

Comments

This study shows that the majority of trainees in a well organised scheme go on to succeed in the MRCPsych examination. This was true for both the UK and overseas graduates. The majority of those who succeeded in the examination obtained senior registrar, lecturer or research posts.

There is evidence that overseas graduates perform poorly in the MRCPsych examination (Cawley, 1986). This is also true for the MRCGP examination (Wakeford *et al*, 1992). There are also four times as many UK graduates still occupying registrar posts following success in the MRCPsych examination (Bhate *et al*, 1986). Our findings do not support these previous reports. However, we were unable to examine methodically whether overseas graduates needed many more attempts at the MRCPsych examination or senior registrar interviews before succeeding in either.

The proportions of overseas graduates working in the grade of registrar or below in psychiatry may be as high as 65% (Bhate *et al*, 1986). However, it is notable that only 41% of trainees in our scheme were overseas graduates and it could be argued that they were not representative of overseas graduates as a whole, but rather were a highly selected group who were likely to succeed anyway. While this may be true, it is also likely to be the case that the quality of training offered on the All Birmingham Scene contributed to the success of all the trainees,

irrespective of where they initially gained their medical qualifications.

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The 1993 Rudolph K. Freudenberg Lecture

This lecture will be given by Professor Julian Leff on *Community Psychiatry: Dream or Nightmare* on 29 April 1993 and the **Annual Day Conference in Psychiatric Rehabilitation in the Community** will be held on 10 June 1993. Both events will be held at the Postgraduate Medical Centre, East Surrey Hospital,

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