



The AMA Council of Doctors in Training (AMACDT) is a national AMA Group that represents junior doctors through a hospital and state-based representative structure. The AMACDT held its most recent quarterly meeting in Melbourne on 9 & 10 February 2008.

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AMACDT TRAINEE FORUM

The AMA Council of Doctors-in-Training recently held its first 2008 meeting, which incorporated the annual AMACDT Trainee Forum.

Along with AMACDT members, trainee representatives from 14 medical colleges participated in the forum. A wide range of issues affecting junior doctors were discussed including increased medical school places, trainee representation, work life balance, the Australian Curriculum Framework, junior doctors' health, safe hours, and training in expanded settings.

The Forum issued a statement highlighting the need for greater investment in medical education and training and reinforced calls to increase the number of high quality training positions to match the growth in the numbers of medical students and graduates.

The Forum also expressed concern at the development of new classes of health professional, which may deprive junior doctors and medical students of valuable training opportunities at a time when the number of medical students and graduates is growing rapidly.



WORK LIFE FLEXIBILITY REPORT

The AMA has finalised the Work Life Flexibility Report using survey data collected last year by the AMA. The report provides an insight into the current level of access to flexible work arrangements as well as barriers to better work life balance. The report also reveals that the demand for more flexible working arrangements will grow significantly over coming years.

A full copy of the report will be released in the very near future.

SURGICAL EDUCATION TRAINING

Professor John Collins from the Royal Australasian College of Surgeons attended the AMACDT Trainee Forum to discuss the implementation of the new Surgical Education and Training (SET) program.

Professor Collins appreciated the opportunity to speak with junior doctors who provided feedback in relation to the cost of applying for the program, the impact of the program on existing basic surgical trainees, and the process and criteria for selection into the program.

DOCTORS' HEALTH SURVEY

A key concern of the AMA is the health and well-being of doctors. The AMA is conducting a survey to gauge how junior doctors (PGY2 and above - Interns are not provided for in this survey) are caring for themselves and dealing with the pressures they face as they begin their medical careers. The AMA Junior Doctors' Health Survey is an adaptation of the 2007 Junior Medical Officers' Welfare Study, that was funded by the Postgraduate Medical Council of WA and developed by Dr Daniel Heredia, Dr Suzanne English and Ms Sheree Keech.

Follow this link to complete the survey - <http://ama-au.informz.net/survistapro/s.asp?id=120>

IMPROVING YOUR WORKING LIFE – MABEL

MABEL (Medicine in Australia: Balancing Employment and Life) is a new major national longitudinal survey of doctors funded by the NHMRC. Policies about the medical workforce and how to alleviate shortages of doctors need to be based on evidence about doctors own views, preferences and work and family circumstances. Otherwise such policies may be insensitive to the realities of medical practice in Australia and unlikely to work. MABEL is the first survey to provide such rigorous evidence in Australia. MABEL focuses on examining a number of issues influencing the work—life balance of all types of doctor in Australia, and includes doctors in training through to doctors close to retirement. Invite letters for the first wave of the survey will be posted to a stratified random sample doctors in May 2008, and piloting is taking place at the moment. Doctors can also register to take part in MABEL by going to www.mabel.org.au

CONTACT US

Either via our Facebook Group AMA Doctors-in-Training Network or via email to ditnetwork@ama.com.au or by phone 02 6270 5400.

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