



The Society of Homeopaths
representing professional homeopaths

Leading Edge



Education Dept Issue: 56

September 2016

To all course leaders and staff members

Welcome back! We hope you had a lovely Summer break and are now ready for another successful academic year. As most of you are aware, we've had some exciting changes in the Education department and this issue of Leading Edge promises to bring you up-to-date with all the developments.

Educators Workshop - New date: 28th April 2017

As you are aware, you were invited to attend the educator's workshop, which was planned for Friday 16th September in Nottingham ahead of the conference. The plan for this session was to bring the course providers together and share expertise, and consult regarding the clinical education guidelines which are due to be updated in 2017.

However, sadly due to many different and unavoidable circumstances across the colleges, we are struggling to achieve the kinds of numbers that would ensure a valuable and insightful session and consultation.

In light of this, we have selected a new date of **Friday 28th April 2017** at a venue in London to be confirmed. This date has been carefully selected to avoid potential clashes with college weekends, and busy times such as the start of term, holidays etc. Again this will be an afternoon session to allow travel time.

We will however, as a team, be making ourselves available at a stand at conference between 2pm-5pm on the Saturday, so please do come and say hello to the team if you have anything you wish to discuss that you would have raised at the session.

We hope you agree that this change will help ensure maximum benefits for course providers, improve our consultation process, and most importantly give course providers an opportunity to get together and share ideas. We look forward to seeing you there.



Welcome on board: Alison Fixsen

In July, we were delighted to welcome Alison Fixsen to the Education team. As you may be aware Alison has been running homeopathic practices in Wiltshire since 1994.

She trained with the British School of Homeopathy and as well as running a successful practice, Alison is also the Research Consultant for the Society of Homeopaths, a Senior Lecturer in the School of Herbal and SE Asian Medicine at the University of Westminster and a supervisor and teacher at Salisbury Homeopathic College.

Alison has taught and lectured internationally and has written articles on many topics, including ear infections, menopause, post-natal depression and emotional health. In addition to her homeopathy work, she is a qualified therapist in Natural Nutrition, an ILM coach and mentor and a trainee CPCAB counsellor.

Alison will be working alongside Victoria Garratt and Hazel Partington to complete the education team at the Society. Her work will be to support college visits, reviews and the development of documentation and supporting guidance etc. We do hope you join us in welcoming Alison on board.

Alison commented, "I am truly delighted to have the opportunity to work with the Society and for the 'force for good' that is homeopathy. I am passionate about Homeopathic Education and about applauding staff and students for their successes and supporting them through challenging times".



Completion Of Annual Reviews

Template Success

Last year we took the decision to link the annual review more closely to the ARCS criteria and produced a new template proforma for course providers to use in their annual review submission.

All course providers were sent the new proforma, and the majority used it in their submission.

We have sought feedback and overall we feel that the new proformas have simplified the annual review and speeded up our response process. One course provider wrote that it was a relief to be able to write 'no change' for some criteria rather than having to repeat themselves each year.

We are aware that we will need to monitor the amount of 'no changes' in a review, as if this is reported in the majority of categories year on year it indicates a course provider that is stagnating, and/or not engaging with the review process. Of course this is not simply a matter of quantities of changes/no changes but needs to be looked at in the overall context of the review.

Next year we will also send out the individual review templates to each course provider with their previous action plan already embedded into the appropriate section to support and synchronise the process even further.

HE Examiners Workbook

The task of appointing a suitable external examiner and 'critical friend' who understands your college and can add real value and quality assurance can be a real challenge. The document below has been produced by Higher Education Academy (HEA) and aims to support this process by providing guidance, advice and general information about the role of external examiners.

It is designed for use by colleges and external examiners and may be of particular interest to new external examiners who need to familiarise themselves with academic institutions and their practices.

The handbook can also be used as a reference source and it is designed so that the reader can select sections and topics to suit their needs. If you wish to access the document, you can do so on the following link:

[HEA Handbook](#)

Help Us To Celebrate Excellence In Our Recognised Colleges!

There is still time to forward your application for our two teaching awards this year:

Teaching Innovation Award 2016

Teaching Development Award 2016

For more detailed information and a breakdown in criteria for each award, visit:

[Teaching Awards 2016](#)

Student Achievement Award 2016

Time is still left to nominate a registered student member from your recognised college. The successful student will be offered a FREE place at the Society's next member's day in 2017 where the prize will be awarded along with a gift of 500 pounds!

How you choose to nominate this student is down to you, so be creative. Perhaps it will be a collective staff decision or perhaps you can create an imaginative way to encourage the students themselves to lead the way in nominating a peer? Either way, don't miss out on this great opportunity to promote your students' achievements on the national stage.

GOOD LUCK!

Fancy A FREE Course/CPD?

Oxford Brookes University is offering a series of free courses for HE staff to access.

This month the course is:

First steps into learning and teaching in higher education (#FSLT)

Building on the success of last year's open online First Steps MOOC (massive open online course), this year this five-week introduction to teaching in higher education will again be run as a MOOC, free and open to all for participation (assessment incurs a fee). The course relies on sharing knowledge with your peers, and will leave you better informed about teaching and learning in higher education and confident that you could try out new things.

If you would like to learn more about this free CPD opportunity, please click on the following link:

[Oxford Brookes University](#)



A PDF version of this issue of Leading Edge is also available to download from our website:

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