

Profile: Dr Kenneth Dagg, Chair, MRCP(UK) Clinical Examining Board

While many people have enjoyed a quiet break over the summer holidays, the incoming PACES chair Dr Kenneth Dagg has been gearing up for what he calls the biggest challenge of his career.

This is quite a statement, considering his many years of experience as a clinician, medical educator and leader within his College and the Federation.

“Dr Dagg has been a keen supporter of PACES, and we are looking forward to his leadership of our flagship clinical examination,” said Professor Jane Dacre, Medical Director of MRCP(UK). “I am very pleased to welcome him to the role of Chair of the Clinical Examining Board.”

Dr Dagg is a consultant in respiratory and general medicine at the Wishaw General Hospital, where he has also served as a clinical director and as the lead for educational governance in the medical directorate. In addition, he was a committee member for the West of Scotland Deanery.

He has been involved with PACES for a decade, first becoming an examiner in 2003 and Wishaw’s senior examiner three years later. He still hosts the exam, and has also taken on a succession of leadership responsibilities over the years.

His previous posts include membership of the Board of Examiners in Medicine at the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Glasgow (RCPSG), and the College’s Examinations and Assessment Board. Dr Dagg became Director of Medical Examinations for the RCPSG in May 2010, with oversight of the entire College portfolio of medical assessments, including MRCP(UK). He has also served as a member of both the MRCP(UK) Clinical Examining Board and the MRCP(UK) Management Board.

Acknowledging the many achievements of his predecessor, he says that outgoing chair Dr Andrew Elder will be “a hard act to follow”. One priority will be securing the exam’s sustainability, in a workplace where hospital facilities and consultants’ time are under increasing pressure. The exam must also be steered through the ever-accelerating changes in the doctor’s job and medicine itself, so that it remains relevant to the latest clinical practice.

At the same time, the exam is built upon a very firm foundation. “PACES is robust and quality assured,” Dr Dagg says. “It is the best summative assessment in the world and there is no equivalent.” And the core skills and values never change. “Above all, PACES is about ensuring that trainees can provide the safest and highest quality care for patients.”