



25 June 2014

Coroner
Coroners Court of Victoria
Level 11 222 Exhibition Street
Melbourne VIC 3000



Dear Ms Spanos,

Re: Court Ref: COR 2010 001571, investigation into the death of CONTANDIA PETZIERIDES

With regard to the recommendations included within the coroner's report, the Australasian College for Emergency Medicine (ACEM) acknowledges the complex issues raised in this case. ACEM have recently launched a new specialist emergency medicine training program which is the basis for ED training. This curriculum describes the skills and competencies expected of trainees at each stage of their training and upon achieving Fellowship.

ACEM believes that the revised curriculum does support the intent of the recommendation made by the Coroner in this case. The new curriculum will be officially launched in 2015, but is available and being used now. Details of this document can be found on the college website at

https://acem.org.au/getmedia/eb948140-e4b3-4fc5-9adb-6354fc1e9c48/ACEM_CurriculumFramework_V1_Published-2014-03.pdf.aspx

Within the domain of 'Medical Expertise' the learning outcomes are organised into patient presentations. For example, instead of 'myocardial infarction, or aortic dissection', the trainees learn about patients presenting with e.g. chest pain. This aims to ensure that they do understand the complexity of common versus uncommon diagnoses, typical versus atypical presentations as well as the confounding clinical and non-clinical aspects such as culture, language, age etc. Trainees will be actively encouraged through workplace-based case discussions to engage in detailed analysis of cases to assist in refining their clinical reasoning skills.

The curriculum also acknowledges the complexity of the emergency context and therefore includes domains beyond medical expertise, such as communication, prioritisation and decision making. This includes seeking collateral information from ambulances officers or other sources to assist in forming a differential diagnosis. The importance of maintaining an open mind and being mindful of risk and risk benefit decisions is also stressed.

ACEM thanks the Coroner's Court for the recommendations which we feel have been addressed in the revised curriculum to be implemented in January 2015. Should you wish to discuss the matter further, please feel free to contact the College at any time.

Kind regards

Alana Killen
Chief Executive Officer
Australasian College for Emergency Medicine