

July 2007

Dear Colleague

**Are you interested in exciting opportunities to meet colleagues from other countries, to share ideas and solutions, to explore research and training opportunities and to travel to foreign countries to learn about the differences and similarities in Medical practice across Europe?**

Then **READ ON:**

The medical specialty of General Internal Medicine (G(I)M) in the United Kingdom has changed dramatically over the past four years with the evolution of Acute Medicine and a new competency-based curriculum. The re-structuring of Medical training aims to ensure that trainees in all of the Medical specialties will receive training in Internal Medicine during their core medical training years and will also continue to have exposure during their specialty training years. A CCT in Acute Medicine is now available while those working in allied "GIM" specialities will require 'level 2 competencies' under the new curriculum.

The situation in Europe is different and a number of different models are in place for training Physicians in Internal Medicine or 'Internists' as they are usually called. General Internal Medicine is often a stand-alone specialty and those practicing it are at the core of Medical services in European hospitals.

I am writing to let you know about the **European Federation of Internal Medicine** ([www.efim.org](http://www.efim.org)) and their trainee organisation called the **Young Internists** ([www.younginternists.efim.org](http://www.younginternists.efim.org)) - which aim to draw together Physicians and trainees in General Internal Medicine from across Europe.

The Royal College of Physicians of London has been promoting links with EFIM and encouraging trainees to take advantage of some of the opportunities available for presentations and poster submissions at the annual EFIM congresses – the last one was held in Lisbon in Portugal from May 23<sup>rd</sup> to 26<sup>th</sup> 2007 and was extremely well attended. The next meeting will be in Rome from 7<sup>th</sup> to 10<sup>th</sup> May 2008 with abstracts needed by January 2008 ([www.aristea.com/efim2008](http://www.aristea.com/efim2008)). In addition to this there are excellent educational opportunities at the annual **Clinical Research Seminar** held in Paris and at the **European School of Internal Medicine (ESIM)** – details of the next ESIM to be held in Lisbon from September 10<sup>th</sup> -15<sup>th</sup> can be found [here](#). Applicants for this year's School should contact Paul Jennings at: paul.jennings@rcplondon.ac.uk

In 2005, a group of young doctors decided to establish a trainees group within EFIM and formed the **Young Internists** group. This highly motivated and dedicated team have met over the last two years in Paris, Poland and Copenhagen and have now established a website at [www.younginternists.efim.org](http://www.younginternists.efim.org). There have also been meetings at the annual EFIM congress and at the European School of Medicine. The objectives of the Young Internists include **developing a network** of junior doctors across Europe to exchange ideas, share best-practice, to explore pan-European research opportunities and the promotion of Internal Medicine as a discipline. While UK trainees have been struggling with MMC and MTAS, those in other countries are struggling with other important issues and variable pay agreements. The chance to discuss the common challenges facing trainees in Medicine in various different healthcare settings is an unprecedented opportunity to **strengthen the profession** through strong ties and common goals.

The President of the college, Professor Ian Gilmore, has encouraged the Trainees Committee to continue building links with EFIM and the trainees in the Young Internists group and I would encourage everyone who is interested in finding out more to sign up to the free Young Internists website [here](#).

Best Wishes

Roger Duckitt

Chair, Trainees Committee, Royal College of Physicians (London)