



Support by the Clinical Genetics Society for consultant members being nominated for Clinical Excellence Awards (ACCEA)

May 2010

Although consultants are able to nominate themselves for consideration for a Clinical Excellence Award, specialist societies are also invited to submit and support nominations directly to the Advisory Committee on Clinical Excellence Awards (ACCEA). The CGS will be following other specialist societies in supporting members' nominations for the higher clinical excellence awards (levels 9-12, bronze to platinum or equivalent in Scotland).

Notes on the CEA scheme <http://www.dh.gov.uk/ab/ACCEA/index.htm>

The objectives of the Clinical Excellence Award scheme are:

To reward individuals **who perform over and above the standard expected of a consultant in their post**, and who locally, nationally or internationally:-

- demonstrate sustained commitment to patient care and wellbeing or improving public health;
- sustain high standards in the technical and clinical aspects of service whilst providing patient-centred care;
- in their day-to-day practice, demonstrate a clear commitment to the values and goals of the NHS by participating actively in annual job planning and observing the Private Practice Code of Conduct such that they:
 - show a commitment to achieving agreed service objectives;
 - through active participation in clinical governance, contribute to continuous improvement in service organisation and delivery;
 - embrace the principles of evidence-based practice;
 - contribute to the knowledge base through research;
 - are recognised as exceptional teachers and/or trainers and/or managers;
 - contribute to policy making and planning in health care.

It is not expected that individuals will meet all of these objectives: much will depend on the nature of each post.

There are twelve levels of award, the first eight of which (Levels 1-8) are recommended by local committees and the last three of which (Levels 10-12) are awarded by the national ACCEA and its sub-committees. Either the ACCEA or the local committees, depending on the type of achievement being recognised, may award level 9.

Clinical Genetics Society Procedure

- 1 CGS will seek expressions of interest in being supported by CGS citation through a call by email in summer (or as required to comply with ACCEA procedures). As the results of a year's round of nominations may not be known until July, the CGS has to start the process for seeking nominations for the following year without knowing which consultants have been successful in the previous round. There is also the possibility that the detailed procedure for accepting nominations for the following awards round might be changed, but CGS needs to draw up a list of names in readiness for the December submission deadline. Communication will be by electronic means so if consultants know of others who are eligible and may not be aware of this process, please suggest to them that they contact the Society directly.



- 2 The form in the appendix should be completed electronically and returned to frances.flinter@gstt.nhs.uk, the officer responsible for the Society procedure. There appears to be a feeling from other specialist societies that the chance of being awarded a national level 9-12 award is unlikely before 10 years in a consultant post, and that progression to higher levels is unlikely within five years from a previous award. Applicants are often unsuccessful on their first attempt and have to re-apply in subsequent years.
- 3 The CGS Clinical Excellence Awards Committee will review the expressions of interest, and may also consider requesting information from consultants who have not applied. The CGS Clinical Excellence Awards Committee will be the executive committee and/or senior award holders who are not applying for awards themselves that year.
- 4 The committee will draw up a ranked list, which is confidential. No feedback will be given to candidates who were unable to be supported during that round. ACCEA would probably expect CGS to support between 4-6 members across the spectrum of national awards.
- 5 Nominees to be supported by the CGS will be asked by the CGS Clinical Excellence Awards Committee to complete a nomination form, available from the ACCEA website, which has to be submitted directly to ACCEA in electronic form. Applications are processed electronically and it is the nominee's responsibility to ensure that all the components of their application are submitted within the deadlines published on the ACCEA website. The nominee is advised to study carefully the guidance on the information which would particularly support the criteria on which the award is based, as found at <http://www.dh.gov.uk/ab/ACCEA/index.htm>
- 6 Citations in support of the CGS nominated consultants will be prepared by the Clinical Excellence Awards Committee.

ACCEA notes that Societies will make their most important contribution by highlighting the work done by a candidate in that specialty, and its wider influence. There is less point in Societies drawing attention to the work of a candidate locally since ACCEA receives detailed information on this from the employer. A specialist society is particularly asked to emphasise *in what way* the consultant meets the strict criteria that will be applied to any of the following four domains:

 - delivering a high quality service
 - developing a high quality service
 - managing a high quality service
 - contributing to the NHS through research, teaching and training.
- 7 The CGS will submit its list in ranked order and confidential citations directly to ACCEA (or the equivalent bodies for Scotland and Northern Ireland). The CGS will also use this list to inform the Presidents of the Royal Colleges of Physicians when putting together their recommendations.
- 8 When ACCEA has accepted the nominations, they will be processed by ACCEA for consideration by the appropriate regional awards sub-committee.