

Guarding the gold standard

Profile of Professor Trudie Roberts, Associate Medical Director for Quality

Professor Trudie Roberts, a valued guardian of quality for our examinations, has reached the end of her five-year term in post and will be demitting as Associate Medical Director for Quality. Professor Roberts' enthusiasm about the examinations is evident when she talks about their direct relevance to clinical practice. 'For medical education this is such an exciting time,' she says. 'Assessment is directly related to patient care, which is changing so much. Complexity is increasing, patients have multiple conditions, and treatment is more effective while needing to be more controlled. We have to make sure our trainees are equipped to handle these demands.'

She will also demitting as the Chair of the Academic and Quality Management Research Committee (AQMRC). The AQMRC monitors the academic rigour and performance of all Federation examinations, including the three MRCP(UK) Diploma examinations and the Specialty Certificate Examinations (SCEs). The Committee also looks for areas where research is needed, and acts to ensure that the examinations remain valid, relevant and fit for purpose. She said it has been a privilege to work with 'such committed and passionate members on the committee, who are always determined to cover every detail and ensure topics are properly aired.'

Dr Andrew Elder, Medical Director of MRCP(UK), said: 'We thank Trudie for her significant contributions to our research, audit and quality agenda, and, in particular for chairing our external PACES standards review group so effectively.'

Professor Roberts is especially proud of the PACES review, which started as a pilot in 2014 and will now be continued as an annual exercise to evaluate the quality of the examination. Stakeholders, including employers, trainers and patients, were brought in to offer their insights. It proved so useful as an objective assessment of PACES, that she hopes a similar process can be introduced for the written examinations.

It is also a source of pride, every time she attends a membership admission ceremony and watches physicians collect their MRCP(UK) Diplomas. 'It's one of the nicest parts of the job, and a wonderful achievement for the candidates.'

Starting on the Standard Setting Group for the Part 2 Written examination, Professor Roberts has been involved in the examinations for a decade. She has also served on the Council of the Royal College of Physicians of London, and is currently a Censor for the College. In addition, she is Director of the Leeds Institute of Medical Education, University of Leeds and President of the Association for Medical Education in Europe.