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Dear Colleague

Musculoskeletal complaints form a large proportion of consultations in Primary Care. Training in managing these problems has thus far been poor. Only few vocational schemes offer rheumatology training and until recently, undergraduate rheumatology training was poorly taught.

Professor Jane Dacre and I are involved in a project supported by the Arthritis Research Campaign to try and improve training in musculoskeletal problems in the community.

The first stage of the project is to find out how much training current Primary Care Physicians have had in rheumatology in their under- and post graduate education, and what areas of rheumatology are felt to be importance to their practice.

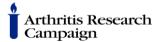
Following this, we will set up a needs based training course in rheumatology . We will assess the effect of the training course on knowledge using a peer examined Objective Structured Clinical Examination, together with group discussions.

Please find enclosed the training questionnaire which will only take a few minutes to complete. Once results have been collated and a course programme organised I will then contact all those who expressed interest in attending.

The demands on your time are much appreciated, and may thanks for helping us by completing the questionnaire. The aim of the project is to improve knowledge, confidence and skills in managing musculoskeletal problems in primary care, to the benefit of the doctor and patient.

Best wishes

Professor Jane Dacre Professor of Medical Education Consultant Rheumatologist Dr Inam Haq Educational Research Fellow Specialist Registrar in Rheumatology





Rheumatology Questionnaire

Na	me:					
Pra	ctice:					
Tel	ephone					
Em	ail:					
1.		oostgraduate training Yes	involve any rheu	ımatology experi	ence?	
	• N	lo				
2.	If YES, w	hat form did this exp	erience take?			
	• R	egular Clinic				
	• C	Occasional Clinic				
	• S	itting in on clinics				
	• A	attendance on ward r	ounds			
	• C	Other				
3.		Continuing Medical th musculoskeletal c		you attended any	y courses, worksh	ops or clinics to help you in
	• Y	'es				
	• N	Го				
4.	If YES, w	hat form did the edu	cation take?			
	• 0	linics				
	• V	Vard rounds				
	• L	ectures				
	• 0	Courses				
	• C	Other				
5.	How impo	ortant do you think k	nowledge of mus	culoskeletal prob	olems is to Primar	y Care?
No	t at all impo	ortant 1	2	3	4	5 Extremely important

6. H	łow do you r	ate your co	onfidence i	n managing	musculoskeletal	problems?
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Not at all confident 1 2 3 4 5 Extremely confident

7. How important do you feel knowledge of the following musculoskeletal problems and their management are in primary care:

	primary care.	Not at all Important				Extremely important
•	Back Pain	1	2	3	4	5
•	Osteoarthritis	1	2	3	4	5
•	Soft tissue musculoskeletal problems e.g shoulder,elbow.	1	2	3	4	5
•	Injection techniques	1	2	3	4	5
•	Rheumatoid arthritis	1	2	3	4	5
•	Other inflammatory forms of arthritis (Psoriatic arthritis, ankylosing spondylitis etc)	1	2	3	4	5
•	Osteoporosis	1	2	3	4	5
•	Multisystem connective tissue diseases (Lupus, Scleroderma, vasculitis, myositis etc)	1	2	3	4	5
•	Sjogrens Syndrome	1	2	3	4	5
•	Paediatric rheumatology	1	2	3	4	5
•	New therapies in arthritis	1	2	3	4	5

Are there any topics not mentioned above that you feel should be covered in a practical course on musculoskeletal problems in primary care.

Would you be interested in Taking part in a focus group discussion on rheumatology training in Primary Care?

- Yes
- No

•	1 half day	
•	1 ½ days	
•	2 whole day	s
•	2 half days	
•	Otherp	please specify
Wh	ich days of th	ne week are best for you.
•	Monday	am pm
•	Tuesday	am pm
•	Wednesday	am pm
•	Thursday	am pm
•	Friday	am pm

PLEASE RETURN IN THE REPLY PAID ENVELOPE SUPPLIED

Would you be in attending such a PGEA approved training course in rheumatology?

No

1 whole day

Which would be the best format?

Many thanks for completing this questionnaire