

# EVENT OVERVIEW: HEALTH EDUCATION NORTH WEST'S MEDICAL CAREERS FAIR 2014

The Careers Team at Health Education North West (HENW), Mersey, held their third annual Medical Careers Fair in the crypt of the Liverpool Metropolitan Cathedral on Saturday 4 October 2014. The fair was held in collaboration with the Wales Deanery and the Careers team from HENW, Manchester, were also in attendance to reflect the convergence of the former deaneries across the local education and training board area of HENW.

There were more than 55 stands with representatives from the Foundation and Specialty Schools, Medical Royal Colleges, and trusts as well as other bodies, such as the Armed Forces and Medical Defence Unions. There were talks delivered in the adjacent hall throughout the day offering career advice to medical students, foundation and other junior doctors (these will be placed on the HENW Mersey website at [www.merseydeanery.nhs.uk/md-careers-advice](http://www.merseydeanery.nhs.uk/md-careers-advice)).

Visitors on the day were newly appointed National Director for Health Education England North, Laura Roberts, and Director of Education and Quality for Health Education England North, Professor Ged Byrne.

Dr Alistair Thomson, Associate Dean for Careers Strategy HENW, Christine Waddelove, Careers Adviser and Rosemary Kenny PA to Dr Thomson expressed themselves extremely pleased with the day and the excellent evaluations they have had from exhibitors and attendees.

*"Feedback from the many who attended the day was very positive. This makes the planning and major organisation for the day worthwhile. I would like to thank all who were involved in its organisation, and especially those from across our HENW area who gave up their Saturday to come to Liverpool to showcase the high quality of our medical training programmes." Dr Thomson*

Attendees were quoted as saying:

*'Fantastic event- allowed me to speak to lots of doctors from different specialties'*

*'A very worthwhile event - the talks were really useful as well'*

*'It was great having the opportunity to have a one-to-one session with an experienced adviser to answer some of my queries'*



## The Careers Teams

The [Health Education North West \(Mersey\) Career Management and Advice Service](#) aims to support doctors in training to manage their careers effectively. Careers information and advice can be provided by educational supervisors, supervising consultants, college/ specialty tutors, directors of medical education and postgraduate centre managers. In addition, the team has a dedicated, professionally qualified careers adviser who will visit your trust and work in conjunction with trust staff to develop careers education, information, advice and guidance for you, to help you with all aspects of your career planning process. The Career Management and Advice Service, in conjunction with Liverpool University Medical School, Mersey Deanery Foundation School and Trusts in the Health Education North West (Mersey) area include the following activities, which are wherever possible, delivered where you are working:

- careers events
- career planning workshops
- careers information, impartial advice and guidance

[HENW's Manchester team](#) performs a similar role. Their website also aims to provide information, signpost sources or help and support for all these eventualities. The most important aspect of any career support is the individual retaining ownership of their own career and this has been core to the site development. While the site is focused on the trainee and personal career management there are areas of use at any stage in your career for helping you support other doctors with career needs.

The [Post Graduate Wales Deanery](#) is responsible for the recruitment of foundation doctors, specialty and general and dental practitioner trainees throughout Wales. You can view their [online DVD](#) Medical Training and Careers in Wales, which also features their specialty training programmes.

## Workshops/Stalls

The event did not have key speakers instead eight short workshops were run, entitled:

### 1. Why do your Foundation Training in Mersey?

What has Mersey got to offer, find out about the different opportunities and trusts if you do your Foundation training with us.

### 2. A Career as a GP

Well over half of all trainees will enter GP 2. training. What's the training like and what is it really like to be a GP.

### 3. How to get ahead of the game in your career? Things you can do to make yourself stand out at medical school and later

Hear from some trainees on the things that you can be do at medical school and foundation to stand out from the crowd.

### 4. Academic medicine – is it for me?

What does academic medicine involve, what are the training routes, how can you prepare to get into this area?

### 5. Working in the Developing World

What's it like, who goes, where can you go – how does it impact on your future career prospects? Hear one trainees experience.

### 6. Developing your Portfolio for Specialty Assessment Centres

The portfolio station is the station you can most prepare for. Find out from a trainee how they did this and tips and hints they have for making your portfolio stand out

### 7. Decision, Decisions

Feel surprised about or in awe of all the decisions that lie ahead in your medical career? This talk will help you to anticipate what you may need to think about when, and to discover strategies to help your personal career decision-making

### 8. Applying to Specialty and beyond

How can you apply and be successful in getting into your chosen specialty. Find out all the useful information that can help you with this process.

## Prizes

Prizes for the best stands on the day were awarded to:

- **First Prize** (sponsored by HENW) - the Merseyside and Cheshire Emergency Medicine team who showed up resplendent in their scrubs!
- **Second Prize** (sponsored by Wesleyan Assurance) - Warrington and Halton Trust, with a paperless stand offering high quality presentations to take away on USB.

## Future Events

The teams have already planned more careers events in 2014 and early 2015, For information on further events it is useful to look at the Medical Careers [Events page](#).

For more information contact:

Dr Alistair Thomson  
Associate Dean Careers Strategy  
[Alistair.thomson@nw.hee.nhs.uk](mailto:Alistair.thomson@nw.hee.nhs.uk)

Christine Waddelove  
Senior Careers Adviser  
[Christine.waddelove@nhs.net](mailto:Christine.waddelove@nhs.net)  
0151 285 4700 / 4701