

ACCEA Newsletter Issue 5 November 2008

Message from Professor Jonathan Montgomery and Professor Hamid Ghodse



Since the last newsletter, we have seen the publication of Awards made through the national processes for 2008. We would both like to take this opportunity to congratulate all the consultants who have received awards in the 2008 Round. This award recognises their sustained contributions to clinical excellence.

ACCEA is confident of the quality of those receiving awards through the national processes. No one is recommended to the Minister without careful scrutiny by at least two groups, each comprising of senior professionals, employer representatives and experienced lay people.

In the 2008 Awards Round, 344 consultants received a Bronze Clinical Excellence Award, 159 consultants received a Silver Clinical Excellence Award, 42

consultants received a Gold Clinical Excellence Award and 31 consultants received a Platinum Clinical Excellence Award.

The review process shows that very few consultants who hold awards fail to sustain the excellence of their work. Most of the 731 consultants up for review in 2008 either progressed to a higher award or had their existing award renewed. However, in three cases, significant changes in consultants' jobs or responsibilities led to a two-year review period so that ACCEA can be clear that the high standards are being maintained. Sixteen consultants were judged to have provided insufficient evidence in the paperwork and have been asked to submit an application to review again in the 2009 Round. They have been put on notice that the award will be removed if adequate evidence is not submitted on the next occasion. ACCEA encourages consultants to avoid such additional work by providing the necessary evidence when requested to do so.

Finally, two consultants who failed to provide information that justified

continuation of their award and were given a one-year review in the 2007 awards round, failed to provide sufficient information in the 2008 round and so their awards will now be withdrawn.

2009 Round – Reminders

Closing date for applications

Could we please remind everyone that closing date for applications for new awards and renewals of existing awards is **5pm on Friday 19 December 2008**. Applications and any associated documentation, including ranked lists and citations, must be received by this time, as any late paperwork will not be accepted under any circumstances.

Reviews

Clinical Excellence Awards are valid for 5 years and then they have to be reviewed. If you were awarded a **Clinical Excellence Award in the 2005 Awards Round** (valid from 1 April 2005), it is valid to 31 March 2010. However, in order for these awards to continue without a break, paperwork must be submitted to ACCEA to review these awards in the 2009 Round. Any consultant who last had their **Distinction Award renewed in 2004 Awards**

Round should also submit the necessary paperwork to ACCEA to review their award in the 2009 Round

In the past, some consultants have not submitted review papers to ACCEA and their awards have been vulnerable.

The Secretariat does its best to remind consultants but cannot guarantee to do this. If you are a consultant and have recently moved posts, please let the Secretariat know so we can be sure that our records are up to date.

Any consultant who has a Distinction Award and has not had this award reviewed in the past five years is strongly advised to contact the secretariat urgently to check their position.

Personal Statements

The 2008 Awards Round is the first round in which a successful applicant's personal statement will be published on the ACCEA website. We would therefore like to remind applicants for Clinical Excellence Awards in 2009 to indicate on their application form that they agree to their personal statement being published.

Advice on improving your application

We hope that the information below, based on feedback from assessors, will further assist applicants in completing award applications.

Dates

Applicants, who fail to put in dates, make it difficult for assessors to distinguish when their achievements occurred, particularly if progressing between national award levels.

Listing Posts

Listing posts rather than achievements in the posts make it very hard for assessors to give credit for contributions. Therefore, it is important that applicants set out clearly what they have achieved when they are in a post or as a member of a committee.

Benchmarks

ACCEA puts particular weight on objective markers of excellence especially where they constitute independent benchmarks against which consultant's excellence can be judged. Not all specialties have such benchmarks but remember to include them where available.

Missed Contributions

ACCEA are still sometimes told that consultants have missed contributions off the application form. Remember that assessors evaluate the evidence submitted not the reputation of the consultant, so work cannot be considered unless it is included in the application. Applicants are therefore encouraged to get a colleague to read their application to check that nothing important has been missed.