

Leadership in Psychiatry: Seizing the Opportunity

This session, led by Dr Fiona Mason and Dr Laurence Mynors-Wallis, focused on the obligation of psychiatrists at all career stages to take ownership of their leadership roles for the benefit of patients.

- Designed as a listening exercise to understand how the Royal College of Psychiatrists can best support and develop psychiatric leaders and managers, the key conclusions of the session were:
- Quality and patient safety should be placed firmly at the heart of medical leadership and management. Linking these imperatives with the leadership agenda will make it easier to understand and to deliver.
- Different constituencies have different roles and different developmental needs, which must be supported appropriately.
- Psychiatrists need to engage with acute services and to learn from non-medical leadership.
- It is possible to be both a team player and a leader, and a balance should be maintained in the interests of championing high quality patient care.
- The practical skills of leadership sit crucially alongside clinical skills.

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