

## North West SAS Doctors Newsletter

### Issue 5 - May 2021

Welcome to the latest edition of the NW SAS Doctors Newsletter. We hope you are well and enjoying the lighter evenings and (intermittent) sunshine. We're aware that it's been a really busy and challenging time for many over the past few months but hopefully we can all look forward to better times ahead.

Since the last newsletter, we have held a number of virtual events, including:

- Two Welcome Evenings for new SAS doctors
- Delivering Excellence 2020 – a mini-conference, including the 2020 SAS Awards
- Fit for the Future conference, including the 2021 SAS Awards (more details are below)
- Several one day courses

Some of our plans for the rest of the year are outlined within this newsletter, but please do keep an eye out for further details which will be available via email, on the SAS webpage and/or Twitter.

### Fit for The Future – NW SAS Virtual Conference 2021

Our first virtual full day SAS conference was held on 4<sup>th</sup> March 2021, with approximately 100 attendees joining the meeting via Microsoft Teams. There was a range of plenary sessions and workshops, with very positive feedback. Sessions included:

- The Future Doctor
- Introduction to Clinical Informatics
- SAS Doctor Wellbeing
- Genomics in Healthcare
- Telemedicine
- Cultural Competence
- SAS Contract Update



There were high quality oral and poster presentations from submitted abstracts, as well as a very moving reflection on a SAS doctor's experiences during the Covid-19 pandemic.

Despite a few technical challenges, the event was a great success overall, with the vast majority of delegates evaluating the sessions as Excellent or Good.

We are already beginning to plan for our 2022 Conference and will take on board the suggestions made in the feedback from this year's conference.

## SAS Awards

Congratulations to all the nominees and winners of our 2020 and 2021 SAS Awards. As far as we know, the NW is the first region to run such awards and it has been fantastic to be able to celebrate the achievements of our wonderful SAS Doctors, as well as the SAS administrators who are so vital in supporting SAS Doctor development in their trusts. The details from both rounds of awards can be found at <https://www.nwpgmd.nhs.uk/annual-sas-conferences>.

## SAS Specialty Leads

The SAS Specialty Lead role has been established in Palliative Medicine in the NW for some years. We are delighted to report that there are now SAS Specialty Leads in a number of other specialties as well. This new initiative commenced in autumn 2020 and their role complements that of the trust SAS leads by offering specialty-specific advice and guidance to those who would like it. The following specialties currently have SAS Specialty Leads:

- Palliative Medicine
- Gastroenterology
- Obstetrics & Gynaecology
- Emergency Medicine
- Clinical Informatics
- Paediatrics
- Psychiatry
- General Surgery
- Trauma & Orthopaedics
- Urology
- Plastic Surgery
- Oral & Maxillofacial Surgery
- ENT

We are hugely grateful to those who have taken on these voluntary roles. Their contact details can be found at <https://www.nwpgmd.nhs.uk/sas-doctors/sas-trust-leads-tutors>.

## Edge Hill University Postgraduate Certificate in Workplace-Based Postgraduate Medical Education

We are pleased to report that 66 SAS doctors and dentists have now commenced a Postgraduate Certificate in Workplace-Based Postgraduate Medical Education at Edge Hill University, funded through the SAS Development Fund. A few of those who were allocated places for the 2020/21 academic year have needed to defer their start dates for various reasons and will hopefully commence the course in September 2021 instead.

There are still a few places remaining to start in September 2021, so if you would be interested in applying for one of these, then please complete SAS Development Fund Application Form C, which can be found at <https://www.nwpgmd.nhs.uk/sas-doctors/applying-sas-development-fund> and email it to [sasdoctors.nw@hee.nhs.uk](mailto:sasdoctors.nw@hee.nhs.uk) by **22<sup>nd</sup> June 2021**.

### Mind Tools

We have purchased 200 licences for SAS doctors to access Mind Tools. Mind Tools is a suite of management, leadership & personal effectiveness online modules, and further information is available at <https://www.mindtools.com/>.

Most of the licences have been allocated via the trusts who signed up for them, but there are a few available on a first-come-first-served basis for anyone else who would like to access them. Please email [sasdoctors.nw@hee.nhs.uk](mailto:sasdoctors.nw@hee.nhs.uk) if you would like the details of how to register for a licence.

Each licence cost £50, so although they are being provided free of charge, we would ask that you only register for one if you will be able to use it regularly. Most of the modules are very short (10 minutes or less) so can be completed in short sessions when you have a few minutes spare.

### Courses/ Events 2021/22

The course calendar has been updated and details of the courses planned in the region for the next couple of months can be found at [https://www.nwpgmd.nhs.uk/sas\\_calendar](https://www.nwpgmd.nhs.uk/sas_calendar). Further information will be added as more courses are planned.

We are aware that some of the study days organised by HEENW have filled up very quickly and have been oversubscribed. We are planning to run a Training Needs Survey in the next few weeks to help inform the type and number of courses we arrange for the rest of this year. Please do ensure you complete the survey if you would like to access courses arranged by HEENW, as priority for places will be given to those who do so. Details will be circulated by email soon.

### SAS Development Fund

Details of how to apply for SAS Development Funding can be found at <https://www.nwpgmd.nhs.uk/sas-doctors/applying-sas-development-fund>. Applications are reviewed by the Funding Panel on a monthly basis and the submission deadlines are on the webpage. Please ensure you apply well in advance of the course date to allow time for your application to be processed.

### Virtual Welcome Meeting for new SAS Doctors



For all North West SAS Doctors who have recently started in post.  
Information about the support available for SAS Doctor development  
from HEENW and provide an opportunity to meet other new SAS Doctors.

The next Virtual Welcome Meeting for new SAS Doctors will be held on 16<sup>th</sup> September 2021 and further details will be circulated nearer the time.

## Your News and Views

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### Your news and views wanted

We hope you have enjoyed this edition of the NW SAS Doctor newsletter.

We would welcome your feedback on how we can make each edition better for all our SAS Doctors across the north west. Please send any news articles, updates, achievements and announcements to [SASDoctors.NW@hee.nhs.uk](mailto:SASDoctors.NW@hee.nhs.uk)

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