

**HKCFP Visiting Professor in Family Medicine  
Family Medicine Unit, The University of Hong Kong  
December 3 to 10, 2010**

## *Professor Amanda Howe*



Professor Howe works at the University of East Anglia in Norwich in the East of England. She was one of the foundation appointments for the new medical school, which opened there in 2002. She leads an active research and teaching programme in primary care for the Faculty of Health, which now has several millions of grants in a wide ranging research programme. Her main research interests are in medical education and in primary care mental health. She was Course Director for the MB/BS from 2005-2008, and is now the 'Professionalism and Fitness to Practice' Lead, which includes dealing with problems with student behaviour and health which may impair their fitness to practise.

She divides her time between a day a week as a family medicine practitioner, 2 days a week of teaching and research, and 2 days a week as an Officer of the Royal College of Practitioners where she was elected as Honorary Secretary for a 6 year term from 2009. Until recently she was Chair of the U.K. Society for Academic Primary Care, and also Chair of a Working Party for the World Organization of Family Doctors ('Wonca') on Women and Family Medicine.

Programme	Date	Time	Venue
FM Honorary Teachers Meeting <b>"Teaching Professionalism to Medical Students in the Surgery"</b>	Dec 4, 2010 (Saturday)	1:00 – 4:00 p.m.	Jade Room, 6/F, Marco Polo Hongkong Hotel, Tsimshatsui, Kowloon (Lunch Included)
HKCFP CME Meeting <b>"Doctors' Mental Health"</b>	Dec 5, 2010 (Sunday)	1:00 – 4:00 p.m.	Crystal Ballroom, Basement 3, Holiday Inn Golden Mile Hotel, Tsim Sha Tsui, (Lunch Included)
HKU- CUHK Joint FM Research Meeting <b>"Research in Primary Care"</b>	Dec 6, 2010 (Monday)	5:30 – 7:00 p.m.	Family Medicine Unit, 3/F, Ap Lei Chau Clinic 161 Main St, Ap Lei Chau (Refreshments)
Faculty of Medicine Seminar <b>"Professionalism and Fitness to Practice"</b>	Dec 7, 2010 (Tuesday)	12:30 – 2:00 p.m.	Seminar Room 5 Laboratory Block HKU Faculty of Medicine 21 Sassoon Road, Pokfulam (Sandwich Lunch)
Assuring Excellence in Medical Education Conference <b>"Quality Assurance of Professionalism – Whose Problem Is It?"</b>	Dec 10, 2010 (Friday)	2:00 – 2:40 p.m.	Cheung Kung Hai Conference Centre G/F William MW Mong Block, Faculty of Medicine Building 21 Sassoon Road, Pokfulam

**\*\*\*All honorary teachers of the FMU are welcome to attend all events\*\*\***

**FM Honorary Teachers' Meeting (Saturday, Dec 4)  
"Teaching Professionalism to Medical Students in the Surgery"**

All medical schools in the U.K. now have patient contact in the early years of training, most of which is provided by family medicine<sup>i</sup>. Family medicine has been shown to be a good role model for helping students to develop an empathic and personal approach to patients<sup>ii</sup>, and if utilised appropriately it can be a very valuable setting for developing professional responses and values as well as clinical knowledge<sup>iii</sup>. This talk will address the need to ensure patient consent to student contact and the value of meeting in community settings over a longitudinal period, to help students gain respect for patients and family medicine, and to understand the social determinants of health. We shall also discuss what hard work this can be to do well!

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**HKCFP CME Meeting (Sunday, Dec 5)  
"Doctors' Mental Health"**

Mental health problems, especially mild to moderate depression and anxiety, are common in all populations. Part of medical training is about learning to cope with the stresses of clinical practice, including uncertainty, suffering, high workload, institutional tensions, interpersonal dynamics and emotional demands. It is well known that doctors have high rates of burnout and addictions, but also many are heroic and high achieving. The ways in which attempt to train our students and juniors to be mentally healthy while sustaining our professional responsibilities, and the need for effective team support and reflective discussion will be the focus of the talk and debate.

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**HKU-CUHK Joint FM Research Meeting (Monday, Dec 6)  
"Research in Primary Care"**

Most FM practitioners need to be able to use research, teach evidence based practice, and to help with research: and some need to be full time academics. The U.K. has only had family medicine as an academic discipline for the last 50 years, and primary care research remains relatively poorly funded in spite of the large number of studies and wide breadth of topics it now covers<sup>iv</sup>. For successful primary care research, as many family medicine clinics as possible need to recruit patients to studies so that the research is ecologically valid. We also need to identify, develop and support academic competencies in all our learners and colleagues, including being flexible for the careers of those capable of becoming leading academics. Finally, we need to avoid becoming the 'providers' of patients for studies led by other specialities and non – FM organisations, as these frequently do not answer the clinical questions our patients need us to help to address.

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**Faculty of Medicine seminar (Tuesday, Dec 7)  
"Professionalism and Fitness to Practice"**

The emphasis on professional as well as academic competency at graduation is relatively recent in the U.K. but has been strongly directed by the GMC as the accrediting body for all U.K. medical schools<sup>v</sup>. The speaker has led on this area for her current medical school, has hosted several research studies on this issue<sup>vi, vii, viii</sup> and will summarise her experience to date with tentative recommendations for others developing systems for professionalism and fitness to practise. She will also show data from the UEA medical school students to demonstrate the type and amount of problems arising in this area, and compare this with GMC experiences to date.

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**Assuring Excellence in Medical Education Conference (Friday, Dec 10)**  
**“Quality Assurance of Professionalism – Whose Problem is It?”**

Quality assurance can be defined as “a framework to monitor, evaluate and improve a system to ensure it delivers its intended goals to the required standard”. In the context of medical professionalism, we are asked to define and deliver “ a set of values, behaviours and relationships that underpin the trust the public has in doctors”<sup>ix</sup>. This keynote lecture will use examples from U.K. undergraduate and postgraduate settings to illustrate the opportunities and challenges inherent in quality assurance of clinical professionalism, and to examine whether technical and rational approaches to professionalism aid or hinder quality assurance of medical practice. The speaker will draw on her own research and professional experience as a family medicine practitioner and academic leader whose research into professionalism has worked with patient, student and tutor perspectives, to outline principles which participants will be able to utilise in their own settings.

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## References

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<sup>i</sup>Hopayian K, **Howe A**, Dagley V. A survey of UK medical schools’ arrangements for early patient contact. *Medical Teacher*, 2008;29:806-13.

<sup>ii</sup> Howe, A. **Patient-centred medicine through student-centred teaching – a student perspective on the key impacts of community-based learning in undergraduate medical education.** *Medical Education* 2001; 35:666-672

<sup>iii</sup> **Howe A.** Twelve Tips for developing professional attitudes in training. *Medical Teacher*, 2003; 25(5):485-487.

<sup>iv</sup> U.K. Primary Care Research Portfolio Review [http://www.sspc.ac.uk/sspc\\_docs.htm](http://www.sspc.ac.uk/sspc_docs.htm)

<sup>v</sup> General Medical Council (2007). *Medical students: professional behaviour and fitness to practise*. London;GMC.

<sup>vi</sup> Professional development in undergraduate medical curricula - the key to the door of a new culture? *Medical Education*, 2002; 36(4):353-359.

<sup>vii</sup> **Howe A**, Barrett A, Leinster S. How medical students demonstrate their professionalism when reflecting on experience. *Medical Education* 2009; 43: 942–951

<sup>viii</sup> **Howe A**, Miles S, Wright S, Leinster S. Putting theory into practice – a case study in one U.K. medical school of the nature and extent of unprofessional behaviour over a six year period. In press to *Medical Teacher*

<sup>ix</sup> Royal College of Physicians (2005). *Doctors in society: medical professionalism in a changing world*. Report of a Working Party of the Royal College of Physicians of London, London, Royal College of Physicians.