

Press Release

Patients' and Doctors' Safety: Can women change the culture of the NHS? - MWF Autumn Conference 8th Nov 2013, Grand Connaught Rooms London

Speakers included

Dame Fiona Caldicott, Chair of National Information Governance Board who talked about the Information Governance review and how information may be safely shared and better utilised to support the care of individuals & the wider population and that information governance i.e. the 'rules', should enable this sharing whilst also protecting individuals' confidentiality and respecting their wishes. The report was published in April 2013 with a new duty to share, reduce the harm caused by not sharing, clinicians to use clinical judgement on sharing decisions and greater trust between health and social care. Health and social care professionals should have the confidence to share information in the best interests of their patients within the framework set out by these principles. They should be supported by the policies of their employers, regulators and professional bodies.

Prof Vivienne Nathanson, Director of Professional Activities, British Medical Association gave a thought provoking talk on professionalism and ethics in a changing world. Her talk touched on assessing benefits to the patient and ethics as a marker of professionalism. The interesting notion of professionalism consisting of - Whistle blowing, truth telling, duty to society, empathy, compassion and caring, Lifelong learning and commitment to what and to whom.

Dr Vicky Osgood, Assistant Director of Postgraduate Education, General Medical Council whose talk emphasised the role of the GMC which is to protect, promote and maintain the health and safety of the public. She highlighted data from the GMC State of Medical Education and Practice 2012, which showed that most complaints to the GMC come from members of the public and are primarily to do with communication. Female doctors are less likely than male doctors to be complained about irrespective if they are on the GP, specialist register or neither. The most significant change on the medical register has been the number and proportion of female doctors. In 2012, 61% of the doctors were female. Over 6yrs there has been a 24% increase in the 30-50yr age group. The increase has not affected the older age group – male doctors still make up 72% of the over 50 age group in 2012.

The Dame Rosemary Rue Lecture was given by **Prof Bhupinder Sandhu OBE**, Professor of Paediatric Gastroenterology, who gave an excellent talk on her career path and her research interests and her current interests in commonwealth paediatric gastroenterology and nutrition.

The Family Friendly Award in collaboration with NHS Employers was awarded by Paul Deemer, Equality Consultant at NHS Employers to Wales Deanery and to the Aneurin Bevan Health Board in Wales.

Panel Discussion on Patient and Doctor Safety Issues Chairs: Dr Kim Peters and Prof Michelle Ryan, Exeter University provided details of their research on role modelling. This was followed by a panel discussion consisting of **Liz McAnulty**, Trustee from The-Patients' Association, **Dr Vicky Osgood**, GMC Professional Standard Representative and **Dr Olwen Williams**, Chief of Staff Primary Community Medicine, Wales talking about role models in their careers and a general discussion with the audience about patient care and doctors' working environments.

Abstract prize winners were Veronica Melchionda – Medical Student and Dr Sara Rodrigues who gave an interesting presentation on **Comparing children's and parents' perspectives on hospital care** and the highly commended presentation was awarded to Dr Lucy Morse on **Changing the culture of undermining in Obstetrics & Gynaecology** highlighting ~~and~~ examples of good practice from the Royal College of Obstetrics and Gynaecology.

The best poster prize was awarded to Arunthethy Mahendrayogam entitled **Burnout and Stress in Doctors: A Review of Risks and Protective Factors**