



## BASEM & FSEM: What a New Organisation Could Mean For You

### Allied Health Professionals

On 31<sup>st</sup> March BASEM and FSEM circulated the outcome report following our consultation exercise looking at the future of the two organisations and how we might best work together to further the SEM agenda in the UK. In particular, we are considering the potential for dissolving both organisations and re-forming as a College of SEM.

Deciding whether to remain as separate but closely collaborating organisations or reforming as a new organisation is an important decision for our members.

We would like to highlight how this report specifically relates to you as an allied healthcare professional (AHP) working in SEM.

### What would be my membership category in a new joint organisation?

It has been vital throughout the process to that AHPs are recognised and appropriately incorporated into the structure of a new organisation. All current members of BASEM and FSEM will be eligible to join a new organisation; there are different options depending on your experience.

- Membership:
  - Current FSEM members: would be eligible to be a member of a new joint organisation.
  - Current BASEM members: or the first 12 months of the existence of a new joint organisation then there will be a legacy clause meaning you would be eligible to be a member of a new joint organisation providing you have:
    - Been a member of BASEM for at least a year
    - A recognised postgraduate degree related to SEM
    - Proven commitment to the specialty for at least five years
- Diplomat membership:
  - Open to anyone who has passed at least one of the FSEM Diplomas (MSK Medicine, Exercise Medicine or Team Care)
- Associate membership:
  - Open to any qualified AHP with an interest in the specialty.

### Will I have to do any exams/further qualifications to join a new organisation?

No, all individuals currently in BASEM and FSEM will be eligible to join the new organization.

- No specific SEM examinations or qualifications are needed to join the Associate Member category.
- AHPs may wish to join other membership categories, such as the Diplomate or Membership categories which do require exams.
- To join the Diplomate category individuals would need to pass one of the three Diploma examinations (in MSK Medicine, Exercise Medicine or Team Care).
- In the future (see above) joining the membership category involves passing all three of the Diploma exams.

### What are the benefits to me of being a member of a new joint organisation?

- **A unified College of SEM would have a greater national voice and influence:** The leadership teams of both BASEM and FSEM believe that this is vitally important to influence national stakeholders in government, the NHS, the physical activity sector and sports governing bodies. Our multi-disciplinary roles in our three key agenda, MSK, Physical activity medicine and team care would be better represented through a strong, unified, multi-disciplinary voice.
- You would be represented by an organisation which **values your role** both in caring for patients with musculoskeletal conditions and promoting the role of physical activity in improving health.
- As AHPs you would be represented by an organisation which values your role both in caring for patients with musculoskeletal conditions, promoting the role of physical activity in improving health and working within multi-disciplinary sports environments.
- The organisation would seek to ensure other healthcare organisations and the wider society understood the governance, appraisal, workforce planning, staff, patient and athlete welfare and equality, diversity and inclusion relevant to your role.
- Access to education and training which aligns to your work.

### How would my view be represented on the council of a new joint organisation and what would be my voting rights?

In addition to the President, Vice Presidents, Honorary Treasurer and Honorary Secretary, there will be 21 council members.

- Members – can vote for member council positions (6 council members positions)
- Diplomate members – can vote for diplomate member council positions (4 council members positions)
- Associate members – can vote for associate member council position (1 council members position).

### Will I be able to run for election on the council of a new joint organisation?

Yes. Any member of each category will be eligible to run for election to the council in their respective membership category.

## What are the implications to me of both organisations remaining separate?

- The simple answer is that there might be minimal noticeable difference to you on a daily basis if BASEM and FSEM remain separate:
  - BASEM has always provided education relevant to AHPs working in areas related to SEM. This would continue.
  - AHPs would still be eligible to apply for the relevant membership category of the FSEM and to sit the FSEM Diploma exams (MSK Medicine, Exercise Medicine or Team Care).
- However, we feel the potential for you to increase your recognition and impact and have training and support in your role would be diminished
- **The working groups were unable to identify any material benefit to individuals or strategic advantage to the organisations to remaining as separate.**

## I still have questions...

We hope that this summary provides some useful pointers on how the outcome of the vote might impact you. If you still have questions about this process then please join us for our live members question and answer session on 16th May 2023 joint between BASEM and FSEM. More details regarding how to submit questions for this will be circulated shortly.

Thank you for your time considering this important matter.

Prof Eleanor Tillett

Dr Natasha Jones

**Chair, BASEM**

**President, FSEM**