

January 2022 Newsletter

Hi and Happy New Year! I hope that you managed to get some respite from the winter pressures to spend some time with friends, family, or a good book. I don't think 2021 was any easier than 2020, and personally, I found it more challenging. I don't know what to expect over the next 12-months but I do know that despite the challenges 2021 threw at us from every conceivable angle, we, you, managed to do some amazing work. Sometimes, when I see crowded corridors filled with vulnerable patients that, despite our best efforts, I know are not getting the care we want to give them, I feel ashamed. However, sitting back, writing this newsletter, reflecting on the last year, I can say with complete surety that I am proud to be an emergency physician and I am even more proud of the work of the EMTA committee and all my fellow trainees over the past year.

In order for EMTA to best represent trainees we need to continue hearing your views. You can always use the [TellEMTA button on our website](#) to provide anonymous feedback, or email me at emta@rcem.ac.uk to let us know about things as they become apparent. The regional reps network continues to be of great value and I want to thank all the reps for highlighting problems and communicating with their regions. One of the most useful tools for driving change in emergency medicine training over the past decade has been the EMTA survey.

EMTA Survey 2021

The 2021 EMTA Survey was launched at the virtual conference on the 24th of November. The survey team has worked really hard to make it streamlined and easy to complete to try and combat some of the survey fatigue we all feel. While writing this we have had close to 800 of you fill it in. Our target is 1000—so nearly there.

Rather than reading the rest of this newsletter (come back to it later) find the link to the survey in your inbox and fill it in, it will take 10-minutes I promise. And if you have lost the personalised link then you can follow [this generic link](#), but please don't share it. The survey closes the 11th of January so don't hang around.

If you want to read a bit more about why the survey is important I wrote [a guest post for the RCEM President Blog](#).

EMTA Conference 2021

The 2021 Virtual Conference was a great success, many events are seeing a real drop off in terms of numbers as everyone gets a bit bored of spending days on Zoom. It is a real testament to the quality of the programme that the conference team put together that we saw excellent numbers.

Over the 24th and 25th of November we had a number of presentations and discussions covering every facet of the new curriculum. I found the two days flew by which can only be a good sign. The chair based yoga and the drawing sessions, alongside the “Blackpool Bingo” were great additions to the educational programme. If you weren’t able to attend you still have the option to catch up, and perhaps map some of those more tricky SLOs, [on the events page of the RCEM website](#) until the 25th May 2022.

We will soon be starting to plan for the next conference, if you have any thoughts or suggestions please do get in touch.

Opportunities with EMTA

This quarter we are again recruiting to three committees, please note the slight change to the application which now consists of a 400-word statement and a CV of no greater than two slides of A4. There are opportunities to work as an EMTA rep on the following committees:

- Inter Collegiate ACCS Training Committee (ICACCST). Two roles; one CT/ST1 and one CT/ST2
- Safe Care Subcommittee
- Ultrasound Education and Training Subcommittee

By the time you are reading this, the job adverts should be live and accessible on the RCEM [website](#). The closing date for all three roles is the 15th of February 2022.

TellEMTA Drop-In

I have previously ran TellEMTA Zoom meetings where trainees could drop in to discuss anything they think the EMTA chair should know about. We got some really useful feedback but I think the name and the one-hour slots may have given the impression that they were some kind of formal meeting with an agenda and biscuits. So I’m trying rebranding to make it clear that I will be available, at my computer, to chat or answer queries on Zoom, for the periods listed below. Just click on the link at any point during the time period. If there is already someone in the meeting with me you may have to wait a few minutes and if that is not convenient send me an email and we can rearrange.

Thursday 20th January: 1-3pm

Wednesday 9th February: 10am-noon and 2-4pm

Wednesday 9th March: 10am-noon and 2-4pm

The [Zoom link for all three dates is here](#), please don’t post the link on social media.

AoMRC Statement on the Omicron Variant

EMTA, along all the Royal College's trainee groups, work with the Academy of Medical Royal Colleges on cross-specialty issues. [This statement is brief and worth a read](#). The statement includes what the AoMRC thinks is required to tackle the crisis and includes a link to the Academy report "[a dozen things the NHS could do tomorrow to help the medical workforce crisis.](#)" Why am I telling you this? In the emergency department we are in our own (particularly sharp) corner of this crisis, and it is really easy to get tunnel vision; I find having an awareness of the bigger picture helpful and this is particularly digestible.

Education Reform (not another one)

You may have heard the [news that Health Education England will merge back into NHS England](#). For trainees in England this will certainly have an impact, however what this will be is difficult to predict. For trainees outside of England I can't promise you that this won't affect you either!

We have worked hard over the past few years to make sure that trainees are represented at the Statutory Educational Bodies and we will fight to maintain this representation as things get shuffled around.

As this process starts it is important that we are aware of the impacts, so please do get in touch.

Global EM Network

The GEM Network, which has been going for a little while now, is moving from WhatsApp to Slack ([see here to learn more about Slack](#), we use it and it's less invasive than WhatsApp).

The GEM network is a place for trainees to share their activity, get involved with projects, share resources and connect with people in their area.

To join the Slack group [click this link](#).

FOMOHUB.org

Like the fellowship app this is something that trainees have been requesting for some time. FOMOHUB.org launched on the 30th December 2021 and is an events, training days and conference aggregator for emergency medicine and paediatrics (and other acute specialities in the future).

[Open the page on your phone or computer](#) and you can search for educational events to fit your needs, and if you are organising such an event you can publicise it here as well.

It is really new so if you find any hiccups please let the team know on the link in the top right hand corner of the page.

EMTA Fellowship App

The fellowship app continues to go from strength to strength. For those unfamiliar it is a resource that locates fellowship opportunities for emergency medicine trainees.

No install is required, simply click below and an option to add it to your home screen will be offered. <https://emta-jobs.glideapp.io/>

RCEM Trainee Research Engagement Day

This event is taking place on the 13th of January in an online format. I've been to a few and won't be missing this year either. At £25 it offers great value and is relevant to all trainees from diehard clinical-academics to those with a little interest who might want to see if this event can spark something. Have a look at the [amazing programme](#) and [sign up here](#).

Bullying in the Emergency Department

Based on an (ongoing) analysis of the free text responses to the previous five EMTA surveys, and in line with [RCEM anti-bullying work](#), we have started to produce some outputs around negative behaviours many of us experience in the emergency department. The first of which is a [RCEM Learning post on bullying which I hope you might find useful](#).

Final word

Once again Happy New Year and I will repeat my hope that you managed to have some down time with friends, family, or loved ones over the frantically busy festive period. I think my favourite moment was taking my little boy to the bookshop to spend the money his Nanna had given him—sometimes these little things mean the most.

Dan