

Spring 2016 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:

I. Shape of Training (SoT)

Greenaway's SoT report was published a year ago and 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'. Haematology specialist training will be a minimum of 4 years. Haematologists will not be taking part directly in the acute unselected take but will continue to deal with haematological emergencies and admissions. A CCT in Haematology will be awarded at the end of specialty training and although the details remain to be decided, it appears that if you wish to subspecialise, you may gain more experience by taking a period of post-CCT training called 'credentialing' as well as through the routes of OOPR/OOPes many registrars undertake currently.

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 also to reduce the burden of assessments and documentation. Further updates on the progress of SoT can be found on the following JRCPTB webpage:

<https://www.jrcptb.org.uk/new-internal-medicine-curriculum>

A pilot study of the proposed changes will first be conducted with changes not likely to start until 2019 for core medical training.

II. 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.

III. ST3 Trainees on General Medical rota

ST3 haematology trainees in North/South Yorkshire and now ST3 AND ST4 trainees in Oxford are being asked to cover the general medicine on call rota. We would like to know if anyone else is being asked to cover the general medical rota and if this is having any impact on haematology training.

IV. Junior Doctor Contract Negotiations

This is the biggest issue affecting us at the moment and we are keen to see significant changes to the current government plan. Further details on how the BMA is leading on this can be found at: <http://bma.org.uk/juniorconsultantcontractsribbon>.

2. GMC Survey

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 usefulness of the survey depends in a large part to the questions asked. There are 12 haematology specific questions-I have attached them to this email. These will be revised for the 2017 survey but this needs to be completed by sept 2016. We have a chance to amend the questions-I am attending a teleconference meeting about this in mid-April. Can you please reply to me with suggestions on how to amend the questions/what would you like to be asked in the survey? The SAC's feeling is that there should be more question along the lines of the quality of training rather than simply how many months you spend doing something. Thank you. Shamzah (s.araf@qmul.ac.uk).

3. Review of the NHSBT Transfusion Courses

The content and structure of both the Intermediate and Advanced Transfusion Medicine Courses are being reviewed. To ensure trainees views are taken into account there is an opportunity to provide feedback on what you would like changed (if anything). Are there any particular topics you would like more/less focus on, more practicals etc? Please email Shubha Allard (shubha.allard@nhsbt.nhs.uk) with your suggestions and let her know if you would be interested in being the trainee representative for this review process.

4. British Society for Haematology

The society continues to push ahead with multiple education events and the next 6 months proves to be no different.

This year's annual scientific meeting (ASM) is taking place in Glasgow from the 18th to 21st April. It is being held in conjunction with the International Society of Haematology. It will

have many international speakers and promises to be an excellent event. There are prizes for the best abstracts, which will also be published in the British Journal of Haematology. Next year's ASM we are looking to have a Trainees session. This will be an opportunity to discuss the future of training and focus on improvement. If anyone has any ideas or wants to present at this session please get in the touch at the email below.

The 8th Annual Pitfalls education meeting held on Sunday 17th April in Glasgow before the ASM looks to be very good with excellent speakers; pitfalls in obstetric and neonatal haematology plus medicolegal and malignant diagnostic problems to be discussed. You can sign up at the BSH website.

With upcoming interviews for the next round of ST3s please be sure to tell them about the annual BSH ST3 induction day being held on the 1st of July this year. This gives new trainees a broad base for their first months as a new registrar and has had excellent feedback. As before, sign up at the webpage below.

Finally, keep in contact with the BSH for updates by twitter @BritSocHaem and follow the fantastic @TeamHaem for ongoing cases and education.

[http://www.b-s-h.org.uk/28 Courses and Events.html#](http://www.b-s-h.org.uk/28_Courses_and_Events.html#)

If you have local events you want to advertise this way then please email Katy Amberley on Katy@b-s-h.org.uk.

5. Feedback for the FRCPath Examination-Autumn 2015

Part 1

69 candidates sat the exam which consisted of 2 papers, one an MCQ and the other an essay paper. The candidates have to complete all questions with no choice in the essay paper.

A pass was achieved by 46/69 (67%) of candidates.

23 candidates failed the exam

Component failed	Essay only	MCQ only	Both
Number	9	2	12

Section	General Haem	Haem-Onc	H&T	Transfusion
Essay pass rate %	88	57	61	56

Section	General Haem	Haem-Onc	H&T	Transfusion
MCQ pass rate %	88	88	71	77

Part 2

The part 2 exam was sat by 78 candidates in 5 centres. 50 of the 78 candidates (64%) passed the exam. 28 candidates failed the exam. The exam can be considered to consist of 4 sections, transfusion, coagulation, morphology and the viva. Pass rates in the individual papers were as follows:

Section	Pass rate %
Coagulation	83
Transfusion	83
Morphology	83
Oral/Viva	90

5. Trainee Representative positions available for 2016

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

- **RCPATH trainee rep to the Intercollegiate Committee on Haematology.**

The Intercollegiate Committee on Haematology (ICH) is established between the Royal College of Pathologists and the Royal College of Physicians (London).

The trainee representative on this committee is responsible for gathering information and feedback from trainees nationally on subjects such as examinations, assessments, annual review processes, the curriculum and quality of training. These matters are then discussed at the ICH meetings which occur twice a year, currently held at the RCP. In addition, the RCPATH haematology trainee sits on the RCPATH Trainee Advisory Committee (TAC), which meets twice a year at the RCPATH. This forum is made up of trainees from all specialities and regional areas.

This post is ideal for someone who wants to be at the interface of the Colleges and haematology trainees and provides valuable experience of how the Colleges are organised and run. The role involves collating trainee opinions and providing

information to facilitate guideline development, to improve training and the examinations process. In addition, the trainee representative serves to highlight the wider role of trainees within the NHS, for service provision and workforce planning etc. For further information about this trainee representative vacancy and to apply please contact Dr Alice Wort (chair.rcpath.tac@gmail.com).

6. Haematology Courses

- I. There are a series of short courses in haematology at Imperial in 2016, details of which can be found here:
<https://www1.imperial.ac.uk/departmentofmedicine/divisions/experimentalmedicine/haematology/shortcourse/#one>

- II. The 2016 dates for the Intermediate and Advanced transfusion courses are (<http://hospital.blood.co.uk/training/programme-diary/>):
 - **Essential Transfusion Medicine**
 - 6th - 10th June 2016 - Tooting
 - 27th June - 1st July 2016 - Filton
 - 5th - 9th September 2016 - Filton
 - 10th - 14th October 2016 - Manchester
 - **Intermediate Transfusion Medicine**
 - 13th June - 1st July 2016 - Colindale
 - 4th - 22nd July 2016 - Filton
 - 7th - 25th November 2016 - Colindale

- III. **Biennial RCPATH Transfusion symposium:** to be held this year at the Royal Society of Medicine on 24th and 25th Nov 2016 - this tends to be a very popular meeting and there is a discount for trainees. The program is attached.

Lastly if any of you have any questions, want to raise any particular issue affecting you or just have any comments/suggestions for us please do contact us-we would love to hear from you.

David Dutton, BSH trainee lead
dutts500@doctors.org.uk

Shamzah Araf, trainee rep., SAC
s.araf@qmul.ac.uk

Christopher McDermott, trainee rep., SAC
christopher.mcdermott1@nhs.net

Samah Alimam, Transfusion trainee rep. RCPATH / ICH Transfusion Medicine Sub-committee
samah.alimam@nhs.net

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