President’s Report

One of the benefits of participating in the multitude of events at the RSM is the confidence that the quality of our meetings, both academic and social, is of the highest order. This would not be possible without the dedication of our Section Council members, the support of the academic department, our wonderful facilities and, additionally, the unusual ambience provided to our membership and to the public.

A major strength of any organisation is the staff and, at the RSM, we are truly fortunate to have so many experienced and dedicated staff as well as outstanding executive leadership. The challenge for us all now is to deliver more and do even better!

With this in mind, I am delighted to celebrate the appointment of Dr Fiona Moss as the new Dean of the RSM. Fiona will take over from John Betteridge on 1 October and will bring a wealth of national and international experience in education and clinical practice to the RSM. She is therefore well placed to build upon the work of her predecessor.

John, meanwhile, is assuming the new role of Dean Emeritus and will continue to develop our Public Engagement programme, which has been appreciated by all who have attended the extensive portfolio of events in recent years.

With the further expansion of our schools programmes and the RSM’s Widening access to careers in healthcare initiative, I anticipate that we, as an educational charity, will easily exceed our public benefit obligations.

As I mentioned in my last RSM News report, we will also contribute to the intercollegiate discussions on medical professionalism in partnership with the GMC. A very specific challenge for our new Dean is the need to ensure that the quality of our CPD remains at the very highest level and this will be one of her first areas of focus.

Those of you who read my monthly updates will be familiar with my concerns about the functioning of the Academic Board and of some of the Sections. I would like to promote more internal debate with a view to ensuring that the Academic Board is able to 1) share good practice between Sections, 2) function in an effective and timely manner and 3) contribute towards the ongoing debates within the RSM regarding our future strategy. It is clear that the changes in the financial regime for the Sections, initiated nearly five years ago, have resulted in significant benefit for those Sections who are able to plan their programmes well in advance. Perhaps there are lessons to be shared and implemented more widely if we are to truly maximise our future educational potential.

As always, I would be pleased to receive your ideas for improving the contribution of the Sections to the life of the RSM.

I am constantly encouraged when I receive positive comments from our members about the changes that have occurred at the RSM in recent years. The recent

Continued on page 2
A s many will know we recently undertook a survey of the RSM’s membership. Although there will be other opportunities to learn more about the results of this survey, I thought it would be appropriate to share a few headlines with you now.

The response rate for members increased significantly compared with previous surveys and is comparable with the response rate of similar institutions. In overall terms we exceeded or fully met 78% of all members’ expectations, while a further 20% felt their expectations were partially met. The satisfaction with membership, together with the likelihood of recommending membership to others, as well as renewing membership, all increased when use of services with the RSM increased. In simple terms, the more people used RSM facilities, the more they valued those services. A high proportion of working Fellows based both in and around London and across the UK found the events at the RSM useful for earning CPD points (approximately 90%).

A slightly surprising finding was that some members seemed to be unaware that they could join Sections. Given the importance of Sections to life at the RSM, this is something we clearly need to improve. Results also indicated, particularly among students and young Fellows, that alternative and more flexible membership packages would be welcome and therefore more work is planned on this subject. There is more about the survey results on pages 12 and 13.

Although it is always more reassuring to read that in the main members feel that things are going well, these surveys are also used to highlight issues that need to be addressed. I have no doubt that some of the issues you will read about in future editions of RSM News will have resulted from work derived from members’ observations.

The last few months have seen an increase in work on our Widening access to careers in healthcare initiative. Working with other organisations in this field, our aim is to improve the opportunities for people to enter medicine and the caring professions, no matter what their socio-economic circumstances.

A small group established by the Academic Board is currently reviewing the strategy for e-learning and attempting to set out a pathway for the future. This again almost certainly will be undertaken in partnership with other organisations.

The last Council meeting in July set a budget for the new academic year, which I am sure will be challenging but will also allow for planned developments both in the services we provide and the facilities we have to use.

That Council meeting also heard the very sad news that Professor Ri Hornung died in June 2015. Ri was a great supporter of the RSM and played an active part on Council for a number of years. Our sympathies go to his family and friends.

Dr Susan Horsewood-Lee completed her term of office on Council but will continue to be a very active member of the Society as she takes over as President of the Section of General Practice with Primary Healthcare. Susan’s position on Council will be filled by Professor John Axford who many will remember sat on Council until a few years ago.

At the time of writing the RSM feels very quiet but clearly this is the lull before the storm which heralds the start of the new academic year. The programme for the year again looks both of high quality and wide in range, thanks principally to the Sections and the large number of people that contribute to the development of such interesting meetings.

The future of the RSM rests primarily on the quality of the educational content it generates. I have no doubt this is going from strength to strength and therefore will continue to be the main reason people come through the doors of 1 Wimpole Street.

Ian Balmer
Chief Executive

Continued from page 1

As I wrote at the beginning of this piece, the challenge to do better remains constant! When I assumed the RSM Presidency last year I included an aspiration to develop new partnerships between the RSM and other appropriate organisations where our aims are congruent. Rest assured we are continuing our work in this area.

As we approach the start of the new academic year I conclude that the RSM is in good shape and that our future is bright.

Please share this news with friends and colleagues and encourage them to join us. They will not be disappointed.

B Sethia
RSM President

President’s updates

Each month the President gives a round-up of news and events on the RSM website. These updates offer a valuable insight into the President’s vision for the Society and can be found via this link: www.rsm.ac.uk/about-us/latest-news/president-updates.aspx. The updates are also included in our regular e-newsletter to members which goes out at the beginning of each month.
As I write these notes London is hosting the annual meeting of the European Society of Cardiology, a massive jamboree of cardiologists with around thirty thousand delegates all told. At last, London has an exhibition/conference facility in Excel that can accommodate these huge international meetings previously restricted to Stockholm, Amsterdam, Berlin and the like. It has been gratifying to host one or two of these colleagues in town for the ESC conference at the RSM. To say that they were impressed by the RSM and particularly the Library would be an understatement. The RSM’s heritage struck a note with American visitors – “awesome” (I think I can best describe the word as an “Americanism”) was one comment I remember. In fact we offered all ESC delegates the opportunity to visit the RSM whilst in London and also view our “Heart” exhibition in our Library which is free for all to visit.

Hearing these comments (and feeling rather smug without hopefully showing it) brought home to me, and not for the first time, the unique institution which is the RSM. As I look at the new Diary of Events for 2015/2016 it is clear that there is no hint of complacency or “resting on laurels” at the RSM. The programme of meetings is unrivalled by other providers with an extraordinary breadth encompassing all areas of medicine. A million congratulations to Section Presidents and their Councils for maintaining the RSM’s pre-eminent position in the provision of continuing professional development.

During the last academic year we hosted some very well attended Medicine and Me meetings and as I prepare these notes we are in the middle of planning meetings for 2015/2016 featuring dementia, autism and pulmonary fibrosis. We aim to organise five or six meetings each academic year generously sponsored by patrons who prefer to remain anonymous. There is a Medicine and Me notice in the Diary of Events drawing attention to future meetings and requesting proposals for new topics. So if you are passionate about a particular condition whether it be common or rare and associated with a charity dedicated to the disorder go to www.rsm.ac.uk/medandme. At a packed Medicine and Me meeting devoted to myeloma I thanked Professor James Malpas, one of our Trustees, who suggested the meeting. One of the delegates raised her hand to interrupt my welcome address to say that Jim treated her in the early 1990s. Sadly Jim couldn’t be with us for the meeting but as I expected remembered his patient very well and was thrilled that she had done so well.

This year the RSM hosts the Darwin lecture which Professor Robin Williamson asked me to set up when he was President and it was Professor Alan Roberts who suggested that we run it in collaboration with the Linnean Society. This year we are fortunate to welcome on Monday 19 October the distinguished immunologist and geneticist Sir John Bell FRS, past President of the Academy of Medical Sciences who holds the Regius Chair of Medicine at Oxford. The Christmas lecture on Monday 14 December is one to look forward to being both informative and enormously entertaining and this year should be no exception as our lecturer is Dr Hilary Jones, general practitioner, medical writer and TV celebrity. Please watch for our other flagship lectures and book early as we are always over-subscribed. A must should be our joint lecture with the Royal Academy early in 2016.

The Schools Programme goes from strength to strength and I am enormously grateful to many who give their time in the preparation and delivery of these important events for year 11 and 12 pupils considering medicine as a career. This last year we also organised for the second time a career in medicine. In 2015/2016 we will be adding an additional regional Medical Careers Day to the programme for school students.

These notes are my last as your Dean as I demit office at the end of September 2015. I was appointed Associate Dean in 2008 and Dean in 2010. I have enjoyed these past seven years so much and it has been a privilege to serve the RSM, an Institution I joined over thirty five years ago. I have been supported by highly talented members of the Academic department which has made my task so much easier and enjoyable. I wish my successor all good wishes and I have no doubt that the RSM will go from strength to strength.

Professor John Betteridge
RSM Dean

Flourishing public engagement

Diary of events 2015/15

- 400+ meetings
- 1,200 CPD credits
- 62 specialties and areas of interest
- Over 80 prizes and awards
- Network with over 20,000 members

For your copy contact membership@rsm.ac.uk or view online www.rsm.ac.uk
SM professionals, the bespoke event management team at the RSM, is flourishing following a recent rebranding and the development of marketing materials to explain the range of services they can provide. Working with medical organisations and clients in the pharmaceutical industry and related fields, RSM professionals is already well known to many RSM members who have attended their events. These include high-profile academic conferences, courses for trainees (including the popular MRCS part B revision course) and the RSM’s regional programme of meetings.

Services provided by RSM professionals
- Academic programme development
- CPD accreditation
- Event marketing
- Sourcing and managing speakers
- Identifying sponsors
- Delegate registration
- On-the-day logistics

Highlights during the last academic year included Interventional cosmetics: New and controversial treatments, a two-day conference in February featuring live demonstrations, practical workshops and an extensive programme of international speakers. The sell-out meeting Leadership: Stress and hubris, held last November, featured several high profile speakers including Andy Haldane, Bank of England Chief Economist, Jon Snow of Channel 4 News and Lord David Owen.

The Daedalus Trust, Nutrition Society, BPP School of Health, ABPI and Sanofi have all worked with RSM professionals in the last year. RSM members who have links with external organisations or ideas for events they would like to run with RSM professionals please do contact us.

To contact RSM Professionals please call 020 7290 3928 or email rsmprofessionals@rsm.ac.uk

Section Spotlight: Geriatrics and Gerontology

The Geriatrics and Gerontology Section offers seminars, meetings and lectures on topics related to older people. It also provides an educational platform for trainees to present through its twice-yearly trainee evening meetings. People aged over 65 make up nearly two thirds of all hospital admissions. Government and key organisations are focusing on the needs of an ageing population.

Section members are multidisciplinary and include old-age psychiatrists, social scientists, geriatrics specialists, general practitioners, trainees, and allied health professionals.

Our primary focus is education.

We take great pride in promoting our trainees through the specialty. Our biannual trainee prize platform and poster presentations showcase and reward the brightest and best trainees for their clinical governance and audit projects and clinical case presentations.

Our meetings and seminars continue to gain positive feedback from attendees. We aim to provide fresh views on current topics relevant to older people and to cover issues relating to all aspects of older peoples’ health, often overlooked by other specialties.

The meetings provide valuable networking opportunities for members old and new.

Healthy ageing

A highlight of last year’s listing was the Healthy ageing meeting, with discussions covering a wide range of subjects, including healthy ageing phenotypes, healthy ageing in ethnic minorities, sleep, nutrition, and sex in later life. Video highlights from the meeting include:
- videos.rsm.ac.uk/calorierestriction
- videos.rsm.ac.uk/exercise
- videos.rsm.ac.uk/agemwell

Diary dates:

Leadership: Stress and hubris
- Friday 27 November

Roles of sleep and circadian rhythms in the origin and nutritional management of obesity and metabolic disease
- Tuesday/Wednesday 8/9 December

An exciting opportunity for trainees to present at this national meeting, with an opportunity to win £100.
- Tuesday 24 November

Pain in older people
 Speakers include Professor Patricia Schofield, University of Greenwich, Professor of Nursing, Chair of the British Pain Society; Dr Wisam Ali, Consultant Pain Physician, King’s College Hospital; Professor Sam Ahmedzai, Emeritus Professor of Palliative Medicine, University of Sheffield.
- Thursday 21 January

Book online at www.rsm.ac.uk/events

For more information or to join this Section or any others please contact the membership team on 020 7290 2991 or email membership@rsm.ac.uk

Book online:
RSM Prizes

There are over 80 RSM prizes and awards open to students and trainees each year and full details can be found at www.rsm.ac.uk/prizes-awards

Here is a selection of prize submission deadlines and recent prize winners.

Forthcoming prizes

Emergency Medicine
Essay Prize
Submission deadline: Friday 11 December

Epidemiology & Public Health
Young epidemiologists prize
Submission deadline: Monday 11 January

Laryngology & Rhinology
Short Paper and Poster Prize
Submission deadline: Friday 18 December

Obstetrics & Gynaecology
Herbert Reiss Trainees’ Prize
Submission deadline: Friday 20 November

Paediatrics & Child Health
President’s Prize
Submission deadline: Monday 11 January

Pain Medicine
Andrew Lawson Prize
Submission deadline: Monday 16 November

Recent prize winners

Telemedicine & eHealth
Prize for innovation
James O’Donovan

Maternity & the Newborn Forum
Basil Lee Prize
Olamide Olatokun

Rheumatology & Rehabilitation
Barbara Ansell Prize
Dr Steven Sizheng Zhao

Geriatrics & Gerontology
Clinical governance and audit prize
Dr Lucy Abbott

What's on at the RSM

Upcoming events

Here is a selection of highlights from the RSM’s programme of meetings and events. To find out more and to view the full educational programme visit www.rsm.ac.uk/events.

Ceremony of Remembrance
Monday 9 November
The Royal Society of Medicine’s Remembrance Ceremony will honour the sacrifice made by doctors and clinical personnel, killed or injured whilst serving in regions of military conflict.

All members are invited to attend the Ceremony, which will commence promptly at 6pm and be followed by a drinks reception. Dress code is lounge suit or military dress (No. 1s) and medals may be worn.

Examining the utility of music interventions in neurological disorders of older people
Monday 16 November
The outcomes from music interventions in people with neurological disorders are wide. This meeting will include an academic review of the current evidence for the use of music interventions on older people with conditions such as motor disorders, stroke, dementia and brain injuries. The meeting will debate whether money spent on these interventions can produce substantial or significant savings elsewhere in the health economy and will provide a platform for discussion of areas for future research.

Progress for children with Down syndrome: health and education
Friday 20 November
This meeting aims to share the latest information and research evidence about health and education in children with Down syndrome and there will be a focus on promoting understanding and communication between professionals and parents. The importance of speech, language, social communication and attention and the implications for education and academic outcomes will be addressed. Recent research about health problems will be presented, together with information on up-to-date medical guidelines for children with Down syndrome.

Telemedicine & eHealth 2015: Wearables and the caring home
Monday/Tuesday 23/24 November
Two linked topics will be explored at this two-day event. Delegates on day one will learn how worn technology can improve the lives of those patients who would benefit most – the older and the frail. Particular themes will include the use of wearables to enable dignity, to provide sensory enhancement for disabled people, to cure musculoskeletal disorders, and to measure physical activity. Day two will concentrate on the caring home. Speakers will describe current thinking and activity towards the vision for all homes to be intelligent and connected so appropriate levels of support can be provided quickly when required.

Where does the nose lead?
Friday 4 December
This meeting explores how ENT crossed the barriers into facial plastics, neurosurgery and ophthalmology with emphasis on the joint work carried out in these areas. The psyche of rhinoplasty and other nasal conditions will be an important part of this discussion. Four international speakers will be lecturing at the meeting, including Professor Regan Thomas, Francis Lederer Professor and Head, University of Illinois Department of Otolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery, Chicago.

RSM Christmas lecture
Monday 14 December
The 2015 RSM Christmas Lecture will be given by Dr Hilary Jones, general practitioner, medical writer and TV presenter. The title of his lecture is Medicine and the media – keep taking the tabloids.
The Royal Society of Medicine has partnered with The Medic Portal to launch the definitive resource for all those applying to medicine – and those that advise them.

The new online platform, which went live in July 2015, is packed with hundreds of pages of completely free information and advice on the medical school application process, including a free UKCAT question bank, benefiting applicants from all backgrounds.

Founded by doctors, The Medic Portal has provided market-leading courses to hundreds of schools from the state and private sectors over the last two years.

The new platform aims to revolutionise the medical school application process with innovative online learning solutions, while boosting the existing courses and conferences portfolio.

With the endorsement of the Royal Society of Medicine, The Medic Portal is harnessing these learning tools to serve a strong agenda for widening participation, driven by free information, bursaries and philanthropic funding.

The continuous development of the platform will include online learning packages for BMAT and interview, as well as an interactive community for aspiring medics where they can learn from each other to improve their chances.

For more information about The Medic Portal contact Jemma Mallorie on 020 7290 3919 or visit www.themedicportal.com.

Section Spotlight: Maternity & the Newborn Forum

During the 2014/15 academic year the Maternity & the Newborn Forum celebrated its 30th anniversary with a meeting entitled Looking back to the future: Challenges and opportunities in maternity care.

The audience was delighted to hear the French obstetrician Michel Odent speak, along with other leading figures in the maternity field.

Reflecting the Forum’s multi-disciplinary ethos, the broad spectrum of delegates at this meeting included midwives, GPs, obstetricians, physiotherapists, psychologists, health visitors, paediatricians, students, as well as members of lay organisations such as NCT and the Association for Improvements in the Maternity Services.

Our meetings are planned to reflect topical issues in pregnancy, birth and the postnatal period, anticipating the latest research, government reports and NICE guidelines. At the core of every meeting is time for questions and discussion, which is lively and appreciated by those who attend.

With successful meetings has come a stronger financial base and thus we are now able to provide three annual bursaries for health professionals, students and trainees in maternity and newborn care; one to support research, one for travel and one to promote the use of new media to communicate with parents. These will be provided for the first time in the 2015/16 academic year with each of the awards worth at least £500. For more information visit www.rsm.ac.uk/prizes-awards.

Membership of the Forum is open to all RSM members and the Council is represented by a broad cross-section of professions along with lay members. Meetings are planned as a joint effort with a small group working together to produce the final programme.

Diary date:

Avoiding the first Caesarean Section

Focusing on a hot topic if ever there was one, this meeting is open to all and rates are from just £30 for RSM members. Friday 27 November

Book online at www.rsm.ac.uk/events

To join the Maternity and Newborn Forum please update your Section preferences after logging into the RSM website at www.rsm.ac.uk or call the membership team on 020 7290 2991.
guests are warmly invited to join the audience for this fascinating evening of science and debate. Book online at www.rsm.ac.uk.

Join us at the finals on 26 November

R

epresenting the culmination of the RSM’s 2014/15 trainee prize programme, the RSM Wesleyan Trainee of the Year awards evening will take place on Thursday 26 November. Five finalists, selected from all of the RSM’s trainee prize winners in the last year, will compete for this prestigious award. Each will present for 10 minutes followed by a five minute Q&A session with the audience and finalist judges, including Sir Bruce Keogh and Professor Karol Sikora.

The finals evening is always a stimulating and thought-provoking evening with the opportunity to hear about and discuss new ideas and network with colleagues. All RSM members and their

Previous winners

Miss Samantha de Silva 2014
Dr Sayan Sen 2013
Dr Jonathan Fishman 2012

Westminster Academy Science Fair

During July 2015, RSM staff visited Westminster Academy, in West London, to help them prepare for their end of year science fair.

To encourage and inspire the school students, the science department ran two separate medicine clubs for years 7 and 8. The first group decided to make a presentation on lung health and the second group chose gender identity.

During several afternoon sessions, the RSM team helped the students establish ideas, design posters and handouts and develop their knowledge through group discussion and practical learning.

With the support of the RSM marketing experts, the first group produced a lung diagram to label and a pair of 3D lungs to demonstrate lung cancer. The second group worked on a flyer that included a case study on transgender woman Caitlyn Jenner.

The science fair itself attracted primary school children from the area, parents, and other students in the years above. It was hugely successful and the children were delighted with what they produced and particularly enjoyed demonstrating a live lung dissection.

RSM marketing team sweeps the board

The RSM Marketing and Communications team enjoyed a successful year at the MemCom 2015 Awards, an annual marketing awards ceremony for membership organisations. The RSM won a total of three awards for best website, monthly members’ e-newsletter and the ‘most innovative use of data’ for an overseas recruitment campaign.

The team also won the ‘marketing grand prix’ award - the overall professional membership marketing award of 2015. Furthermore, the RSM was also highly commended in the ‘membership marketing and engagement team of the year’ category.

Janice Liverseidge, Director of Marketing & Communications, said: “The marketing and communications team have worked extremely hard over the last year to improve member communications and it was wonderful to see their work acknowledged by their peers at the recent awards ceremony. To win one award would have been great but to win so many including the overall Grand Prix is remarkable. The team often work behind the scenes so it’s good to see them in the spotlight for once!”
Dr Bill Frankland

Believed to be the longest-serving RSM member and one of the most influential allergists of our time, Dr William Frankland has been recognised in the Queen’s Birthday Honours lists 2015 with an MBE. A pioneer in allergy research, who introduced the specialism to the UK, 103 year old Dr Frankland (known as Bill) is a frequent visitor to the RSM, attending lectures and making use of the Library whenever his busy schedule allows.

It was with great pleasure and anticipation that the RSM News team met up with Dr Frankland, a member for almost 70 years, when he came into the Library to talk about his rich and varied career.

Qualifying in 1938 after studying medicine at The Queen’s College, University of Oxford and St Mary’s Hospital Medical School, he joined the Army Medical Corps as a civil medical practitioner (CMP) on a salary of £1 a day when war broke out in 1939.

At an army hospital on Salisbury Plain during his first job, he single-handedly managed a meningitis outbreak losing only a single patient out of 100 cases. Other epidemics followed, including one of mumps when 234 Australian troops stationed in the UK had the rare complication of encephalitis.

This Dr Frankland wrote as one of his first pieces of published work (he continues to write and has had four papers published since becoming a centenarian).

Then in 1942, Dr Frankland was given two days training in tropical medicine before being posted to Singapore, arriving seven days before the attack on Pearl Harbour. After the Fall of Singapore he spent the rest of the war as a medical officer treating his fellow prisoners of war in the Japanese forced labour camps and sharing the same horrific privations.

On his return to England Dr Frankland decided he would shelve his wartime experiences, preferring instead to focus on his career. It is only relatively recently that he made the decision to talk about his time as a Far East Prisoner of War and since then has been sought-after by TV and radio. Earlier this year he took part in a BBC R4 episode of The Reunion with Sue MacGregor and, following a guest appearance with Kirsty Young on Desert Island Discs, he joined her on TV during the recent commemorations to mark the 70th anniversary of VJ Day.

In 1946, back at work at St Mary’s, Paddington, Dr Frankland began work as a dermatologist, spending two days a week in the allergy clinic. Fascinated by this little known area of medicine, he decided to devote his career to allergy, conducting the first ever double blind controlled trial on antihistamines to help asthma. This was followed by another double blind trial, this time focusing on an asthma vaccine developed by his boss at St Mary’s. He didn’t believe the theory behind the vaccine and, using statistics from the trial, was able to prove that the vaccine and saline were of equal value.

This work piqued the interest of Nobel Prize winner Alexander Fleming and Dr Frankland went on to present his research paper to international gatherings in Madrid and California. Highly impressed by Dr Frankland’s work, Alexander Fleming commissioned him to contribute a new chapter on penicillin sensitivity for the 2nd edition of his penicillin ‘bible’ for the medical profession.

With his reputation firmly established as the UK’s leading allergy specialist, Dr Frankland continued his work at St Mary’s, going on to invent the pollen count which continues to be seen on our weather forecasts every day during the summer.

Dr Frankland retired from St. Mary’s Hospital, Paddington aged 65 but continued to work at Guy’s Hospital for the next 20 years. He still publishes and remains as interested in his specialty as ever. He is, indeed, an inspirational character, full of warmth, wit and humour. We very much look forward to seeing him treading the halls of the RSM in the years to come.


Sue MacGregor and, following a guest appearance with Kirsty Young on Desert Island Discs, he joined her on TV during the recent commemorations to mark the 70th anniversary of VJ Day.
News Update

### Library

#### Popular destination

Even during unstaffed hours the Library continues to attract a constant stream of visitors, and often all desk space is in use by members. To help increase access to the Library the computer cluster near the IT suite has been expanded to allow space for eight PCs. With excellent light the second floor desk space is proving popular too.

#### New training course

The Library team has recently introduced a training session based on the practical sessions in the *Introduction to literature search* and the *Advanced literature search* courses. Members who have attended either course are eligible to attend this new session.

The purpose of these small group sessions is to help members assimilate the techniques and tools used to search databases via hands-on experience based on their own literature search interest.

Only one database (either Medline or Embase) at a time will be searched and 30 minutes is allocated to each question. These time-limited sessions won’t always guarantee the most comprehensive search results.

However, members taking advantage of the training will acquire the skills they need to continue their search to ensure it is as thorough as possible.

To book please email library@rsm.ac.uk or telephone the Library on 020 7290 2940.

#### Enhanced search facility

With 5,300 e-journals available through the RSM Library, members are now able to take advantage of a newly implemented search facility. *Full Text Finder* will make searching for articles across the e-journal and e-book collection easier and more flexible, while searching within a particular journal or book will still be possible. Subject searching will be easier and members will be able to filter and limit their searches.

*Full Text Finder* can be accessed by logging on to the RSM website. Simply click on the Login button in the top RH corner of any webpage at www.rsm.ac.uk.

#### Self-service kiosk coming soon

- Members will be able to loan, renew and return texts during unstaffed hours.
- Renew loans and place holds online via PC, tablet or mobile phone.
- *Evidence Based Medicine* information skills session.

For more information contact the Library on 020 7290 2940 or email library@rsm.ac.uk.

#### Current exhibition

The root of life: a history of the heart

Launched to coincide with the European Society of Cardiology (ESC) Congress held in London (29 August – 2 September 2015) this exhibition runs until 31 October and displays historic and rare books from the RSM Library concerning the anatomy and physiology of the heart as well as advances in the diagnosis and treatment of heart disease.

The exhibition features works by Lower, Senac, Corvisart, Withering, Farre, Peacock, Parry, Heberden, Boullier, MacKenzie, Hope, Stokes, Latham and Burns. Of particular note is the Library’s rarest book which is on display as part of the exhibition: William Harvey’s 1628 *De motu cordis*.
Global Health film screenings, alert evenings and preparations for the first Global Health Film Festival at the end of October have ensured a rich and stimulating programme of activity during the past few months.

Starting with the two-day Global Surgery conference in April, in partnership with The Lancet and the Royal College of Surgeons of England, the programme has attracted many delegates to the RSM as well as a large online audience.

**Girl Rising**

In July the Global Health Film initiative collaborated with the American Public Health Association to screen the film *Girl Rising*. This ground-breaking film promotes a powerful truth: that educating girls in the developing world can transform families, communities, entire countries – and break the cycle of poverty in just one generation. Panellists included Tanya Barron, Virginia Morrow, Lorriann Robinson, Rosie Peppin Vaughan, and our chair Tulip Mazumdar, the BBC’s global health correspondent.

**Film Lab**

Also in July nine RSM Global Health Film Fellows were selected for this year’s Global Health Film Lab, coming from a wide variety of backgrounds including academia, medicine and the global health field.

The Film Lab kicked off with intense two day training for the fellows on learning to use the camera, practising taking shots in public, learning how to create a storyboard, and brainstorming ideas for films. By the end of the second day, they had learned how to conduct an interview for their films and came up with three different short film ideas on global health issues in London. They then spent a few days filming and brought back their footage to learn how to edit their content.

A huge thank you goes to film makers *What Took You So Long?* who led the workshops and trained our health advocates with little to no knowledge of filmmaking to create such beautiful pieces which will be screened at our upcoming Global Health Film Festival.

**First film festival 30 and 31 October 2015**

The potential of film as a catalyst to inspire change is the motivation behind the Global Health Film initiative (GHFi), a partnership between the Royal Society of Medicine, the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, and the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. GHFi will host the first Global Health Film Festival on Friday 30 and Saturday 31 October at the RSM which will bring together film-makers, journalists, and health advocates with the aim of starting a new conversation around the potential of film and media for global health. Film screenings, workshops, and discussion panels will feature at the festival, and it will be streamed live to satellite screenings in the USA, Uganda, and South Africa.

Launching at the festival will be The Lancet Development Award for Best Global Health Film.

**Feature films to be screened at the festival include:**

**THE DIVIDE**

Directed by Katharine Round. Inspired by the seminal book, *The Spirit Level* written by Professor Richard Wilkinson and Professor Kate Pickett, and the inspiring work of Sir Michael Marmot and colleagues, *The Divide* is a film about the human cost of rising inequality on society. The film, accompanied by its executive producer Christopher Hird from Dartmouth Films, will launch the Film Festival.

**BODY TEAM 12**

Directed by David Darg and the European premiere of this film. *Body Team 12* follows the first female member of the Ebola response body teams in Liberia. An inspiring and at times harrowing short film, *Body Team 12* takes you to the front line of urban Monrovia, deep into the communities affected by the world’s largest outbreak of Ebola. Afterwards a session will discuss the impact of media on the Ebola response.

**PING PONG**

Directed by brothers Anson and Hugh Hartford. *Ping Pong* is a film that looks at the tenacity of the human spirit and is a meditation on mortality. In the words of Matthew Syed of The Times: “It’s about ageing, mortality, friendship, ambition and love. The stories stay with you for hours, weeks, after the credits have rolled. But perhaps its most powerful achievement is to leave with us a more humane conception of sport, and life itself.”
How can we protect the future of the medical profession?

Professor Parveen Kumar, CBE
President, Royal Medical Benevolent Fund and RSM Past President

The medical world has changed enormously over the last few decades. Doctors’ day-to-day working patterns are becoming more unpredictable, and many are taking on more shift work, making it difficult to build healthy routines and working relationships. We are seeing reports of rising sickness levels due to stress and an increasing prevalence of mental health difficulties. As we know, doctors are centred on caring for their patients but tend not to look after themselves so well. They will often delay seeking help, so by the time they do come forward they can find themselves in some dreadful situations.

The Royal Medical Benevolent Fund exists to help doctors and their families when age, ill health, disability or bereavement means they cannot support themselves through work. Entirely funded by voluntary income for over 175 years, the RMBF provides doctors with somewhere to turn when crisis strikes. Last year, over 200 beneficiaries received financial assistance worth more than £475,000 in total. They also helped 40 people remain in or return to work, and supported a further 26 to undertake training or retraining towards employment. RMBF are also very grateful to the Royal Society of Medicine who support the charity’s return to work scheme through discounted membership for RMBF beneficiaries.

As well as working conditions, the demographics of those they support are also changing. Nearly 70% of new applicants for support last year were under the age of 40. These are doctors who have not yet been able to build a financial safety net to protect them through difficult times. Mounting debts accrued while studying medicine mean that younger doctors need the RMBF’s help more than ever, and they will need to engage with this new generation of doctors to carry forward the charity’s work and ensure help is at hand for those in the medical profession who need it.

Case study – Ian Walsh

When Ian approached the RMBF, he had been on sick leave due to alcohol dependency and stress related illness. He had no income and was in serious financial difficulty. Ian’s home was also repossessed. The RMBF helped Ian through its Money Advice Service and regular grants to help with day-to-day living.

Ian was committed to continue his recovery and determined to return to employment. The RMBF helped with retraining costs and Ian is now in a part-time teaching post. He also provides specialist services in Urology and he has now completed his Masters in Clinical Medical Education.

Christmas card appeal

At this time of year, the RMBF launches its annual Christmas card appeal. For over 10 years now, their supporters have enjoyed the chance to spread seasonal cheer while helping to support their medical colleagues through times of crisis and hope you will consider buying the RMBF’s cards and gifts for your friends and family. You can find their shop at www.charitycardshop.com/rmbf.
Satisfaction

- Very satisfied (40%)
- Fairly satisfied (41%)
- Neither (14%)
- Fairly dissatisfied (4%)
- Very dissatisfied (0%)

85% say that they are very or fairly likely to renew

Likelihood of recommending membership

Key findings

Half (50%) of members say attending events is one of their main reasons for becoming a member of the RSM.

81% of members say access to online journals, books and databases is an important member benefit to them, which is more than any other membership benefit.

96% of members say that they support the RSM’s aims and objectives

91% of members say that the RSM communicates effectively with them

Of all the attributes tested, members are most likely to say that they associate the RSM with being a source of knowledge, information and support.

Supporting younger professionals

A significant majority of Students and Young Fellows say that access to online journals, books and databases, support for CPD (both in the form of meetings and conferences, and in the form of e-learning) and attending events are important to them.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Students</th>
<th>Young Fellows</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Access to online journals, books and databases</td>
<td>95%</td>
<td>91%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Support for CPD in the form of meetings and conferences</td>
<td>91%</td>
<td>96%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Support for CPD in the form of e-learning</td>
<td>91%</td>
<td>86%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Attending events</td>
<td>89%</td>
<td>94%</td>
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ComRes conducted a survey of 3,691 members of the Royal Society of Medicine online between 30th April - 26th May 2015. Data were weighted to be representative of the RSM’s members by member type. ComRes is a member of the British Polling Council and abides by its rules. For more information please see www.comres.co.uk
RSM Membership Survey 2015

Background to the survey

Every couple of years we work to get feedback from our members about the RSM benefits and services they use. This year over 3,500 RSM members participated in the latest research which was undertaken during May and June. Independent research company ComRes, leading experts in the area of membership surveys, led the project.

The RSM Directors and Honorary Officers worked closely with ComRes to develop a robust, representative survey, providing real insight into members’ views. At the design stage, the questionnaire was tested rigorously, among RSM staff, trustees and clinicians, to ensure that the questions were both appropriate and tailored to the survey’s ultimate purpose – providing insight into members’ needs, allowing the RSM to assess and update its membership offering to reflect these.

The survey was open to all members – including those without email addresses, promoting participation via a wide range of RSM communication channels. This year, the survey achieved a response rate of 17%, an increase of 112.5% on 2012 (and amongst Retired and Life Fellows the response rate was over 22%). The margin of error on the survey is 1.47 – even better than on the generally accepted gold standard sample of 1,000 British adults, where the margin of error is 3.1. ComRes also ensured that the final data were weighted on member grade to represent the RSM’s membership. This means that we are confident that the 2015 membership survey is both robust and representative of members’ views.

What have the results revealed?

- Overall, the RSM enjoys a good reputation among members. A majority of members say that they are satisfied with their membership and that they would recommend membership to a colleague. A majority also say that membership has met or exceeded their expectations, and that they are likely to renew their membership.
- Those who use more services and benefits are more likely than those who do not use services and benefits to answer positively about their likelihood of renewing.

![Likelihood of renewing membership](chart.png)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Services</th>
<th>Response</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>No use of benefits</td>
<td>69%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Low (1-3 in the past 2 years)</td>
<td>84%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Medium (4-6 in the past 2 years)</td>
<td>91%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- Younger members tend to say that the ‘academic’ side of the RSM is important to them – events, use of the library, networking and skills development is important to them personally.
- RSM members want to have the ability to select the types of emails they receive from the RSM – such as speciality interests, general membership updates, global health and fundraising emails. Nearly all members wanted to receive these either monthly or quarterly.

Barriers to using benefits and services

- The biggest reported barrier to joining an RSM Section was lack of awareness that members could join a Section, which is particularly prevalent among Students, Associates and Young Fellows (in contrast less than 9% of Life Fellows were unaware they could join RSM Sections).
- For those who do not use library services, the most selected reason for not doing so is that they access this via their university or hospital, whereas for events, most members who have not attended in the past two years say that they are not in a convenient location for them.

CPD and future electronic developments

- Positively, members are most likely to say that the RSM is within their top three CPD sources used. Young Fellows are more likely to choose the RSM in their top three sources than Fellows.
- In future, there is appetite for any of the additional electronic education options tested – either e-learning modules alongside videos of key lectures, or private specialty based forums for RSM members only.
- Just a third of members say that they would not be interested in any of the additional new electronic resources.

Next steps for RSM

- Work to maximise member engagement to increase use of services and ultimately membership retention and advocacy. New first year member journey, student and young fellow lifestages key to this.
- Conduct further research among potential younger members to identify the drivers and barriers to membership and packages required.
- Provide students and young fellows with more opportunities to join Sections - not provided on fundraising emails. Nearly all members said they would not join an RSM Section if they were not provided on fundraising emails. Nearly all members wanted to receive these either monthly or quarterly.
- Introduction of “opt ins” for different member communications to enhance existing segmented communication.
- Continue to investigate and develop further e-learning services whilst recognising the continued importance of our physical events and Library.

Comments from members

Members were given the opportunity to provide feedback at the end of the survey and many offered their comments. Since the survey was completed teams across the RSM have been busy answering the queries and comments raised and many members provided compliments about the services provided and the support they received from RSM staff.

Here are just a few examples.

“Please continue to provide the current high quality services of the Domus, Restaurant and Bar. It is always a joy to visit.”

Paul Watts

“Great Society. One of the best value for money.”

Dr Maria Barnard

“The access to journals online is outstanding - the main reason I keep my membership - thank you.”

Dr Lisa Chamberlain

“Please keep the current high quality services - the Domus, Restaurant and Bar. It is always a joy to visit.”

Paul Watts

“Great Society. One of the best value for money.”

Dr Maria Barnard

“The access to journals online is outstanding - the main reason I keep my membership - thank you.”

Dr Lisa Chamberlain

Across over 10 member organisations where ComRes undertaken research in the last 3 years, an overall average response rate of 17% has been achieved. A separate recent survey undertaken by the Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh amongst their members achieved a 10% response rate.

(source: Surgeons’ news, September 2015)
Are you missing out on the benefits of being a Doctors.net.uk member?

We are constantly evolving the services on Doctors.net.uk to better suit our members’ needs.

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Take advantage of your free @doctors.org.uk email account which now allows you to upload your contacts and personalise your settings

Access bite-sized content tailored to your specialty
Opt in to receive concise updates relevant to your practice with our Messages service without filling up your inbox

Update your clinical knowledge with a wealth of accredited eCME
Choose from 150 case-based education modules in a wide range of topics and test your knowledge – clinical quizzes are also available

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Get quick responses to your clinical and non-clinical questions, debate current issues or start your own forum

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Read and discuss topics including workplace challenges, improving value in the NHS and practical microbiology advice

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For more information about joining and using Doctors.net.uk, contact the Member Services Team on +44 (0)1235 828400 or email help@doctors.org.uk
How the homes of the future look set to promote health and wellbeing

Healthy people are those who live in healthy homes... said the Austrian philosopher Ivan Illich. What he may not have realised when writing that was just how proactive a role the future home is set to play in keeping its occupants healthy. According to the Hiscox Home of the Future Report 2015, a study of what the next ten years in the home will look and feel like, the future home is set to be designed and built to increase wellbeing, and will even play an active role in monitoring its residents’ health.

Build responsibly

Take, as a start, the process of home building where the materials used are increasingly making an important contribution in terms of creating a healthy environment. Builders are seeking to use sympathetic, natural and recycled materials; reducing the use of toxic materials such as paints with a high VOC (Volatile Organic Compound) level. VOCs can exacerbate respiratory conditions through the creation of low-level ozone, while also causing headaches.

More sustainable building methods will have a gentler impact on the environment – less CO2 use for example – and less of a negative effect on people’s physical health. Mental health will also be boosted by the creation of new homes which will offer highly appealing interiors, liveable spaces, flexibility and a quality of home that is a significant advance on today’s offering.

The intelligent home

Perhaps the most exciting development for how the home promotes health will be in the use of technology connecting homes and our lives. For those older generations or physically disabled who wish to remain living in their own homes, ambient assisted living (AAL) technology will help through the provision of intelligent environments that adapt to the individuals living in the property to enable them to live independent lives. Effectively AAL – where sensors in the home monitor residents and raise the alarm should normal activity not take place, such as boiling a kettle or turning on the TV – operates as an invisible helping hand that monitors people and can summon help if problems occur.

Rooms within the home will also change how they function. Take the bathroom which is likely to become more of a health centre than somewhere to simply have a wash. Monitors and sensors to track health and fitness are already becoming commonplace – such as Nike’s FuelBand – and in time, information from these devices will be downloaded and analysis displayed on a mirror screen in the bathroom; a place where we can monitor our health in an effortless way.

All this gadgetry of course has its downsides; electronic smog produced from wireless technology is believed to affect some people through increased headaches. The home of the future will seek to negate the impact by developing localised wireless areas.

Living with the extended family

From a societal perspective future homes will increasingly play host to multiple generations living together as housing costs grow; creating ‘home within homes’ as grandparents move in and grown up children defer moving out. Whether the development of these so called dual-hub or tri-hub homes creates fewer stresses and strains in the future or creates more, remains to be seen...

However the home of the future turns out, Hiscox continues to develop insurance that meets the changing needs of its customers.

To protect your home and belongings, RSM members can save 12.5% on Hiscox Home Insurance. Go to hiscox.co.uk/rsm or call 0800 840 2373

Queen’s Birthday Honours

The Council and senior officers congratulate the following members who were recognised for their achievements and service in the 2015 Queen’s Birthday Honours lists.

Companion of Honour

The Right Honourable the Lord Harry Kenneth Woolf

Knighthood

Sir Naim Dangoor CBE

CBE

Professor Jane Anderson
Dr John R Bradley

Professor Anita MacDonald

Dr A William Frankland

MBE

Professor John R Pepper
Dr Fiona M Sim

Professor Jennifer M Hunter

If we have omitted any member honours please advise membership@rsm.ac.uk so we can update our records and include in our next news.
Driving a good bargain!

In July 2015, the RSM launched a new partnership with Motor Source Group - the official provider of discounted cars to specialist groups for many leading car manufacturers including Audi, Lexus, Mercedes-Benz, Honda and Ford.

Motor Source provides exceptional discounts for RSM members of up to 30% on car purchases, with an average customer saving of over £3,500. They are upfront and open about their pricing with all prices available on their website: www.motorsourcegroup.com.

You may have already seen the Motor Source scheme which is available through various NHS trusts. However the RSM has negotiated an exclusive extra saving of £195 – not available elsewhere.

To find out more about Motor Source group or to make an enquiry visit: www.motorsourcegroup.com or to speak to a Motor Source agent call 01522 500 055.

Quote RSM 2015 for your £195 saving

About Motor Source
Motor Source Group has been supplying cars to military personnel for over 10 years and from this success now offers discounts to other specialist groups including the police, prison and fire services.

With expert knowledge and experience of offering exclusive deals to valued customers for many years, Motor Source prides itself on providing a high quality customer service from start to finish.

How does the scheme work?
Motor Source works closely with motor manufacturers to provide cars at special rates that are not available to the general public.

The Motor Source website lists most makes and models of cars. Once you have selected your vehicle simply speak to a fully trained Motor Source agent who will talk you through each stage and ensure the whole process is simple and straightforward.

Delivery and servicing
Motor Source offers a main franchised dealer handover at various locations throughout the UK. This ensures you receive a qualified handover of your new car. In some circumstances they can even arrange delivery of your new car to your door. All vehicles are covered by a full manufacturer’s warranty and you can visit your local dealer for routine maintenance and servicing.

Discounted Car Purchase for RSM Members

Lexus RX450h
3.5 Luxury 5dr CVT
UK RRP: £39,715
YOU PAY: £31,639
SAVE £8,075

Mercedes-Benz E-Class
Saloon E250 CDI SE Premium 7G-Tronic
UK RRP: £45,915
YOU PAY: £34,253
SAVE £11,662

Audi A7 Sportback
3.0 TDI Ultra SE Executive S Tronic Auto
UK RRP: £48,495
YOU PAY: £44,212
SAVE £4,282

Ask us about our discounts on all these makes too...

Don’t forget to quote RSM2015 for your additional £195 saving

T: 01522 5000 55 | W: motorsourcegroup.com

Images for illustration only. Please ask for details about local participating dealership handover. Forces Car Direct Limited T/A Motor Source is authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority (672273). We act as a credit broker not a lender. We can introduce you to a limited number of lenders who may be able to offer you finance facilities for your purchase. We will only introduce you to these lenders.
A new Memorial Board has been installed at the RSM for members to inscribe the name of a loved one or someone they have admired and respected who devoted their lives to helping patients. The board, which faces the magnificent light-filled atrium on the ground floor at 1 Wimpole Street, is to mark the contribution of those who have passed away after working in the medical or healthcare sector.

The majority of those honoured on the board are likely to have been members of the Royal Society of Medicine, although it is not exclusively reserved for members.

The opportunity to honour someone and have their name inscribed on the Memorial Board is linked to the understanding that a donation will be made to The Royal Society of Medicine, to support the provision of medical education for doctors of today and tomorrow.

The donation level for RSM Members is £1,000 and for non-members £1,500. Donations can be paid in cash, by cheque, credit card or electronic transfer and can be phased over 12 months.

Most donors will be taxpayers and on this basis donors will be invited to sign a Gift Aid form which at no extra cost to the donor increases the value of the donation by 25% to £1,250 for RSM members and £1,875 for non-members. This should be noted on your tax return. Donors who are higher rate tax payers should receive a cash rebate at the end of their tax year.

USA-based donors can make a tax efficient donation via the RSM’s foundation in the USA.

A HISTORY OF HONOURING LOVED ONES AND COLLEAGUES

In 2009 the RSM launched its Wall of Honour initiative. Over 800 people have been honoured on the glass walls of the atrium.

In 2005 and 2007, the RSM created an opportunity for RSM members to honour a loved one or a colleague by naming chairs in the two largest lecture theatres. All 450 chairs were named.

On this study tour, run in association with the Royal Society of Medicine, you will travel from the colonial capital, Colombo, to the ancient cultural heartland of the island, through jungles and highlands, to finish on the coast, near the beautiful historic town of Galle. Along the way there is a wide range of professional visits providing real insight into Sri Lankan health care and society as well as ample free time to relax by the pool, join optional activities or explore at your own pace.

RSM members receive special benefits on this tour. Please say you are a member when enquiring.

For further information please refer to the flyer in RSM News or call Jon Baines Tours on 020 7223 9485 or email info@jonbainestours.co.uk
Key features in 2015/16

As the new academic year gets off to a flying start don't forget to take advantage of the many benefits on offer to RSM members, including some exciting new enhancements. Here's an overview.

Leisure and Social

1. Car discount scheme – recently launched with savings on both new and used cars – see page 16 for more details.
2. Reciprocal club links have been expanded with over 50 clubs around the world now available plus many USA universities. Visit www.rsm.ac.uk and follow the reciprocal club link to find out more.
3. Schemes with Hiscox for Home and Travel Insurance, Wexas and Jon Baines for special travel offers and Austin Reed for discounts on their own label plus Country Casuals and Viyella continue to be popular. Some members have said that they have saved more than the cost of their annual subscription when insuring their home through Hiscox.
4. In addition to the Langham Spa Vouchers for £20, providing a day visit to their gym, swimming pool, sauna and steam room just five minutes from the RSM, we now have a scheme providing discounts on other spas around the UK. Visit our website or ask membership@rsm.ac.uk for more information.

Education and learning

1. From October student members will enjoy FREE annual online CPD from their next renewal or when they join, allowing them to watch videos of lectures and undertake reflective notes and print off certificates for their portfolios.
2. 24/7 access to Library first floor including out-of-hours book lending and returning. New mezzanine suite for group study. See page 9 for more Library updates.
3. More prizes and awards available for students and trainees during 2015/16. For more information visit the RSM website. Make a note in your diary of the Wesleyan RSM Trainee of the Year award finals at the RSM on the evening of 26 November.
4. The Library is now subscribing to over 5,000 full text ejournals accessible from anywhere in the world. These include the Nature and BMJ suite of titles, NEJM and journals from Wiley publishers.
5. Launch in the coming year of online specialty forums for members to discuss topics with other RSM colleagues.
6. New from 1 October, up to two years free e-membership for trainees to support them during maternity or paternity leave or undertaking voluntary work overseas.

Optional extensions to core membership

As an RSM member you can extend your membership to include the following optional “extras” - the good news is that rates for most of these have not increased:

- Club Membership £90 - Fellows are eligible to add this to their membership for a family member providing them with access to the Club and Library without the need to accompany them. They can also bring friends and colleagues to the Club too.
- Annual Online CPD subscription £95 - after watching videos of key lectures this allows unlimited access to undertaking reflective notes and earn CPD and downloadable certificates.
- Printed subscription to the monthly Journal of the Royal Society of Medicine £26 (note as a member you get free online access to JRSM).
- Retired Fellows Society £20 (available to Retired Fellows, Retired Associates and Life Fellows).

To add any of these to your membership please contact membership@rsm.ac.uk or call the team on 020 7290 2991.
More than half of doctors would recommend their profession

New research from Wesleyan, the specialist financial services provider for doctors, has revealed more than half (56%) of doctors already working in the profession would still recommend their career to family members and friends despite changes to their profession in recent years.

Furthermore, doctors are more likely to recommend their career than other professions. Wesleyan’s research showed only 45% of teachers would recommend a career in the classroom, compared to 50% of dentists and 52% of lawyers who would encourage the next generation to follow them into their jobs.

However, although they would still recommend the job to others, the number of doctors who would choose the same career if they could start again has fallen to 67% compared with 75% in 2014. Increased workload and stress were cited as the main factors for this.

More than nine out of ten (95%) doctors said increased pressure caused by ongoing changes in the profession was a major cause of concern, with more than half (56%) of those saying they felt permanently under pressure.

When asked what they were most concerned about over the next five years, NHS funding emerged as the biggest worry for more than half (61%). Changes to the NHS Pension Scheme and the possible privatisation of the NHS were also highlighted as major issues by just under two fifths (39%) while 13% raised concerns over consolidation of services in the NHS.

Mr Martin Bircher, a Consultant Orthopaedic surgeon and Member of Wesleyan’s Advisory Board, said: “The planned changes to the NHS, such as the new NHS 7-day service contracts for both hospital doctors and GPs, do have some merits in terms of the potential to improve patient care. However, there will inevitably be significant resource issues and they appear unlikely to ease the already heavy demands placed on medical professionals.

“Despite these challenges, being a doctor remains a hugely rewarding profession. A desire to care for others is what makes people want to become a doctor and being able to put this into practice every day is a privilege. That is why the majority of doctors in this survey say they would choose the same career again if they were at the beginning of their professional life.”

Alan Whiting, Wesleyan Group Head of Marketing, said: “Our medical customers tell us that they are facing huge change in their professional lives, which is causing them uncertainty and stress, and this is supported by this new research.

“Doctors are also being hit financially; they have seen a drop in income in real terms as pay rises fail to keep pace with inflation. In addition, changes to the NHS Pension Scheme mean they are paying more to retire later and on less income. Then there are the pension tax changes which are hitting doctors at the latter stages of their career.

“As a specialist provider of financial advice for doctors, Wesleyan can help them plan their finances and make the most of their money. We also understand the wider professional issues that can impact their career path and their future earning income.”

Wesleyan is proud to sponsor the RSM Wesleyan Trainee of the Year 2015, being held on 26 November 2015. We have provided tailored financial advice and products to doctors for over 170 years and the sponsorship is part of Wesleyan’s ongoing commitment to supporting medical professionals.

Source: Censuswide surveyed 102 doctors on behalf of Wesleyan, March 2015
Loire and Rhone Fine Wine Dinner

This Autumn’s Fine Wine Dinner will take place on Friday 23 October. Neil McKenzie from Ellis of Richmond Wine Merchants will talk us through the wines that we have paired with a delicious five-course menu. Tickets are £85 per person. To book please contact Lucy Wade on 020 7290 2951 or email lucy.wade@onewimpolestreet.co.uk.

Sausage week during November

From 3 - 6 November we will be celebrating National Sausage Week in the Members’ Restaurant and Buttery. As the leaves drop and the days turn colder what could be better than sausage and mash served with rich onion gravy? Each day we will be serving a different sausage variety. Members will also be able to enjoy delicious homemade sausage rolls with English mustard.

Premium range of special teas now served

The Club facilities are now serving a premium range of quality organic and Fairtrade certified teas. Birchall Tea, a family brand founded in 1872 has a wide range of herbal teas, black teas from across Africa and green tea from China. Drop by for a refreshing cuppa next time you are in the area.

Christmas Carol Concert

The Society’s annual carol concert will be held on Thursday 17 December at 1 Wimpole Street. Tickets are £100 per person which includes; a Champagne reception, a four-course meal and charity raffle, all of which will be accompanied with traditional Christmas Carols performed by the Amici Consort. To book please contact Lucy Wade on 020 7290 2951 or email lucy.wade@onewimpolestreet.co.uk.

Christmas Menu in the Club Restaurant

Treat your family, friends and colleagues to a traditional Christmas meal in the Members’ Restaurant. Our ever popular Christmas menus will be available from Monday 30 November until Wednesday 23 December. Alternatively larger parties of eight or more may book (free room-hire) one of our Private Dining salons for their Christmas celebration. To avoid disappointment book now via the website www.rsm.ac.uk, email restaurant@rsm.ac.uk or call 020 7290 2957.

Christmas offer: Stay at the RSM from just £101 a night

Members who are visiting the capital between Christmas and New Year can take advantage of our special offer rates at Domus Medica. Our weekend rates, starting from just £101 a night for single occupancy, will be available between Tuesday 29 December and Sunday 3 January (inclusive). Book now via our website www.rsm.ac.uk, email domus@rsm.ac.uk or call 020 7290 2960. Please use the promo code XS15 when booking to receive the reduced rate.

Christmas closure dates

Please note that the RSM Club Areas will be closed during the Christmas period after dinner service on Wednesday 23 December and will reopen on Monday 4 January. Domus Medica will close after check-out on Thursday 24 December and re-open on Tuesday 29 December. Chandos House will close after check-out on Thursday 24 December and re-open on Monday 4 January. For any enquiries please visit our website www.rsm.ac.uk, email domus@rsm.ac.uk or call 020 7290 2960.

New Nobel Isle products and special offer for members

We are pleased to inform you that Noble Isle, an exquisite modern bath and body brand using natural extracts sourced in the UK is now available in our Club Areas, Domus Medica and Chandos House. This line of luxury products includes soaps, body lotions, shower gels and scented candles. Please enjoy your complimentary products when you stay with us, plus order your own range and receive 25% off, enter code RSM2015 at the checkout www.nobleisle.com.