

Updates from ACCEA

Email – June 2020

Dear colleague,

I am writing to update you on our plans for 2020, 2021 and 2022 and to seek your views on those plans.

As you know, Ministers have agreed the suspension of the 2020 national Clinical Excellence Awards round. We will be extending the awards of those due to renew in 2020 by one year, subject to due diligence (please refer to our website for details at

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/extension-to-clinical-excellence-awards-due-to-expire-in-april-2021>). These award holders would now be expected to apply to renew their awards in the 2021 competition and, if successful, would then be recommended for a four-year renewal.

Subject to Ministerial agreement, we don't think it would be practical now to restart the 2020 competition. So, again, subject to confirmation and to ongoing monitoring of COVID-related pressures, we plan to hold an extended 2021 competition, with a lengthened timetable.

We recognise that, as a result of the above, there will be twice as many renewal applications due in 2021 and that there is likely to be an increase in new applications, with the associated additional burden for employers, national nominating bodies and specialist societies and ACCEA itself. To mitigate this, we plan to open an extended application window in November 2020 and close it at the end of January 2021. There will be significantly more work for our scoring sub-committees, so the scoring timetable would also be extended. We will look to boost recruitment of scorers and any help you can provide in this activity would be welcome.

Finally, due to the COVID crisis, the new (revised) scheme is now not expected to be in place until 2022, which matches the also-delayed local CEA reform timeline. We plan to consult on this new scheme for three months over the autumn of 2020.

We are mindful that the next year will continue to be challenging for the NHS and so I hope that you find this update helpful. I would be happy to hear any questions, comments or concerns you may have.

Yours faithfully,

ACCEA Secretariat

Email – June 2020

Dear Colleagues

I hope you have had a good week as we provide an update on our activities. As you will most likely have seen, Professor Kevin Davies has now been formally [announced](#) as our new Medical Director, starting on 1st July. I very much look forward to working with Kevin as we develop our COVID exit

strategy and next steps on national CEA reform and its consultation. I am sure you join me in congratulating him and wishing him a successful and smooth transition from his role at BSMS.

Also, you may have seen that this week we have opened the one year extension [application](#) process. The ACCEA Secretariat have worked very well with the DHSC digital publishing team to put together a simple 5 minute webform for award holders to complete. This will allow us to confirm they remain eligible for their award and that they wish for it to be extended. We are emailing each award holder the link as well as publicising it, but please do publicise this to award holders you know directly and via your subcommittees. So far, over 150 award holders have completed the form, which is a most impressive response in the first day.

Although the 2020 [new] award round remains suspended we expect it will be very difficult to recommence any process within the 2020 timescale, so continue to evaluate the best way to compensate for the loss of the 2020 round and mitigate its impact in 2021 from both an equity and financial perspective. We are putting together our submission to the minister to cover this scenario. This submission should include our proposals for the reform consultation also as our meeting on that topic was deferred due to the pandemic. As previously mentioned we hope to launch the consultation later in 2020 and any new scheme in 2022 in line with the expected changes to local awards / introduction of 'performance pay'.

As we plan for our mitigation activities later this year and for 2021, we are mindful that the next award round will most likely have a higher number of new applicants and double the usual number of renewals. We are thus closely looking at subcommittee scorer numbers to ensure that subcommittees can cope with higher numbers of applications and are considering ways to more flexibly manage scorer groups based on workload. It will however be imperative that as many subcommittee members actively score as possible. We are looking at opportunities for training sessions before the next round opens and recruiting new scorers where possible; maintaining our focus on ensuring that subcommittee diversity represents the wider population.

You may remember we discussed involving subcommittees in some of the specific planning for the reform work. We had suggested this would occur as focus groups during the 2020 scoring governance meetings, so are now considering alternative options for this. As we refine these plans, we will of course keep you informed.

As ever please do let me or any of the secretariat know if you have any comments or questions as we navigate these unusual times. I wish everyone a pleasant weekend and for those colleagues working within the NHS and allied essential areas, our grateful thanks and appreciation for your dedication to your work and our best wishes to you all to stay safe.

Best wishes

Stuart

Dr Stuart Dollow

Chair, Advisory Committee on Clinical Excellence Awards