

## **Evening Medical Update: Top Tips for New Doctors**

### **Mastering the curriculum – Dr Gabrielle Woodward-Smith**

#### **What's a taster week?**

A taster is usually 2 - 5 days that you can organise during F1/F2 to spend time in a speciality that you may not have had a job in. It is optional but it can be very helpful as it allows you to gain experience / insight into different specialities and can help with career planning. For example, I know people who have arranged for tasters in radiology / anaesthetics / pathology as these are less common to have in your foundation rotations. It is something that you have to organise yourself and apply for the study leave for however your educational supervisor may be able to support you with this. There is an area on the eportfolio for you to plan, set objectives and reflect on your taster experience.

#### **Can you briefly go over "Developing the clinical teacher" I didn't quite understand it**

Developing the Clinical Teacher is a form that you can send as an assessment on the eportfolio to get formal feedback about your skills in teaching. You generally need to do at least 1 of these a year. It is sent to a senior supervising doctor after they have observed you doing some form of teaching. This can be any sort of teaching - bedside medical student teaching, any presentation you deliver e.g. during ward breakfast clubs/morbidity and mortality meetings, MDT discussions, grand round presentations, audit presentation etc. You need to inform the person supervising beforehand that you would like to send them a feedback form for the teaching session so that they can give you constructive feedback.

#### **Please I didn't quite get what you said about ARCP lockout**

Your ARCP will be sometime in June. Prior to this you will be set a deadline by your educational department by which time you need to have everything uploaded and organised in your portfolio. This date usually is at the end of May - the "lockout" date. While your portfolio is not actually frozen / locked, anything that you upload after this date will not count towards your ARCP (however can still be useful and so is worth continuing to get assessments after this point).

But what this means in real terms is that for your last rotation (which starts at the beginning of April), all of your assessments need to be completed within the 1<sup>st</sup> 2 months of this placement, rather than 4 months for every other job. This includes the end of placement meetings with your supervisors, in order to have everything done by the ARCP deadline date.