

For information on upcoming workshops, please go to: www.racp.edu.au/page/educational-and-professional-development/supervisor-support.

PREP Advanced Training: Faculties

Online portals to support the PREP Advanced Training programs for the Faculties are now in development. These will be similar in style to the Advanced Training Portal and will serve

as a gateway to the online formative assessment and teaching and learning tools tailored for the Faculty Advanced Training programs. The Faculty training portals and online tools will be released throughout 2011.

PREP Advanced Training: 2012

Planning on the design and development of the tools and resources for the next phase of the PREP Advanced Training

program will commence in 2011, and we are hoping that 2012 will see the development and release of online progress reports, Multi-Source Feedback, the Professional Qualities Reflection tool, logbooks and research projects.

Genevieve Foster and Erin Murphy
Curriculum Development Officers
Education Services

RELEASE OF FRACP WRITTEN EXAMINATION PAPERS

The Written Examination Committees have recently implemented a change in the format of the release of questions from past written examination papers. This change in format is aimed at improving the educational usefulness of the material released. From this year on, a subset of questions from past papers will be released, together with a syllabus description pertinent to the remaining questions, rather than the verbatim text of all of the questions and the answer choices. The reasons behind this change are as follows.

Traditionally, the Written Examination Committees have reused some past questions in papers in order to gauge the difficulty of the papers from one year to the next. This led to the practice of candidates from large institutions remembering questions and pooling

these to produce fairly good facsimiles of the original papers. This process gave easier access to past questions to candidates from large institutions, and in the interests of fairness, the Committees made the decision to release the papers in their entirety. It should be noted that reused (marker) questions were never more than a small subset of any given paper.

The syllabus for the Written Examination is much broader than the individual facts tested in any one paper. The release of past papers has meant that some candidates have spent a disproportionate amount of time concentrating on the minutiae of the past questions rather than covering the syllabus more broadly. For the last two years, any questions reused from past papers (marker questions) have not contributed to the score in the Written Examination. Unfortunately, in

spite of this, many candidates continue to have an inordinate focus on the past papers.

For these reasons, the majority of questions used in past papers will now be released in the form of a short statement that covers the syllabus area examined by the question. This will provide a genuine guide to areas that are likely to be assessed in future Written Examinations. It is hoped that this change will assist candidates in their preparation for the Written Examination.

Leo Davies
Chair, Assessment Committee

Rodger Laurent
Chair, Adult Written Exam Committee

Mike Starr
Chair, Paediatric Written Exam Committee

SUPERVISOR WORKSHOPS

The Education Services Department (formerly known as the Education Deanery) will be conducting a substantial number of supervisor workshops in 2011, mostly to be held in conjunction with Specialty Society annual scientific meetings. These workshops will be Advanced Training focused and will provide up-to-date information for supervisors on PREP AT specialty-specific requirements and overall support for supervisors.

Medical Education Officers will also be running workshops throughout 2011 in each state and in New Zealand. These workshops aim to educate and support trainees, supervisors and Fellows on relevant College programs and will cover content specific to both Basic and Advanced Training programs, including specific assessment tools, Portal Navigation and myCPD requirements.

The Physician Educator Subcommittee will also be holding two DPE workshops in 2011 on 11 May and 21 October.

Dates and details of all workshops will be announced as they become available and can be found at www.racp.edu.au. Please email supervisor@racp.edu.au if you have any other enquiries.