

their decision to specialise in psychiatry were statistically more likely to feel this way in their first year of residency ( $p$ -value  $<0.001$ ). This study had its limitations, including the generalisability of findings and the sociodemographic factors of participants. The self-reported methodology could have subjected findings to bias, including social desirability bias.

**Conclusion.** Multiple sociodemographic factors influence the decision to specialise in psychiatry in the UAE. These findings would be helpful to identify hurdles faced by the young UAE clinicians in choosing psychiatry, partly explaining the dearth of UAE-trained psychiatrists in the country. Further research is required to study these reasons in detail, helping to improve the recruitment and retention of UAE psychiatrists in the future.

### Establishing an Old Age Liaison Psychiatry Network

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**Aims.** Our aim is to establish a network for clinicians working in or with an interest in the growing specialty of old age liaison psychiatry to provide peer support (inclusive of disciplines and geography) and access to CPD opportunities, to raise the profile of this subspecialty and enable it to continue to develop, to facilitate collaboration and integration with related disciplines and pathways and to strengthen the voice of clinicians in lobbying for improvements in mental health services for older people in the general hospital.

**Methods.** Old Age Liaison Psychiatry is a growing subspecialty in the UK and nationally, following widespread investment in development of liaison services in line with Department of Health strategy. With this expansion comes an increasing need for continuous professional development, networking and collaboration opportunities in order to nurture the specialty and those working in it.

**Results.** Over 100 people registered for the initial webinar, and many more have watched the recording. Since the webinar the network has grown to 350 members. The webinars were received very positively, with many suggestions made for topics to be covered at future events.

**Conclusion.** The network has been established successfully and founders are now planning future events with the support of the Royal College of Psychiatrists, including a half day learning event in late 2022.

### The Evaluation of North Wales SPiCE: Special Preparation in CASC Examination

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**Aims.** As part of the effort to support core psychiatry trainees in North Wales to prepare for their CASC (Clinical Assessment and Skill Competency) exam, the North Wales SPiCE (Special Preparation in CASC Examination) Project has been initiated. This article aims to evaluate the SPiCE based on medical educational principles.

**Methods.** A total of five candidates preparing for the CASC exam expressed interest and an organising committee was set up. Examiners consisted of a consultant and four specialist registrars while role players were recruited from non-exam sitting junior trainees. Five mock CASC stations were written and role-players were calibrated accordingly. The stations included: History taking for a patient with FTD (frontotemporal lobe dementia), MSE (Mental state examination) of a patient with mania and psychosis, explanation of CBT (cognitive-behavioural therapy), breaking bad news of NMS (neuroleptic malignant syndrome), and explanation of ECT (electroconvulsive therapy). The mock exam was conducted virtually using Microsoft Teams™. The specialist registrars' performances in feedback provision were assessed for their teaching using the AOT (Assessment of Teaching) form by the consultants. For core trainees who had played the part of organising committee members and role players, their volunteerism and educational management experience were assessed using the DONCS (Direct Observation of Non-clinical Skill) form by specialist trainees.

**Results.** All five candidates passed all the stations (consists of both borderline pass, pass) in the mock exam with 25% improvements in confidence level were seen among candidates in four stations, i.e. ECT explanation, breaking bad news of NMS, CBT explanation, and MSE of a patient with mania and psychosis. All candidates feel the SPiCE programme was useful in helping their final preparation and they would recommend it to other candidates. Four of the candidates sat for the immediate CASC diet after the SPiCE received a pass result. All specialist registrars received positive AOT feedback for their teaching and all non-exam sitting junior trainees received positive DONCS feedback for their spirit of volunteerism and collaborative teamwork.

**Conclusion.** The main strength of the SPiCE project is it utilises existing resources and volunteerism of the organising committee while its main limitation is it has only five stations rather than 16 stations in the real exam. Although the mock exam has improved the confidence of candidates and the majority of candidates pass the exam immediately after that, the causal link between the SPiCE and candidates' results cannot be conclusively established given all candidates have a good baseline.

### Postgraduate Psychiatry Training Programme in Morocco

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**Aims.** The field of psychiatry in Morocco has grown significantly since the 1970s, from less than 10 psychiatrists to the current number of around 400. The increased number of practising psychiatrists has enabled the expansion of local residency training programmes, which has been set up since 1974 to cater for the population needs of more than 36 million population of Morocco. This study is aimed to describe the current medical educational approach of the Moroccan postgraduate psychiatry training programme.