



A WORD FROM DR AMY BOSWELL

APMJ Secretary

Hi, I'm Amy and I'm thrilled to be the new juniors committee secretary!

I have spent the past two years as a clinical fellow in a hospice and I've recently started GP training in Wolverhampton. I feel passionate about palliative care and I'm excited to be part of the juniors committee supporting the advancement of junior palliative medicine professionals.

The APMJ are still advertising for the Conference Sub-Committee roles. This is a great opportunity to get involved in our conference held in September 2025. The deadline for applying is 1st April.

We are also looking forward to the Palliative Care Congress (PCC) in Belfast which is this week. If you're attending, please do say hello, we'd love to hear from you!

This month there's some guidance from our careers and mentorship co-ordinator on applying for IMT and the alternative certificate route of application for those who are working as clinical fellows in non-training roles.



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MRCP Marking Error

The Royal College of Physicians recently announced an error in marking MRCP Part 2 written exams from September 2023. 222 doctors were told they'd passed an exam they had in fact failed, and 61 were told they had failed but had actually passed.

The implications of this for the doctors affected are huge and if any of our members have been affected please get in contact to let us know what has happened and of any concerns moving forwards.

PCC - Meet The Committee

Are you attending the PCC? There will be a meet and greet session at lunchtime on Friday 21st March and we'd love to meet you! This is a good opportunity to meet the committee and share any thoughts on how we can better support our members.

APM Annual General Meeting (AGM)

The APM Annual General Meeting (AGM) will take place during PCC in Belfast on Thursday 20 March between 14:35 and 15:45.

If you're attending the PCC this is a great opportunity to share your thoughts on the APM, hear updates and take part in the voting.

The AGM papers including updates from the APM committees and SIFs, and reports from the President and Treasurer, are available to view via the [APM Website](#).



APM Juniors Conference Sub-Committee Members

We are very excited to announce that we are currently recruiting for APMJ Conference Sub-Committee members. This fantastic one day virtual conference will be in September of this year with planning meetings monthly from April through to September. If you are keen to get involved please see below role descriptions:

Logistics Officer

Main point of contact for logistics on the day, responsible for organising the schedule for the day. Working alongside our events team to set up microsoft teams platform and facilitate interaction. Coordination of abstract competition.

Publicity Officer

Taking a lead on advertising the conference through deanery liaison and social media. Active role in liaising with attendees prior to the conference and production of the events pack. Member of the logistics team on the day of the conference.

Medical Student Representative

Working within the team to represent the interests of medical students within the conference. Liaising with medical student reps to publicise the conference and organising the medical student essay competition. Member of the logistics team on the day of the conference.

Speaker Liaison Officer (2 roles available):

Take a leading role in recruiting and liaising with speakers for the conference as well as organising the running order of the day. Member of the logistics team on the day of the conference.

If you wish to apply or have further questions about any of the roles, please submit a 200 word application to office@compleat-online.co.uk by the 1st April.



APM Juniors Survey

Please fill in our survey to help us better understand what our members want from an APM junior membership. The survey will take no more than five minutes to complete and can be found [here](#). Thank you!

APM Medical Students Survey

Please fill in this survey to help guide our future events and resources for medical students. The survey will take no more than five minutes to complete and can be found [here](#). Thank you!

Free Six Part Series

We have some excellent resources available on the APM online, as highlighted on page 7 of this newsletter. There is a six part series available covering palliative care in several common conditions encountered on the wards or the acute medical take.

- Palliative Care in Neurological Disorders
- Palliative Care in Chronic Liver Disease
- Palliative Care in Heart Failure
- Palliative Care in Chronic Kidney Disease
- Palliative Care on the Respiratory Ward
- Palliative Care in Dementia and Frailty

Please email bookings@apmeducationhub.org to request access to these recordings



Careers - Applying for IMT and the Alternative Certificate

Dr Marianne Cobham is an IMT in the Wales deanery.

IMT

The competition ratios for IMT have increased significantly over the past few years.

In 2023 there were 4406 applications for 1572 places, in 2024 6273 people applied for 1698 places and for 2025 entry there were 8728 applicants.

In addition, some geographical areas are oversubscribed meaning doctors face having to move away from where they live or potentially living away from family and friends to complete IMT. Moving may also not be possible for a variety of reasons. As a result, doctors are looking for alternatives to completing IMT.

Palliative medicine is a group 1 specialty meaning doctors need to complete IMT 1-3 before applying for palliative ST4. Below is some guidance for applying for IMT and consideration of the alternative certificate route.

IMT applications

The scoring criteria for IMT applications changed for 2025 entry. Scoring is now out of 30 points. If you're trying to bolster your application for the future or whether you've been unsuccessful for the current application cycle, it is important to consider what can be achieved in the time you have available. For example, completing a quality improvement project and presenting this at a meeting could gain the candidate 10 points, whilst a master's degree would take one year and be costly and would gain only 3 points.

Postgraduate Degrees - 4 points

1 point for a post-graduate certificate or diploma, 3 for a master's degree and 4 for a PhD. It is important to note that the qualification needs to be completed by the point of application, meaning a one-year post-graduate certificate would need to have been started in September 2024 to be completed by the deadline for applications for 2026 entry to IMT.

Presentations - 6 points

Points are allocated in this category for being first or second author only.

6 points for an oral presentation given at an international or national medical meeting. 4 points if a poster is delivered at an international or national medical meeting. 3 points for an oral presentation given at a regional medical meeting. 2 points for an oral presentation given at a local medical meeting or delivering a poster at a regional or local medical meeting.

Publications - 8 points

8 points for being first author of one or more PubMed cited original research articles. 6 points if co-author. 5 points if first author of more than one PubMed cited publication, e.g. editorial, review, case report, letter and 3 points if the author of one only. 5 points for writing one or more chapters of a book pertaining to medicine. 1 point for one or more abstracts or non-peer reviewed articles that are not PubMed cited.



Teaching Experience - 5 points

Evidence of formal feedback is required for points in this category.

5 points for working with local tutors to organise a teaching programme for healthcare professionals or medical students and providing regular teaching lasting 3 months or more. 3 points if teaching regularly over the course of 3 months and 1 point if there has been occasional teaching (at least 3 sessions).

Training in Teaching - 3 points

3 points for PG certificate or PG diploma, 1 point if training in teaching methods below the level of PG certificate/ diploma. This can include courses like 'Teach the Teacher'.

Quality Improvement - 4 points

4 points for involvement in all aspects of two cycles of an original quality improvement project. 3 points if involvement in all aspects of one cycle or some stages of two cycles. 1 point if participation in QI activity e.g. involvement in one aspect of a multi-cycle QI project or involvement in two or more aspects of a single cycle QI project.

Alternative Certificate

IMT requires three years of medical jobs involving the care of patients admitted with acute medical problems, with a minimum of 10 weeks spent in ITU and 4 months in geriatric medicine.

For successful completion of IMT, there needs to be evidence of clerking 500 patients, attending 80 outpatient clinics, colleague feedback in the form of multi-source feedback (MSF), involvement in quality improvement, teaching, MRCP, ALS, simulation and attendance at teaching amongst other requirements.

Given the significant increase in applicants recently, doctors may need to spend time in clinical fellow posts between completion of foundation training and IMT and some may choose to enter higher specialty training (i.e. ST4) without completing IMT.

The alternative certificate can be found here and highlights competencies needed to be considered eligible for specialty training. These themes align with the guidance for IMTs on passing ARCP which can be found here.

The form requires confirmation of a variety of personal, professional and practical skills. There is the need to maintain a portfolio, evidence quality improvement projects, obtain feedback from colleagues in the form of a multi-source feedback (MSF), workplace-based assessments and educational supervisor reports. The candidate must also hold full MRCP.

The form can be signed by a medical consultant or one in specialties such as emergency medicine or intensive care medicine who holds full MRCP, and who has worked with the doctor for 3 months full time within the preceding 3.5 years.

Potential barriers to accessing training via this route include difficulty in getting an ITU placement outside of a training programme. Trainees may also be prioritised for practical procedures, teaching and study leave. Getting an alternative certificate form signed would be more achievable in a supportive department that knows the doctor well enough to comment on the variety of competencies needed.

References

<https://phstrecruitment.org.uk/documents>

<https://www.imtrecruitment.org.uk/documents>



Association for
Palliative Medicine
Of Great Britain and Ireland

March
2025

APM Juniors Newsletter

UPCOMING EVENTS

20th-21st March 2025

Palliative Care Congress

<https://pccongress.org.uk/registration/>

2nd April 2025

Postgraduate Medical Education. Free for APM Members

<https://apmonline.org/events/postgraduate-medical-education/>

May - June 2025

**Clinical Updates Series - Oncology, Acute Medicine and Hot Topics in
Specialist Palliative Care**

<https://apmonline.org/events/clinical-update-series/>



USEFUL RESOURCES

APM/ PCRS Research directory

<https://apmeducationhub.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/06/Palliative-Care-Network-April-2023.pdf>

Palliative Medicine Curriculum

<https://www.jrcptb.org.uk/sites/default/files/Palliative%20Medicine%202022%20curriculum%20FINAL.pdf>

e-ELCA

https://portal.e-lfh.org.uk/myElearning/Index?HierarchyId=0_29&programmId=29

Junior Doctor and Medical Student Resources

<https://apmonline.org/junior-doctor-medical-student-resources/>

PREVIOUS WEBINARS TO WATCH

Palliative Care for FY1 Doctors

Vimeo Link <https://vimeo.com/apmeducationhub/pallcarefy1?share=copy>

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