

LEEDS BMA ISC COMMITTEE NEWSLETTER

BE MORE ALERT...
BE MORE ACTIVE...
BE MORE AWARE...
LEEDS BMA

<http://bma.leedsmedics.org.uk>

IN THIS ISSUE:

1) FY1 ACCOMODATION

3) FY1 CONTRACTS

2) APRIL 2008 CONFERENCE

4) INTERCALATING SUCCESS

FY1 Accommodation

You will probably know that as a result of changes to the Medical Act, free accommodation is no longer available to first year junior doctors. The BMA has asked the Doctors and Dentists Review Body (DDRB), which makes recommendations on doctors pay, for an uplift in salary of an average of £400 per month as we calculate that this is the cost of the loss of the benefit of free accommodation.

The DDRB reported on 7 April. It did not recommend any uplift - which is in effect a **20% pay cut for first year junior doctors**. This is especially galling as in the past, the government has cited free accommodation as an argument against increasing doctors salaries.

The DDRB decision has rightly caused anger among students and junior doctors. Accommodation was discussed at the Medical Students Conference on 4 and 5 April where Conference voted in favour of public protests if an acceptable agreement cannot be reached on this.

The Junior Doctors Committee and Medical Students Committee are now putting in place a campaign. We have requested an urgent meeting with NHS employers to open negotiations with us about this. We will be in touch again with you about any progress and what action we might ask you to take to demonstrate the strength of feeling. In the meantime, **visit our website to lobby your MP about this issue!**

<http://www.bma.leedsmedics.org.uk/lobbypm.html>

TO VIEW THE BMA WEBCAST, VISIT:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ujYNBCe-HxQ>

13 years ago...

In 1995 medics here at Leeds had to *retake* their finals after it was found that **41 of 50** multiple choice questions had previously been used in a final examination 2 years earlier.

The mix up occurred because the 1993 exam paper had mistakenly been sent to the Health Science Library.

As you can well imagine, those people who had seen the paper were cross with those who had complained!

On the bright side, the retake was scheduled before the end of year ball, so as not to inconvenience the students further!



CONFERENCE UPDATE APRIL 2008

This year's National Medical Students Conference was held on the 4 - 5 April 2008 at Churchill College, Cambridge. The theme of this year's conference was 'Embracing opportunities, facing challenges'.

The main aim of the conference was to guide the work of the Medical Students Committee (MSC) for the following year through debate on the motions

submitted by medical schools. This included many important issues such as F1 Accommodation, Student Funding and Foundation Year Applications.

The conference also allowed representatives from Medical Schools across the UK to discuss issues that are important to medical students. Our MSC representative, ISC Chair and a delegate from the committee attended the conference

and have already used ideas from the conference to form part of the basis of the work the Leeds ISC committee should do. This included such things as organising the event on the 28th May providing Medical Students at Leeds with information on the F1 application process.

The Leeds ISC hope to continue to use ideas from the conference to form part of the basis of the work we do in the academic year 2008 - 2009.

F1 CONTRACTS EVENT - 5 JUNE, 2008

Shan Sadiq from the BMA provided us with vital information on the current contract of employment. Here is a taster... As a Foundation Doctor year one working in the NHS **your starting basic salary will be £21,862** for working a standard 40 hour week. In addition to the basic salary a banding supplement is paid of hours worked over and above the standard 40 hour working week. The banding supplement ranges from 0 to 100%

depending on the hours worked and the unsociability of those hours. For example **an FY1 one will receive a basic salary of £21,862 and a band 1A (50%) supplement will receive a total salary of £32,793.** As a NHS employee you will also be entitled to other benefits such as enhanced maternity pay, enhanced paternity pay and enhanced sick leave and pay. These benefits are accrued with service within the NHS as a whole. So it is important to seek

advise if you are planning to take some time out of NHS employment, generally breaks of three months or less will not effect your entitlement to these benefits.

Any questions? Don't hesitate to contact us.

INTERCALATING SUCCESS!

Learning about the ins and outs of intercalating was covered at the BMA Intercalation event held in April. The well attended programme featured several current intercalating students from different subjects, including clinical sciences and zoology. Also in attendance were student's who

shared their reasons for not intercalating. The advantages and disadvantages of different courses, including experiences of student life, funding, workload and course curriculum's were covered. *So was it a success? Absolutely!* Those who attended gained a lot

of information into the complexities of intercalation, and the Q&A session resolved many doubts.

Should you intercalate? Only you can answer this! We certainly hope that attendees have more information now to help make a more informed choice.



Be More Alert... Be More Active... Be More Aware...

Contact Us... As always the Leeds BMA-ISC is here to answer your questions about your future careers. Please contact us through our website or see your year representative

<http://www.bma.leedsmedics.org.uk>

