgraduate Medicine can be obtained from The Executive Secretary, Fellowship of Postgraduate Medicine, 12 Chandos Street, London W1M 9DE, UK.

The Journal is covered by *Current Contents*, *Biological Abstracts*, *ASCA*, *ISI/BIOMED*, *Index Medicus*, *Excerpta Medica* and *Science Citation Index*.

Editorial

Manuscripts, initial supplement enquiries, and all editorial correspondence should be sent to: The Editor, *Postgraduate Medical Journal*, 12 Chandos Street, London W1M 9DE, UK. (tel: +44 71 636 6334; fax: +44 171 436 2535).

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International Postgraduate Diary

Royal Free Hospital School of Medicine, London

10/11 February 1996: MRCP Part II Mock examinations.

Details: Katia Lambour, Department of Medicine, Royal Free Hospital, Rowland Hill Street, London NW3 2PF, UK. Tel + 44 171 830 2108

12–16 February 1996: MRCP Part II course for clinical examination

Details: Dr D Geraint James, Royal Free Hospital, Pond Street, Hampstead, London NW3 2QG, UK. Tel + 44 171 794 0500 ext 5110

Royal Postgraduate Medical School Institute of Obstetrics and Gynaecology

19–21 June 1996: Advanced course in fetal medicine

24–28 June 1996: Advanced course for obstetricians and gynaecologists

Details: Symposium Secretary, RPMS Institute of Obstetrics and Gynaecology, Queen Charlotte's and Chelsea Hospital, Goldhawk Rd, London W6 0XG, UK. Tel + 44 181 740 3904; fax + 44 181 259 8555

Royal College of Physicians of Edinburgh

1 February 1996: Ethical and economic conflicts in a changing health service (symposium)

7 February 1996: HIV/Infectious diseases (evening teach-in)

4/5 March 1996: Management education for clinicians (Joint symposium with the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Glasgow)

8 March 1996: What's new in gastroenterology (symposium)

13 March 1996: Vascular disease and the intraluminal environment (symposium) Aberdeen

26 March 1996: Haematology (evening teach-in)

16 April 1996: Neurology (evening teach-in)

Details: Royal College of Physicians of Edinburgh, 9 Queen Street, Edinburgh EH2 1JQ, UK. Tel + 44 131 225 7324; fax + 44 131 220 3939

Royal College of Physicians of London

12–15 February 1996: Advanced medicine

29 February 1996: Osteoporosis

6 March 1996: Epithelial cell biology – a science impacting clinically

19 March 1996: The interface between medicine and the insurance industry

25 March 1996: CME day – cerebrovascular disease

19/20 April 1996: Joint congress with the College of Medicine of South Africa (in Cape Town)

8 May 1996: Appraisal: purpose, pitfalls and good practice

14/15 May 1996: The legacy of Jenner: vaccination past, present and future (Joint with Royal Society, Royal College of Pathologists, Wellcome Institute for the History of Medicine)

5 June 1996: Risk factors, earlier diagnosis and preventive possibilities to meet the health of the nation targets

Details: Conference Office, Royal College of Physicians, 11 St Andrews Place, Regent's Park, London NW1 4LE, UK. Tel: + 44 171 935 1174 ext 252/300; fax: + 44 171 487 5218.

Royal College of Surgeons of England: Postgraduate Courses (London, UK)

6/7 and 8/9 February 1996: ATLS Instructor course

12 February – 1 March 1996: Applied basic science for surgeons

13–16 February 1996: Advanced anastomotic techniques

15/16 February 1996: Approaches to anterior cruciate ligament and meniscal suturing

19/20 and 21/22 February 1996: Training the trainers

20/21 February 1996: Management of inguinal hernias

27/28 February 1996: Laparoscopic fundoplication

11–15 March 1996: Art of reconstructive surgery

11–29 March 1996: Applied basic sciences for surgeons

12–14 March 1996: Lumbar spine stabilisation

13/14 March 1996: Training the trainers

20/21 March 1996: Basic skills for safe laparoscopic surgery

21/22 March 1996: Minor surgery for general practitioners

26/27 March 1996: Femoral distal bypass surgery

Details: Raven Department of Education, Royal College of Surgeons of England, 35–43 Lincoln's Inn Fields, London, UK. Tel + 44 171 973 2100; fax + 44 171 973 2117.

Royal National Orthopaedic Hospital Trust

5–6 March 1996: Surgery of the foot and ankle

Details: Carol Winston, Royal National Orthopaedic Hospital Trust, Brockley Hill, Stanmore, Middlesex HA7 4LP, UK. Tel + 44 181 954 2300; fax + 44 181 954 6933

Institute of Psychiatry, London

5–8 February 1996: Cellular and molecular pathology of neurodegenerative disease (course).

Details: Mrs L Wilding, Short Courses Office, Institute of Psychiatry, De Crespigny Park, London SE5 8AF, UK. Tel + 44 171 919 3170; fax + 44 171 703 5796.

University of California Postgraduate Course

3 February 1996: Third annual update in behavioural/developmental pediatrics

1–2 March 1996: Practical pediatric dermatology (San Francisco, CA, USA)

Details: University of California, Office of Continuing Medical Education, 1855 Folsom St, MCB Room 630, San Francisco, CA 94143–0742, USA. Tel + 1 415 476 4251; fax + 1 415 476 0318

University College London Medical School Institute of Orthopaedics:

Lecture courses

January – March 1996: Neuromuscular disorders

April – July 1996: Developing fields in orthopaedics

Details: Postgraduate Secretary, Institute of Orthopaedics, 45 Bolsover St, London W1P 8AQ, UK. Tel: + 44 171 387 5070 ext 270.

10th Annual Magnetic Resonance Imaging Conference

3–6 March 1996: Barrow Neurological Institute, St Joseph's Hospital and Medical Center, The Phoenician Resort, Scottsdale, Arizona, USA

Details: Beverly Pennington, Neuroscience Conference Coordinator, Barrow Neurological Institute, 350 West Thomas Road, Phoenix, AZ 85013–4496, USA. Tel + 1 602 406 3067; fax + 1 602 406 7196.

First European Forum of Quality Improvement in Healthcare

7–9 March 1996: QEII Conference Centre, London, UK

Details: Claire Moloney, BMA Conference Unit, BMA House, Tavistock Square, London WC1H 9JR, UK. Tel + 44 171 383 6478; fax + 44 171 383 6663.

National Association of Clinical Tutors

The Association assists clinical tutors in their role as leaders in district medical education. Membership is open to University-appointed clinical and GP tutors.

The Association arranges courses for the training and continuing professional development of clinical tutors and holds Winter and Summer meetings for all members.

Information about the NACT and its activities can be obtained from The Secretariat, National Association of Clinical Tutors, 12 Chandos Street, London W1M 9DE, UK. Tel: + 44 171 636 6334.

CORRECTION

Mur P, Rodriguez M, Martinez-Cano H, *et al.* Allergic and toxic reaction to alprazolam (letter). *Postgrad Med J* 1995; 71: 444. In the fifth line of this letter the quantity of alprazolam taken should have been given as 12 mg, not 1.2 mg as printed.

Postgraduate Medical Journal

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. Each issue also includes a Self-Assessment corner, Letters to the Editor, book reviews and an international postgraduate diary. Many issues contain papers or abstracts of symposia devoted to a single subject, and 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.

Typescripts

Three complete copies should be sent to the Editor, *Postgraduate Medical Journal*, 12 Chandos Street, London W1M 9DE, UK. Papers must be type-written, double-spaced, on one side of paper not larger than A4 (297 mm × 210 mm). The first page of the typescript should bear the names of the author(s) and the name and address of the laboratory or institution where the work has been carried out, in addition to the title of the paper. The full address, telephone and fax number of the principal author to whom proofs will be sent should be given, together with up to four key words or phrases suitable for use in an index. All pages should be numbered, including the title page. All material submitted is assumed to be submitted exclusively to the *Postgraduate Medical Journal* unless the contrary is stated. Papers may be returned if presented in an inappropriate form. If the paper is rejected, these copies will not be returned. Authors are encouraged to submit their approved manuscripts on computer discs. Guidelines will be sent with the acceptance letter.

The principal author

The principal author must ensure that any co-authors listed agree to submission of the typescript. Any written or illustrative material which has been or will be published elsewhere must be duly acknowledged and accompanied by the written consent of the authors and publishers concerned.

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 italicized 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: (a) Title page, (b) Summary, (c) Introduction, (d) Materials and Methods, (e) Results, (f) Discussion, (g) Acknowledgements, (h) References, (i) Tables, (j) 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,

- 1 Clements R, Gravelle IH. Radiological appearances of hydatid disease in Wales. *Postgrad Med J* 1986; 62: 167-73.
- 2 Greenberger JS. Long-term hematopoietic cultures. In: Golde W, ed. *Hematopoiesis*. New York: Churchill-Livingstone, 1984; pp 203-42.

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. When preparing illustrations which include lettering or symbols, remember they will be reduced to 65 mm in width, or less. Three copies of each illustration should be submitted, each bearing a label on the back marked in pencil with the author's names and the number of the figure. Figure legends and tables should be typed on separate sheets. If any tables or illustrations

submitted have been published elsewhere, written consent to republication should be obtained by the author from the copyright holder the authors. Figures and tables should be numbered in arabic numerals.

Short reports

Short papers or case reports should not exceed 1000 words, inclusive of abstract, 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, blood film, 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 are encouraged. Guidelines for authors of review articles are available from the Editorial Office, who are also happy to discuss proposed articles.

Editorials

The Editor is delighted to consider for publication unsolicited editorials of 800 words. These will be peer reviewed.

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.

Peer review

All papers are peer reviewed. Some are rejected after review by one or more members of the editorial team. The remainder are also reviewed by one or more external advisers. 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.

Letters

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.

Supplements

Guidelines for supplements are available from the Editorial Office, who are happy to discuss proposed supplements.

Proofs

A marked copy of the proofs will be sent to the principal author which should be read carefully for errors. The corrected copy must be returned to the Technical Editor within three days. Major alterations to text cannot be accepted.

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