

Communications

All change

With John Martin's retirement in May and Steve Fouch taking over as the new Head of Communications in June, it has been a time of transition for the Communications team.

We have been busy over the spring and the summer getting a new edition of *Foundations* published. This is an update on the last edition, slightly larger with some new sections and revisions to reflect the changes in GMC guidance and training requirements for junior doctors. Copies will be landing on the doorsteps of F1s over August. You can also order a copy from the CMF bookstore. A great gift idea for a young Christian doctor, especially if they are not a member!

Philip Martin, our Senior Digital Producer, continues to expand our range of videos, and is producing a range of training videos on different topics. We are also overhauling the website homepage, publications and article pages. We hope to go live with these changes over the autumn. In the meantime, if you have a burning issue that you want to write about, or a story to share more widely, do get in touch. We would love to hear from you on comms@cmf.org.uk

Final year students: welcome to the profession

Congratulations to all of our final year nursing and medical students who passed their last exams, placements and have been on elective. All the years of hard work and study have paid off - welcome to the profession. Wishing those starting foundation jobs or preceptorships this August all the very best.

Here is a relevant prayer from Colossians 1:9-10: 'For this reason, since the day we heard about you, we have not stopped praying for you. We continually ask God to fill you with the knowledge of his will through all the wisdom and understanding that the Spirit gives, so that you may live a life worthy of the Lord and please him in every way: bearing fruit in every good work, growing in the knowledge of God.'

Advocacy

A challenging year

We can't remember a time in CMF when we faced more public policy challenges all at once. It's further evidence of the rapid secularisation of Britain and the escalating hostility to Christian faith and values.

The public policy team of Philippa Taylor, Rick Thomas, Steve Fouch and Peter Saunders have been busy handling media interviews, writing submissions to official consultations, preparing resources for members and working in partnership with other organisations to effect change.

Through the Care Not Killing Alliance, we have been involved in interventions in three major court cases on end-of-life issues. The Divisional Court judgement on 'Omid' (seeking to legalise assisted suicide) and the Supreme Court judgement on 'Y' (seeking to bypass the courts for decisions on removing feeding tubes from patients with persistent vegetative state (PVS) and minimally conscious state (MCS)) are still awaited.

However, the Conway Court of Appeal case (also on assisted suicide) delivered a fantastic judgement which left the law unchanged (see *Triple Helix* for more detail). An attempt to legalise assisted suicide and euthanasia on the island of Guernsey was also defeated when deputies voted 24 to 14 against and 37 to 1 in favour of improving palliative care services.

The pressure to liberalise abortion laws throughout the British Isles is relentless.

Aside from the campaigns to decriminalise abortion completely throughout Britain and stop pro-life vigils and counselling outside abortion clinics plans are well underway to weaken the law in Ireland (by repealing the eighth Amendment) and Northern Ireland (through a Supreme Court case aimed at putting pressure on the currently defunct Stormont assembly to loosen the law).

There are also moves to introduce medical home abortions in Wales and Scotland and to roll out NIPT (non-invasive prenatal testing) which will effectively eliminate children with Down's syndrome before birth.

A new consultation aimed at allowing people to change gender legally simply on the basis of self-identification has just been launched for England and Wales and a similar one in Scotland is about to report.

Following the implementation of 'opt out' organ transplantation in Wales, a further consultation is asking how it should be rolled out in Scotland.

Meanwhile, a bill attempting to increase conscience protection for Christian doctors over abortion, end-of-life treatment and embryo research, appears to have run out of parliamentary time.

Please pray for staff and members involved in all of these debates and make use of our literature and especially the CMF Blogs to keep up with the latest developments and to be better informed and engaged.

Junior doctors' conference 26-28 October 2018

'Life in a hostile world' is the theme for the 2018 CMF junior doctors' conference. It will once again be held at Hothorpe Hall, set in beautiful rural Leicestershire.



The main speaker is Rev Mohan Seevaratnam, a GP in Harrow, north-west London who has worked as a missionary in Sri Lanka. As usual there will be a

great array of seminars, good food and fine fellowship.

Full details can be found online. Places are limited so don't miss out - please book online at: cmf.org.uk/juniors/events

hellos and goodbyes



Georgina Lawton

Georgina Lawton joins us as Associate Head of Nursing. She is based in the Midlands and will be working with student and qualified nurses in the North and Midlands from October.

Georgina is a staff nurse at Royal Stoke University Hospital and is actively involved with the leadership of a local church.



Steve Fouch

Steve Fouch has stepped sideways from Connections Manager to Head of Communications since June. He continues to handle CMF's social media and website as well as taking on the wider work of the Comms team.



Maryna Stolyarchuk

Volunteer **Maryna Stolyarchuk**, who worked with Comms, Volunteers and CMF Global over the summer, has left to take up the next steps in her career.