

Postgraduate Medical Journal

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The Journal, as the organ of the Fellowship of Postgraduate Medicine, is dedicated to advancing the understanding and practice of postgraduate medical education and training. The Fellowship of Postgraduate Medicine was founded after the First World War and was a pioneer in the UK in the development of programmes of postgraduate study in all branches of medicine (see *Postgrad Med J* 1985; 61: 1). It always has been, and remains, independent of University, Health Service and Government. Currently the Fellowship works closely with the National Association of Clinical Tutors in furthering mutual aims. Amongst other activities, the Fellowship provides research grants and support for young investigators, especially those working temporarily in the UK.

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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Publisher

All business correspondence and reprint requests should be addressed to *Postgraduate Medical Journal*, BMJ Publishing Group, BMA House, Tavistock Square, London WC1H 9JR, UK (tel +44 171 383 6668).

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International Postgraduate Diary

Royal National Orthopaedic Hospital Trust Courses, London

15 November 1996: Anaesthesia for orthopaedic surgery

Details: Carol Winston, RNOHT, Stannore, UK. Tel: +44 181 954 2300 ext 319

RPMS Institute of Obstetrics and Gynaecology, Queen Charlotte's & Chelsea Hospital, London

8 November 1996: Perinatal study day

14 November 1996: Infant nutrition perspectives study day

Details: Course Registration Service, PO Box 3219, London SW13 9XR, UK. Tel +44 181 741 1311; fax +44 181 741 0611

4 November 1996: Molecular biology for paediatricians (39; Wolfson Conference Centre)

5 November 1996: The pre-school child (40)

19 November 1996: The bereaved child (43)

25-29 November 1996: Neonatal course for senior paediatricians (45)

Details: please use course codes for reference: Symposium Secretary, RPMS Institute of Obstetrics & Gynaecology, Queen Charlotte's and Chelsea Hospital, Goldhawk Road, London W6 0XG, UK. Tel +44 181 740 3904; fax +44 181 259 8555

Royal Free Hospital School of Medicine, London

10-14 February 1997: MRCP Part II course

9-13 June 1997: MRCP Part II course

13-17 October 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

Charing Cross & Westminster Medical School, London

4-9 December 1996: Obstetric anaesthesia and analgesia

Details: Obstetric Anaesthetists' Association, PO Box 3219, London SW13 9XR, UK. Tel +44 181 741 1311; fax +44 181 741 0611

Institute of Psychiatry and Bethlem and Maudsley NHS Trust

18-19 November 1996: Workshop on motivational enhancement therapy for eating disorders

Details: Mrs L Wilding, Short Courses Office, Institute of Psychiatry, De Crespigny Park, London SE5 8AF, UK. Tel +44 171 919 3170; fax +44 071 740 5172

National Sports Medicine Institute, London, lecture series

6 November 1996: Triathlon training and injuries

13 November 1996: When is a woman not a woman

20 November 1996: Training at altitude

27 November 1996: Sports drinks

Details: NSMI, c/o Medical College of St Bartholomew's Hospital, Charterhouse Square, London EC1M 6BQ, UK. Tel +44 171 251 0583

University of Warwick Short Courses

9-12 December 1996: Techniques and applications of molecular biology: a course for medical practitioners

Details: Dr Charlotte West, Department of Biological Sciences, University of Warwick, Coventry CV4 7AL, UK. Tel +44 1203 523540; fax +44 1203 523701

Holistic Skills (London, UK)

21 November 1996: Suffering - a practical and spiritual dimension (conference)

16 December 1996: The immediate care of the deceased and their families/friends (conference)

Details: Holistic Skills (UK), Sullivan House, 72-80 Widemarsh St, Hereford HR4 9HG, UK. Tel +44 1432 267290; fax +44 1432 267390

University of California

2-3 November 1996: The skin from A to Z: tips on practical therapy and office techniques (San Francisco, CA)

7-9 November 1996: Otolaryngology update (San Francisco, CA)

8-9 November 1996: Innovations in urological surgical techniques (San Francisco, CA)

8-10 November 1996: 42nd Annual group therapy symposium (San Francisco, CA)

21-22 November 1996: Third annual course on lasers in cutaneous and cosmetic surgery (London, UK)

7-8 December 1996: Stabilization and management of the critically ill child (San Francisco, CA)

6-8 February 1997: Epidemiology and prevention of infectious diseases (San Francisco, CA)

12-14 February 1997: Recent advances in neurology (San Francisco, CA)

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

Second European Forum on Quality Improvement in Health Care

24-26 April 1997: Paris, France

Details: B.M.A., Conference Unit, PO Box 295, London, WC1H 9TE, UK. Tel: +44 171 383 6478; 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 +49 30 8445 4262

World Forum for Doctors' Surgeries and Hospitals. 28th International Trade Fair with Congress

20-23 November 1996: Dusseldorf Exhibition Centre, Dusseldorf, Germany

Details: Info-fax +49 211 45 6086100

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

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.

Copyright assignment

The principal author must complete and return to the Publisher the Copyright Assignment Form enclosed with the proofs. He/she is responsible for obtaining the signatures of all co-authors.

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Offprints may be ordered on a form accompanying the proofs. The charges are necessarily high if orders are received after the issue has gone to press.