

EDITORIAL

The new academic year brings with it a new clinical tutor, new G.P. tutor, Dr David Knapper, and a new educational programme (outlined in the Postgraduate Programme on p87). The well established and successful combination of lunchtime and evening meetings will be continued and will be complemented by half-day weekend courses to ensure that the educational needs of both general practitioners and hospital medical staff are met. As well as covering areas of disease management, service management and disease prevention, the programme will be expanded to respond to the challenge of Medical Audit with the overall aim of improving standards of care. Included in the programme are some important new developments of general interest, which will have considerable implications for the provision of medical services locally.

The change-over of tutors comes at a time when the Health Service is undergoing fundamental reform and restructuring which is now planned for postgraduate education by the Secretary of State for Health, who has described the present system as 'eccentric and idiosyncratic'. The proposed restructuring is due to

proceed along the now familiar lines of accountability, budgets, value for money and new executive committees. The budget for postgraduate education will be held by the Regional Deans, who will be joint university and Regional Health Authority appointments. It is planned that the educational programmes of postgraduate centres will be funded through an agreed contract with Regional Deans. What the implications of these proposals will be for local postgraduate and continuing medical education remain to be determined, and as with other reforms and restructuring, concern exists whether adequate funds will be provided.

It is not only a considerable challenge to face these proposed changes but also to follow Dr. Jim Morris, who excelled in the role of clinical tutor and will especially be remembered for arranging a highly successful educational programme and also developing this local and innovative journal, which is succeeding in its aims to further medical education, improve clinical practice and foster medical research.

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Clinical Tutor

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