

January 2023 Newsletter

Hi everyone and welcome to the Winter EMTA newsletter. It is a privilege to introduce ourselves as the new co-chairs of EMTA.

We are Hannah and Lara both ST5's in EM, Hannah in the North West and Lara in the South West. We're working together in the role in recognition of how much hard work it can be and that sometime two brains are better than one. Thankfully, we're both very aligned in our priorities and hope to do a great job for you all. We're both working less than full time clinically with split roles with leadership fellowships.



Emergency Medicine as we all know is a great speciality, but blatantly is not without its challenges. This is true now more than ever, with the increasing pressures in our departments it is vital that issues in training are raised and represented at a college level. EMTA's role in this is paramount; trainees need to feel their educational needs are being met to be able to continue in this often hostile clinical environment. EMTA has representatives across almost all of the RCEM specialist committees to ensure trainees voices are heard but we also sit on the Academy of Medical Royal Colleges trainee committee (ATDG) too, to work with colleagues from other specialities in broader issues affecting trainees such as study leave, exams etc.

EMTA has made huge strides in recent years and we're proud of what we've achieved on your behalf. We worked with RCEM in building the new curriculum ensuring EDT was embedded, more recently we've had regular fortnightly meetings with our new exams team to build trust where it has been broken and we're working on pushing forth the RespectED campaign too. However we know the work is not done; we're committed to ensuring the future success of the committee by bringing new enthusiasm and momentum to the work we do both individually and

collectively. On this note we would like to formally thank the demitting chair Dan Darbyshire for his contributions over the last two years.

EMTA survey - give us your feedback by 6 February

An email with your personalised link to this year's survey should be in your inbox. But in case you've missed it you can [take the survey here](#). We ask all trainees to take 10 minutes - we cannot represent you if we don't know your experience. The survey closes on 6 February so be quick!

We would also like to thank Dale Kirkwood and Rob Hirst for their huge efforts in the 2021 survey, the results of which were released recently. Please visit the [EMTA website](#) to see a summary of the data or [view the full report here](#).

Priorities we have noted:

- Trainee wellbeing is not all coffee and cake. We need to keep pushing for accurate exam process, honest communication to trainees, fair recruitment and that our curriculum is being delivered equitably across all regions. This includes provision for USS, research, PEM etc.
- Wellbeing also includes staff feeling valued and respected by peers, other colleagues and patients at all times. High levels of both bullying and harassment were shocking to read and cannot be accepted. Incivility was by far the most commonly experienced negative behaviour. As a specialty we are committed to eradicating any behaviour in our departments that compromises patient safety and harms our teams.

2022 will see a focus on regional variation and EDI differences to work on making training more equal for all.

EMTA Conference

A huge congratulations to Bex Yates and the RCEM events team for pulling together a fantastic conference this year in Blackpool. The two day event on 22-23rd November was a resounding success with many inspiring speakers and a lot to learn all round. It was so lovely to meet so many of you face to face and can't wait for next year! If you would like to get involved and join our 2023 EMTA Conference committee [please click here](#). No experience required!



External Exams Review

Professor John McLachlan has been contracted to provide an independent review of the examination processes of the Royal College of Emergency Medicine. John, who is psychometric adviser to the UK Foundation Programme Office, is experienced in this kind of process, having

previously carried out independent reviews of assessment for other Royal Colleges, Health Education England, GMC and others.

He would greatly value input from members and candidates of RCEM, particularly those who may have been affected by recent events relating to assessment. He has created a confidential email account, JCMcLachlanRCEM@gmail.com, for this purpose. You are welcome to contact him on this email with your views on assessment processes. If you wish to arrange a tele-interview with John, this may also be possible, and you are welcome to propose this to him. All correspondence and interviews will be treated in strict confidence.

EDUCATe

'How does crowding affect your training?'

The Emergency Departments UK Crowding and Training (EDUCATe) Study is aiming to answer this question. We are looking for volunteers to join online focus groups investigating the role ED crowding has on your training with trainees from your deanery. With the information we gather we hope to drive positive change in your training. It will take less than an hour, at a time convenient to you. If you are interested in taking part and helping us arrange a focus group in your deanery contact rajesh.chatha@nhs.scot or [sign up here](#).

Engagement

We recognise that EMTA has not always been the best at telling you who we are and what we do for you. Going forward we're trying to be more transparent. [Here you can find out a bit more](#) and we will be doing a 'getting to know your representatives' round on Twitter very soon.

We are actually in the process of reviewing our committee structure, to ensure we align with the RCEM structure to collaborate on the issues that matter to you most.

We are keen to ensure we represent the views of EM trainees across the four nations, but know we always have black spots. We are really keen to engage further with our regional reps and hear more about what is happening on a regional level.

As always please keep in touch with any issues or concerns you have personally via the '[Tell EMTA' button](#) on emta.co.uk. This gives us real-time feedback about what's happening on the ground and we respond to each and every query. We also have a new Instagram account [@emtacommittee](#) – come join us there too! Kudos to our brand new social media and comms guy Tom for all his hard work with these new projects!

As always, look after yourselves and each other.

Lara & Hannah

Co-Chairs, Emergency Medicine Trainees' Association