

to provide more support and perhaps referrals for legal advice for members in difficulty. We are confident that ways will be found to overcome financial and legal restraints in pursuing this objective.

Last year saw further expansion of BAPIO into other regions including Wales. Local divisions provide us with local and regional perspectives on national issues affecting our colleagues. We have embarked upon a series of conferences and workshops across various regions to provide forums for sharing views, examples of good practices and enhancing professional skills of our colleagues. Over the next few months we will be unfolding a Mentoring initiative to support our colleagues often working in isolation and in need of guidance.

HUGE DEMAND FOR BAPIO MMC TRAINING COURSES

The training courses for making application to MMC; organised by BAPIO in different parts of the country is attracting hundreds of junior doctors. The course is prepared and conducted by eminent faculty including Prof. Romesh Gupta and Dr Umesh Prabhu.



The Preston course on 22nd of December was fully packed and well appreciated.

The Birmingham course is on 10th of January and the Basildon one on 13th of January. Last few seats are available for these courses. Please contact Michelle.WAREHAM@lthtr.nhs.uk for further information.



Following our Annual General Meeting, the newly elected Executive Committee established *policy, projects and engagement process* as three core priority working areas. Dedicated people have been appointed to lead each of them. This was done to make the organisation more inclusive as well as to harness potential that exists in our midst. BAPIO is fortunate to have a pool of committed people with skills and knowledge who are willingly prepared to give up their time and energies for our organisation. BAPIO Action Ltd and BAPIO Ltd, the two new formal projects were established to take some of the initiatives forward.

The NHS is in a phase of enormous change and the morale of the professionals is at a low. The New Year, like every year brings new opportunities and barriers, which need to be addressed by the Association. I believe that 'people are our most valuable asset', thus we will be embarking upon a "membership drive" to increase engagement and support for BAPIO. *Harmony e-Newsletter*, *Energy* and *Indi_go* discussion forums have played a major role as a communication tool with the membership. I thank you all for your contributions.

Finally, may I take this opportunity to thank all the members of the Executive Committee, Chairman, Vice-Chairmen, Directors, and the Divisional Chairs, moderators, webmasters, the legal action team as well as many other volunteers for their contribution towards making it a successful year for BAPIO. We are grateful to the Honorary Corporate Advisor and Administrative staff without whose support BAPIO would not have been able to make strategic progress.

Dr Ramesh Mehta
President- BAPIO

Have you paid your membership fee?

BAPIO request all its members who haven't yet paid the annual membership fee to do the same at the earliest. Also don't forget to put the payment on a standing order so that you don't have to remember this next year

Membership application form can be downloaded at <http://www.bapio.co.uk/>



Champagne reception and dinner

Followed by a cultural programme

**Tuesday
27th March 2007
in York**

Chief Guest
Professor Patricia Hamilton
President RCPCH

INVITATION

to all BAPIO members,
friends and families

Cost: £35.00 per person

(Price includes coach travel to and from the venue, champagne on arrival, exquisite Indian meal, wine, beer, soft drinks and a superb cultural programme).

To book a place please: Send your name (partners and other guests are very welcome), address and contact telephone number along with your cheque (made payable to "BAPIO") to: **Mr Aaron Barham, Conference Organiser, RCPCH, 50 Hallam Street, London, W1W 6DE**

For further information please contact: info@bapio.co.uk Tel: 01234 792256 or hazel.collard@bedfordhospital.nhs.uk



BAPIO-ACTION SITE GETS POPULAR!

The website created by BAPIO exclusively for the legal action has crossed 39000 hits over just a few months. The user-friendly site with all the details and updates of the court case can also be used to donate money for the legal action fund and to join BAPIO.

You can also participate in the discussions and chat on the site.

Visit the web site www.bapioaction.moonfruit.com

Thanks to Sajayan the webmaster!



Dukhi' s Corner

So, finally the year 2006 is gone with what some people would describe as a 'bad year'! I could not make it out if I felt so miserable because of the anxiety over the new unfair work-permit visa regulations or just that there were not enough vacancies for the IMGs in the NHS.

Even as we want to take a breath of satisfaction that BAPIO's Legal Team, with the support of the IMGs, has made a history in challenging the Government; for us the Dukhi Atamas the waiting game till the Judge rules on the Judicial Review is most torturous period.

We share disappointment with our colleagues who's hopes were dashed and had to go back to their own villages and cities broken hearted.

I was scanning my local paper to see the highs and lows of the year in my county. The state of NHS hospitals and other services came up again and again as if we were sleep walking in to a fairy land of reformed system that was efficient and fit for the needs of 20th Century. Only the time will tell if this was true!

The year ends with the news of departure of Sir Nigel Crisp as Chief Executive of NHS Plc and Lord Warner as a Minister from DoH. We enter the new Year, full of hopes and aspirations. Our work in BAPIO to tackle inequality will continue. Perhaps, our team looked straight in the eyes of a politician when they finally met Lord Warner as if telling him in not so much in words but a stare that no more we can tolerate this kind of exploitation that has left many professionals in chaos and turmoil. And, this is just the first decade of this new millennium.

DukhiAtma



Feedback & suggestions to Dr Sajayan (sajayan@gmail.com)

BRITISH ASSOCIATION OF PHYSICIANS OF INDIAN ORIGIN

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