

Summer 2017 Update for all UK Haematology Trainees from your National Committee Representatives

Dear Haematology Trainee,

Here is our bi-annual update of what has been happening at the various national training meetings. If you have any training concerns whatsoever, please feel free to contact us at the emails below so that we can discuss these issues within the relevant committees.

1. General Issues from the haematology SAC meeting (OCT 2016):

The Haematology Specialist Advisory Committee (SAC) (part of the JRCPTB) holds twice yearly meetings and includes training programme directors from across the UK as well representatives from the BSH and trainees to discuss issues related to training, recruitment, and the curriculum/assessments. Before the meeting the trainee representatives emailed trainees to ask for any specific concerns and some of the feedback received included the following issues:

- **Rota gaps**

There were concerns that gaps in training programmes and rotas were affecting training opportunities. To assess this in further detail and obtain a better overview of the situation across the UK it was agreed that specific instances of rota gaps will be collated for each region so that a clearer picture of the issue nationally is obtained- helping to better define the problem and think of solutions in the future. **If you think rota gaps are affecting your training then please do email us (emails at the end) so that we can flag this up at the SAC and help support regional solutions.**

- **Centralised Laboratory Reporting and impact on training**

Haematology laboratories in some areas are being merged with less reporting of blood films and bone marrows etc in peripheral sites. There is a worry that this will affect the quality of training and reduce the exposure and time trainees have to learn laboratory skills. If this is affecting you and is an issue in your region please do let us know as well as your local specialty training committee. This area will be monitored as changes to the organisation of pathology labs continues to occur.

- **Out of training program research (OOPR)**

A reminder for anyone planning to take time out for research; if you want any time from your research experience to count towards obtaining your CCT-this must be prospectively approved both locally with training program director and the deanery, and nationally by the GMC, via the JRCPTB. The competencies to be gained and educational supervision during time out must be well documented and detailed on the JRCPTB form which goes to the SAC for review and consideration. There is guidance on the JRCPTB haematology pages as to how to complete this form. The form must be received by JRCPTB at least 8 weeks in advance of starting an OOP.

- **GMC survey-changes to the haematology specific questions**

The GMC survey is a very important way of getting trainee's voices heard and highlighting issues that we feel need to be addressed. The haematology specific questions have been revised for the 2017 survey with the hope that they are more informative on the quality of training received in different regions of the UK. There will be scope to change the 2018 survey questions based on feedback received so please do contact us if you have any suggestions or comments after completing the 2017 GMC survey.

2. Shape of Training and curriculum development

The JRCPTB website (<https://www.jrcptb.org.uk/new-internal-medicine-curriculum>) describes recommended changes for the future of medical training. The current plan is to increase CMT to 3 years, including a third year as a 'Junior Medical Registrar'. The specific changes to haematology specialist training have not been confirmed and are under discussion. Both the length of training and the haematology competencies which overlap with general medicine are being defined and negotiated by the haematology SAC with the JRCPTB. The current position of the haematology SAC with the JRCPTB is for trainees NOT to take part in the acute unselected take but continue to be involved in supporting general medical care through looking after haematology inpatients, dealing with haematological emergencies and admissions and providing lab liaison support to other specialities as required. We will continue to keep you updated to any proposed changes to training and how it might affect you.

The haematology curriculum is being revised to focus on broad reaching competencies in practice (CIPs) reflecting the key activities required to practice as a haematology consultant. The aim is to reduce the burden of assessments and documentation. The internal general medical curriculum is also based on CIPs. All curricula will incorporate the GMC revised common competencies (now called generic professional capabilities – but the final version of these is still awaited) Haematology specific (6-7) CIPs are being drafted by the haematology curriculum subcommittee of the SAC and example areas include lab haematology, liaison haematology, haematological emergencies, outpatient haematology etc. Changes are not anticipated to occur before 2018 for CMT and 2021 for haematology specialist training. We will keep you updated of any significant proposed changes to the curriculum.

3. British Society for Haematology Update

BSH continues to host educational events for haematology trainees, most recently was our annual ST3 Induction day, held on 7 July.

Delegates were given lectures on transfusion for the new haematologist, as well as how to deal with common coagulation problems encountered whilst on call. Break-out sessions were held where delegates worked through different haemostasis scenarios. As previous feedback suggested new

trainees feel uncomfortable with morphology early on in their training, a hands on microscope session with Dr Vishal Jayakar was held.

There are several upcoming BSH educational events, including the Obstetric and Lymphoma SIG, which takes place in the autumn of 2017, as well as a Paediatric haematology symposium. These events are aimed at trainees and consultants and will focus on discussion of difficult cases and practical approaches to clinical problems.

If you have local events you want to advertise on the website or via Twitter then please email Kristin Karlsson at kristin@b-s-h.org.uk.

Follow @BritSocHaem on Twitter for regular updates on BSH activities and for ongoing cases and education follow the fantastic @TeamHaem.

4. Feedback from the Trainee Advisory Committee at RCPATH March 2017

Important tax announcement

College staff have worked extremely hard to have College exams recognised by HMRC as allowable against tax. We have had to provide curricula and sample contracts for each specialty. I am delighted to announce that HMRC have just confirmed that College exams for medical members are now allowable. Members can submit claims for the last four years. An additional member of staff is being employed to deal with the anticipated requests for receipts. Please follow <https://www.rcpath.org/trainees/cost-of-training1/tax-deductibility.html> for further information.

Cost of exams

The College makes no money out of the examinations and frequently runs their training and assessments at a loss. It was discussed at the meeting that further transparency regarding how the exam fees are used would be appreciated and they are looking to update the website with this information.

Global health challenges

The RCPATH have set several global health challenges and they are keen for trainees to be involved. If you fancy raising money for a worthwhile cause whilst trekking through Iceland or cycling through the UK and Paris then have a look on the RCPATH Global Health Challenges website:

<https://www.rcpath.org/international/projects/global-health-challenges.html>

The RCPATH Trainee Survey

Thank you to all who completed the survey. Of all the pathology specialties we had the second highest number of responses (83 of the 317 responses were from haematology trainees). Some important points that were highlighted included:

- Trainees found it difficult to gain experience in several areas of the curriculum (paediatrics, morphology/lab experience, haemoglobinopathies and transfusion medicine). In part this appeared to be related to characteristics of the patient population in a particular area and the need to prioritise service provision.
- There was concern that it was difficult to arrange time out of programme for research and trainees felt they would like guidance in this area. The main concerns related to securing funding and having local support.

The College is continuing to analyse the data and considering ways they can further support trainees.

Finally... remember to follow [@pathologyhouse](#) on twitter and let me know if you have any queries you would like brought to the committee (next meeting November 2017). Thanks, Kate Musgrave.

5. Initial Feedback for the FRCPath Examination-Autumn 2016

Part 1 overall pass rate 72%

Pass rate Paper 1	71/93	76%
Pass rate paper 2	75/93	80.5%

Part 2 Overall pass rate 61%

Coag 66%
 Transfusion 90%
 Morphology 92%
 Viva 88%

6. Trainee Representative positions available for 2017

For those interested in getting involved in training issues, the following trainee representative position is available:

- **Trainee representative to the Haematology SAC**, which forms part of the JRCPTB. This committee includes the Training Programme Directors (TPDs) from all regions and has responsibility for many aspects of haematology training including recruitment, curriculum development, workplace-based assessments and the ePortfolio. It is an excellent opportunity to influence the future of haematology training. It involves attending 2 meetings

a year at the Royal College of Physicians, raising any issues flagged up by trainees and then helping to draft a twice yearly update to all trainees. If you are interested in applying to the role, please email the current trainee representatives (Chris and Shamzah– email addresses below) by July 15th and the first meeting will be in October 2017. Please email us if you would like any further information.

7. Haematology Trainee Email list

Lastly as well as this bi-annual newsletter it would be helpful if we could occasionally contact Haematology Trainees throughout the year to gather opinions on various issues and keep you more informed of new developments. If you would like to be more involved and be contacted please email Kate or Chris (email addresses below) and leave us an appropriate email address.

Selina Chavda, BSH trainee lead

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Shamzah Araf, trainee rep., SAC

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Kate Musgrave, RCPATH trainee rep

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Samah Alimam, Transfusion trainee rep. RCPATH / ICH Transfusion Medicine Sub-committee

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BSH – British Society for Haematology

SAC – Haematology Specialist Advisory Committee

RCP – Royal College of Physicians

RCPATH – Royal College of Pathologists

ICH – Intercollegiate Committee on Haematology

BMA–British Medical Association