



THE LDA NEWSLETTER

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HAVE YOUR INPUT INTO THIS NEWSLETTER.

- * Send your writings to the Editor Miss S. Somjee at the above address or e-mail.
- * We want:
- * Articles
- * Quips/ quotes
- * Cartoons
- * Stories
- * Letters
- * Tips
- * Comments
- * ANYTHING YOU WISH TO VOICE

THIS IS A REALLY DEMOCRATIC PLATFORM

LDA IS A TRADE UNION

On 13th February 2002 LDA became a trade union. We are the first TU of locum hospital doctors and a TU dominated by ethnic diversity doctors. We are the only TU of our kind in the world..

We now have the potential to achieve all we want, but this is not automatic. We must all work hard. Each member must do their bit. Locums tend to be lax about professional issues and this has cost them their career. This is to be learnt from. We must not sit complacent.

LDA is holding its first elections under TU law in September. The executive remains unchanged in

number. We are creating working groups for each issue. A paper is enclosed on it.

JOIN SOME WORKING GROUPS.

IT WILL BE GOOD EXPERIENCE. The skills needed for these activities are the same that are required for NHS appointments. This is an opportunity for CPD for you..

SHOW INITIATIVE AND LEADERSHIP

EMAIL SHEHNAZ IF YOU WISH TO JOIN A Working Group.

SHOW THE WORLD WHAT LOCUMS CAN DO !!!

LDA has already commenced discussions and negotiations with Locum Agencies.

We are already liaising with SSR Services and the Locum Group.

Our members can expect better deals from the agencies we have agreements with. We hope to do this with most or all agencies.

Medics Inc is doing a joint updated Induction pack with us.. This will be an excellent comprehensive pack and will be widely circulated. In the NHS. No Trust will have any excuse for not providing induction to locums after that.

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**DRINK LDA'S "LOCUM COFFEE" (See inside for our special recipe)**

**LDA' MAIN ACTIVITIES TO DATE IN 2002**

- ◆ Reorganisation and creation of working groups.
- ◆ Response to GMC consultations.
- ◆ Response to ESMQO amendment. (more inside)
- ◆ Negotiation with locum agencies.
- ◆ Attending NCAA and DOH meetings (CMO's Racial Equality Group).
- ◆ Assisting members in dispute.

## THE ESMQO AMENDMENT SCANDAL

Since LDA was founded, we have campaigned hard for the European Specialist Medical Qualifications Order to be amended to enable locums a fair chance to get on to the Specialist Register.

There are hundreds of high quality doctors in the UK who are being denied substantive jobs for non-merit reasons.

There is supposed to be a manpower crisis in the NHS but instead of giving us the opportunity to fill these posts, the NHS wants overseas doctors from

the first world. Only doctors who have caused disasters and are unfit to work in countries like USA, Canada and Australia will come to work here. The NHS will then make the public suffer at their hands as Professor Van Veltzen of Alder Hey Hospital did.

In December 2001, finally proposals for amendment were released. No they do not want to amend Article 12 about Mediated entry. They want to amend Article 9 to enable the import of these first world doctors. This is a repeat of injustice.

LDA put its response strongly warning there would be legal actions against this amendment. The amendment without a corresponding amendment to Article 12 will discriminate against locums and could be challenged under the Human Rights Act 1998. We advise our members to prepare for this.

LDA resolves to continue fighting till justice is done.

**WE WANT EQUAL RECOGNITION FOR EQUAL WORK**

Are we asking for something wrong?

## REPORT FROM THE CMO'S RACIAL EQUALITY GROUP

Sir Liam Donaldson set up this group last year to look at racism in the NHS. LDA was invited to it. LDA chair Shehnaz Somjee provided the CMO with a huge list of problems in this area. 95-98% of hospital locums in the UK are ethnic minority doctors.

Racism has been encountered in hospitals, the GMC, BUPA and the private sector, the BMA which is the trade union of doc-

tors! the Royal Colleges, STA, Medical defence bodies, locum agencies and from patients.

A report has been prepared which will be finalised shortly. This will recommend positive action to deal with discrimination in all these areas. LDA's concerns have been included in this.

**DISCRIMINATION IS MORE EXPENSIVE. IT IS CHEAPER TO BE FAIR.**

## TIPS FOR LOCUMS (The locum coffee that perks you up)

\* **DO YOU HAVE DISAGREEMENTS WITH HOSPITALS OR AGENCIES IN A JOB?**  
Let LDA's coffee wake you up !!!

**BREW:** Do not accept jobs point bank. Check every detail BEFORE agreeing to do it. Prevention is better than cure. Often there is no easy cure here.

**ADD COFFEE TO CUP:** DO NOT SIGN unless fully satisfied. If you sign it you are legally bound by it. Do not cry afterwards if the coffee is too bitter. You will have to endure it whether you like it or not.

**ADD SUGAR AND MILK:** Make the deal as attractive as possible from the start. If in doubt seek advice from LDA first.

**STIR WELL:** Do not presume that things never change, NHS changes daily now. If you live in the past, your present deal will cause you to suffer. Most locums live in past dreams sadly. They must wake up. **ENJOY YOUR COFFEE**

## IT TRAINING IS A MUST FOR ALL DOCTORS

We have learnt that many locums do not use computers and do not have IT skills.

This is a serious disadvantage and needs to be rectified if you are to continue your career in the NHS.

If you cannot use computers it means:

- ⇒ You do little or no research.
- ⇒ You do no proper audit.
- ⇒ You cannot communicate by email.
- ⇒ You do not update your knowledge via internet journals.
- ⇒ You cannot a literature search.
- ⇒ You cannot wordprocess and would have poor writing skills.
- ⇒ You cannot do powerpoint presentations which are compulsory at SpR interviews now.

△ You are yesterday's doctor. You are less than average today. You will not be fit to practise tomorrow.

**IT IS IN EVERYONE'S INTERESTS TO GET IT TRAINING.**

This can be arranged free or inexpensively, and is provided by many hospitals.

Good news. Everyone working in the NHS will soon have access to free IT training. This will be done by the European Computer Driving Licence (ECDL) scheme. It will be available nationally this summer. Meanwhile it is still available in a scheme managed by the NHS Information Authority.

For details contact: The NHS Information Authority on 088453 660066 or on

Information@nhsiahs.uk

IT technology will be fully integrated into the NHS. Log books will be electronic. All data wilol be electronic in future so do not fail your revalidation, get IT skills now.

***WE ADVISE ALL MEMBERS TO GET EMAIL.***



LDA will be setting up electronic debates and conferences in the future.

**DO YOU HAVE ANY SKILLS TO OFFER?**

**LDA NEEDS SKILLED MEMBERS.**

**SERVE THE HEALTH SERVICE IN A SPECIAL WAY BY WORKING TO IMPROVE QUALITY FOR ALL.**

**A NEW MEMBER DR SHREEDHAR SAID:**

*"It is not what LDA can do for me but what I can do for LDA"*

### RESEARCH ON ASIAN DOCTORS

Minna Sedmakov is a postgraduate student in Human Geography at King's College London and doing a Masters dissertation concerning Asian doctors. Minna would like to interview 50 doctors of Asian background in London. There is a deadline for this—September 2002.

It could be interesting. If a research highlights problems, they get authentic documentation and recognition. Unless issues are recognised they will never be addressed or resolved.

If anyone wishes to participate, please contact Minna directly as below:

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We hope Minna will not be disappointed.

LDA

DO NOT FORGET  
YOUR 2002  
SUBSCRIPTION

Phone: 07850-574961

Email: lda@blueyonder.co.uk

EQUAL RECOGNITION FOR  
EQUAL WORK

LDA HAS A WEBSITE  
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Members section needs a  
password. Get yours today  
for free.

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<http://www.ldaonline.org.uk>

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