



Special points of interest:

- Curriculum implementation feedback
- "Top Tips" for WPBAs
- Update on 2011 recruitment

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JRCPTB News

Welcome to the January 2011 edition of the JRCPTB newsletter, particularly trainees, who are receiving our newsletter for the first time. We hope that you find the information contained within useful and we welcome any feedback or ideas. We will also be asking members of the trainees' committees to contribute to future issues.

Inside this issue you will find updates from each of the teams at JRCPTB, plus a report from our colleagues in the specialty recruitment office. Also included is an up to date contacts list for the staff at JRCPTB which we hope will be of help. Don't forget that latest news and information on training can be found on our website www.jrcptb.org.uk.

We aim to produce a newsletter every quarter, with the next edition due to be published in late April 2011. If you have any questions about the contents of the newsletter or know of others who would also like to receive a copy of future editions please contact us at PTB@jrcptb.org.uk.

The JRCPTB team

From the Medical Director



A number of challenges face post-graduate medical education in 2011, as a direct result of the new

Health and Social Care Bill ("Liberating the NHS"). This has a linked NHS workforce consultation ("Developing the Healthcare Workforce"), which will be open to comment until March 31st 2011. It is proposed that postgraduate deaneries should be abolished, and that their workforce and training functions should be taken over by up to 30 multiprofessional "skills networks" of employers (constitution to be determined according to local needs), and with responsibility for the quality of education and training remaining with the healthcare professions.

It is proposed that a "lean and expert" organisation (Health Education England) should be

established to support the skills networks, and to focus on workforce issues which need to be managed nationally.

This is of special interest to JRCPTB, because there is increasing evidence of the possibility of over-production of CCT holders in many specialties, and many of our 29 specialties are small and require national oversight of workforce planning.

Those of us who were working in medical education ten years ago have noted, with disappointment, the similarities between what is now proposed and the ill-fated multiprofessional Workforce Development Confederations. One might also question the plan to give more responsibility for medical education to employers, when they have a consistent track record of putting service and cost considerations ahead of quality of education (for instance in failing to allow educational supervisors time to train, and for populating rotas with inappropriate numbers of medical trainees to

meet EWTR requirements, rather than looking at more appropriate use of skill mix). The Colleges and JRCPTB will be responding to the consultation, but would be pleased to hear your views.

One of our major concerns about the massive changes proposed for the NHS is that they will be taking place in the context of what will in effect be a £20 billion reduction in funding, whereas experience dictates that such great change will require at least pump priming. The current national financial exigencies are felt equally by the Colleges, which have announced an intention to review the purpose and financing of the JRCPTB. While this takes place, we will continue to do our utmost to support all physician trainees by delivering efficient administration, curricula development, certification and quality management systems to support high quality training.

Professor Bill Burr



2010 Curriculum transfer process

Following the release of the 2010 specialty curricula on August 4th it is now possible for trainees currently in posts up to ST5* on the 2007 version of their specialty curricula to be considered for transfer to the 2010 version. The 2010 curricula follow on from the 2007 versions and have been rewritten to keep up to date with medical advances and changes in the service, training, and requirements of the General Medical Council (GMC).

The JRCPTB does not want to restrict those currently on the 2007 versions from benefiting from up to date competencies and clinical changes which may be exclusive to the 2010 curricula. Therefore we have

developed a very simple transfer process which only requires a form to be completed and returned to the JRCPTB, however you must discuss the potential transfer with your educational supervisor and training programme director first.

Some specialties have made significant improvements to the training arrangements and clinical competencies within their curricula which should benefit training, and provide a strong incentive for trainees to transfer. To read a complete list of the major specialty changes since the 2007 curriculum please go to your specialty page on the JRCPTB website and click on the 'quick start curriculum guide'.

If you think you would be interested in transferring to the 2010 version of your specialty curriculum then please click [here](#) to read further details on the process or contact: curriculum@jrcptb.org.uk.

Please note this process will only operate until July 31st 2011.

All trainees entering ST3 from August 4th 2010 onwards will automatically be following the 2010 curricula and so the transfer process does not apply to this group.

*It is not advised for trainees who are more than 2 months in to their specialty training in ST5 to transfer to the 2010 Specialty curriculum.

Curriculum implementation feedback

After introduction of the new curricula in 2010, one of the main focuses of the JRCPTB curriculum team has been to develop a feedback reporting mechanism which will help to identify problems with curriculum implementation in the workplace. The aim of this process is to gather information from those who use and deliver the **2010 curriculum** on a daily basis to input to future curricula revisions and the Annual Specialty Reports.

The mechanism consists of two feedback forms; one to be completed by trainees and the other by trainers. The forms are made up of 4 generic curriculum questions and two further specialty specific questions as set by the Specialty

Advisory Committee (SAC) curriculum lead. Both forms are anonymous, however there is a space on the forms for respondents to enter their details if they would like to pose questions so the JRCPTB or SAC can respond.

The reports will be sent out on an annual basis starting in January 2011 to the Chairs of the STCs to disseminate amongst their committees. Each committee member will then be asked to send a copy of the feedback forms to all trainers and trainees within their locality asking them to provide comments to the questions. The reports should then be sent back to the JRCPTB via the email address at the bottom of the form.

The responses from every region will be compiled into a report to present to the SACs and STCs for review, and will form one of the main feedback streams to those who revise the curricula and complete the annual reports on behalf of the specialty. The JRCPTB consider this process to be of great importance to future curricula reviews as it encompasses the needs and views of vital stakeholders to ensure that our curricula underpins the level of excellence expected from specialty training.

If you would like further information on this process or would like to request a feedback form then please email curriculum@jrcptb.org.uk

“JRCPTB has published a ‘top tips’ leaflet designed to assist both supervisors and trainees”

Assessment

Workplace-based assessments (WPBA)

In recent months, and in several forums, the principles behind WPBA, their connection with curricula and issues of delivery within the workplace have come under increasing question. The JRCPTB has initiated a new working party to consider these matters and to make recommendations on any need for change in the way they are used and operated.

In the interim, and pending the outcome of these deliberations, we have also published a ‘top tips’ leaflet designed to assist both supervisors and trainees to gain maximum benefit from workplace based training and assessment. This can be downloaded [here](#) and will be available in hard copy for those who would like one.

For further information on this topic please contact curriculum@jrcptb.org.uk.

Specialty recruitment

2010

Round 1 of recruitment was completed uneventfully. Round 2 was smaller in terms of applicant numbers, but the standard of applicants appeared similar to Round 1.

Overall, across two full recruitment rounds and accompanying clearing rounds, 96% of posts were filled. All specialties filled over 90% of vacant posts, with cardiology and gastroenterology filling all available posts, and geriatric medicine seeing all but four of 112 posts filled.

The number of vacant posts in participating specialties increased during 2010 recruitment from 237 to 425 – an increase of 79%. Given this, the high fill rates experienced were very satisfactory.

As well as recruitment to substantive posts, during the two clearing rounds, deaneries were also given the opportunity to appoint to LAT posts.

2011

Preparations are being made for 2011 ST3 recruitment, which will see the RCP specialty recruitment officer coordinating recruitment to a total of 12 medical ST3 specialties (in addition to the five specialties which participated in 2010, in 2011 acute med, CPT, GUM, haematology, neurology, palliative med and respiratory med will be joining the process). Applications to 2011 posts will open on Friday 4 March 2011; with a submission deadline of Wednesday 23 March 2011 (PACES web results will be available from 21st March 2011). The process will remain largely the same, with candidates being allowed to submit up to two applications per specialty, and a maximum of 10 applications in total. The application period will be 4th - 23rd March, with interviews planned between 18th April and 24th May.

Recruitment to other ST3 medical specialties in 2011

It is hoped the application period for all other medical ST3 specialties will encompass the 2011/12 diet results for PACES. We have encouraged other medical ST3 specialties to cooperate with offers and holding dates. This is an applicant-friendly activity which ultimately benefits the deaneries and specialties.

Other recruitment related issues

MRCP(UK): Candidates who do not have the full diploma, but expect to gain it prior to August 2011 will be allowed to apply for ST3 posts, and if deemed appointable, will be eligible for an offer subject to a satisfactory ARCP (which includes MRCP(UK)). All the medical ST3 Person Specifications are now published on [the MMC website](#).

For more information please visit the [ST3 recruitment website](#).

Enrolment

In 2010 69% of trainees successfully managed to complete enrolment within three months of their start date in post. We are currently working hard to make sure that anyone who has not completed enrolment finishes this process before the next round of ARCPs. We will shortly be informing programme directors of anyone who has failed to enrol in order to help update our records and make sure every trainee is contacted. To clarify, all trainees in a LAT, FTSTA or substantive post at core or specialty level should enrol with the JRCPTB within three months of starting their post.

Fees

The enrolments team regularly receives enquiries from trainees about enrolment fees and how they can be paid. At present online payments can be taken as part of the online enrolment process or we can accept cheques or take payment over the phone. The main methods for collection are as a one off fee to the JRCPTB or through a defined number of payments scheme with one of the Royal Colleges. For more details please see [the enrolment fees page of our website](#).

Refunds

Trainees who are on one of the collegiate membership schemes should only make two payments at core and five payments at specialty training level. All trainees who believe they have paid more than this should complete the refund request form on the website and return it to enrolments@jrcptb.org.uk before 1st June 2011. After this deadline any applications for a refund must be received within three months of the date of payment.

ePortfolio



There are currently over 8,000 physician trainee user accounts on the JRCPTB ePortfolio, we suspect that some of these have been created in error or are duplicates. If you are aware of any accounts that need removing please could you send the relevant usernames to the JRCPTB team at ePortfolioteam@jrcptb.org.uk.

Performance

The JRCPTB is working closely with our ePortfolio developers to identify a list of reasons, and potential solutions, for poor performance of the ePortfolio. In order to make the system faster in locations with slow internet access the NES team has worked hard to make the file sizes involved in using the ePortfolio smaller. They have also developed a sophisticated system of analysis which enables NES to see the time taken from the request for a page of information being received at NES to it

being ready. We hope that this system will identify areas where the software where can be improved and where a slow internet connection may be at fault. Improvements have been found in some cases by moving to Internet Explorer version 8 (or another internet browser such as Firefox). If you do have problems with the current performance of the ePortfolio please can you send the following details directly to the JRCPTB at ePortfolioteam@jrcptb.org.uk :

- Where were you accessing the site from e.g. at home or from a particular hospital?
- What time was the problem experienced?
- When did the error occur e.g. sign in or viewing the curriculum page?

Trainee access

For 2011 the JRCPTB aims to

take control over access to the ePortfolio and will be integrating it into the enrolment process. Whilst we await the necessary IT developments to be completed before creating an account please make sure that there is not another one for this person in the system, the easiest way to do this is to add a GMC number to all accounts. If you have a problem adding a user as the GMC number is already known by the system, but you cannot find the account please contact the JRCPTB.

SAS grade access

Those who are not in a formal training post, but feel that they may benefit from access to the ePortfolio are able to register for access directly with the JRCPTB. Fees for access are aligned to those in LAT posts. For more information please see [the SAS doctors ePortfolio advice page](#).

Quality Management of Training

Annual Specialty Report

At the end of 2010 the JRCPTB submitted to the GMC Annual Specialty Reports for each of the 29 medical specialties and sub-specialties and for Core Medical Training.

The Annual Specialty Reports are an important piece of the shared evidence underpinning the GMC's Quality Framework by which standards of specialty training are secured, maintained and improved.

I would like to thank the SAC's and particularly the SAC Chairs for their time and effort in completing this year's reports.

The GMC convene panels to compare the shared evidence provided by colleges, deaneries and local education providers to assess whether specialty training in each location is meeting their published standards and requirements.

The panels will also assess the quality of evidence we have provided and feedback will be

given to the JRCPTB after the scheduled meetings in February.

Externality

The quality of evidence provided in Annual Specialty Reports (ASR's) in 2011 will be significantly improved by the new Externality process.

External Advisors will be asked to submit a report commenting on the ARCP process within their allocated deanery which will feed into the ASR.

The JRCPTB externality process is live for the 17 larger specialties and will be rolled out across all remaining specialties during 2011.

The provision of external advisors by JRCPTB will enable deaneries to meet their Gold Guide obligations, and will also encourage consistency between deanery ARCP's. At the same time it enables the college to develop and share valuable insights into the specialty training programme at a

national level.

COPMeD are currently reviewing the externality processes developed by each Medical Royal College, following guidance published by JACTAG in early 2010, with a view to aligning them more closely. The Medical Director of the JRCPTB will be working with JACTAG to take this objective forward.

Data quality

The JRCPTB Quality Management Team are working closely with Deanery Data Managers and COPMeD Overarching Data Group to improve the sharing of data between colleges and deaneries.

Key data sets are in the process of being agreed and options for the most appropriate method for sharing the data are being investigated by the groups.

If you have any questions concerning Quality Management at JRCPTB please contact jane.cannon@jrcptb.org.uk

"We are reviewing PYA documentation to make the forms more relevant to the new curricula"

Certification and trainee services

CESR (Certificate of Equivalence for Specialist Registration)

Work is continuing in collaboration with the GMC to improve the CESR process for all concerned at the JRCPTB. The requirements on the evaluators is being made easier with the introduction of specialty specific evaluation forms that map more accurately to the curriculum than the generic GMC evaluation form. It is hoped that this will facilitate the demands on the invaluable work done by our CESR evaluators.

Penultimate Year Assessment

We are conducting a review of the Penultimate Year Assessment documentation with a view to making the forms more relevant and up to date with the newer competency based curricula.

LAT Policy

Work is ongoing at the moment to solidify the rules around LAT credit and the valuable position of LAT work within the training programmes.

JRCPTB contacts

If you need to contact someone at JRCPTB or have a question regarding enrolment, training or approval recommendations for training programmes please get in touch with the appropriate member of our team listed below*.

To call, please dial 020 3075 followed by the extension.

*(Information correct as of January 2011)

Name	Role	Contact information
Professor Bill Burr	Medical Director	Lynne.Katz@jrcptb.org.uk Ext 1245
Dr Liz Berkin	Deputy Medical Director	Agnes.Chelminska@jrcptb.org.uk Ext 1299
Dr Emma Vaux	Associate Medical Director	Agnes.Chelminska@jrcptb.org.uk Ext 1299
Professor James Barrett	Associate Medical Director	Agnes.Chelminska@jrcptb.org.uk Ext 1299
Nicholas Grant	Head of JRCPTB	Agnes.Chelminska@jrcptb.org.uk Ext 1299
Hannah Watts	Curriculum project co-ordinator	Hannah.Watts@jrcptb.org.uk Ext 1621

For enquiries relating to Specialist Advisory Committees, including agendas and paperwork for meetings, please contact the relevant member of the Committee Services team below.

Name	Role	Contact information
Imogen Le Patourel (covering for Jo Waterfield)	Assistant Head of JRCPTB (Committee Services) for enquiries relating to membership and constitution of SACs	Imogen.Lepatourel@jrcptb.org.uk Ext 1298
Felicity Stuart	Committee Services Manager for CPT, Gastroenterology, G(I)M/Acute, Geriatric Medicine, Infectious Diseases and Tropical Medicine, Medical Ophthalmology, Palliative Medicine, Pharmaceutical Medicine and Rehabilitation Medicine	Felicity.Stuart@jrcptb.org.uk Ext 1337
Pat Ono	Committee Services Manager for Audiological Medicine, Clinical Neurophysiology, Dermatology, Immunology and Allergy, Medical Oncology, Neurology, Nuclear Medicine, Respiratory Medicine and Sports and Exercise Medicine	Pat.Ono@jrcptb.org.uk Ext 1293
Laura Etheridge	Committee Services & Quality Manager for Cardiology, Clinical Genetics, Endocrinology and DM, GU Medicine, Haematology, Metabolic Medicine, Paediatric Cardiology, Renal Medicine, Rheumatology, Stroke Medicine and Core Medical Training Committee	Laura.Etheridge@jrcptb.org.uk Ext 1535

For enrolment or ePortfolio enquiries please contact the relevant team below.

Team	Type of Enquiry	Contact information
Enrolments	Online enrolment, login enquiries, payments and collegiate membership, refunds and general enrolment advice	Enrolments@jrcptb.org.uk Ext 1283
ePortfolio	ePortfolio support, general ePortfolio enquiries and training record enquiries	ePortfolioteam@jrcptb.org.uk Ext 1440

JRCPTB contacts (continued)

For general enquiries about specialty training and certification via the CCT and CESR routes please contact:

Name	Role	Contact information
Stephen Beglan	Assistant Head of JRCPTB (Training and Certification) CESR enquiries	Stephen.Beglan@jrcptb.org.uk Ext 1344
Max Browning (covering for Cath Janion)	Certification and Trainee Services Manager Enquiries from trainees in Northern, Wales, Severn and Peninsula deaneries	Max.Browning@jrcptb.org.uk Ext 1514
Vykkie Winstanley	Certification and Trainee Services Manager Enquiries from trainees in Wessex and London.	Vykkie.Winstanley@jrcptb.org.uk Ext 1476
Victoria Brown (Part time - Monday to Thursday)	Certification and Trainee Services Manager Trainees in West Midlands, East Midlands & Metabolic Medicine	Victoria.Brown@jrcptb.org.uk Ext 1239
Richard Colwill	Certification and Trainee Services Manager Trainees in Scotland, Mersey and Oxford plus Stroke medicine	Richard.Colwill@jrcptb.org.uk Ext 1536
Caroline Nugent	Certification and Trainee Services Manager Trainees in Yorkshire, North Western, Northern Ireland and East of England.	Caroline.Nugent@jrcptb.org.uk Ext 1480
My Linh Tong	Certification and Trainee Services Manager Trainees in London and KSS and the Tri Services Deanery.	Mylinh.Tong@jrcptb.org.uk Ext 1208
Mumtaz Rehman (Part time - Wednesday and Thursday)	PYA and Completions Co-ordinator PYAs in General (Internal) Medicine (all deaneries)	Mumtaz.Rehman@jrcptb.org.uk Ext 1292

For enquiries relating to the specialty approval of training programmes and posts as well as the submission of annual specialty reports please contact our Quality team.

Name	Role	Contact information
Victoria Ong	Assistant Head of JRCPTB (Quality Management)	Victoria.Ong@jrcptb.org.uk
Jane Cannon	Head of Quality Management Project	Jane.Cannon@jrcptb.org.uk Ext 1538
Kimberley Archer	Quality Manager	Kimberley.Archer@jrcptb.org.uk Ext 1474

For information and website requests please contact our communications team.

Name	Role	Contact information
Gareth Bland	Assistant Head of JRCPTB (Communications)	Gareth.Bland@jrcptb.org.uk Ext 1284
Sylvia Filip	Database Manager and Business Process Analyst	Sylvia.Filip@jrcptb.org.uk Ext 1442

Committee Services

SAC Conferences 2011

Six SACs participated in an extremely successful pilot joint SAC conference in November 2010. This meant that, prior to holding their separate specialty meetings in the afternoon, the SACs came together for a plenary session in the morning chaired by the JRCPTB Medical Director, followed by a networking lunch. The plenary featured presentations on key developments affecting SAC work streams, and provided the opportunity for SAC members to raise queries and issues with the JRCPTB staff team.

The main purpose of introducing this enhanced meeting format was to increase opportunities for interaction between SAC members, the Medical Director, Head of JRCPTB and other JRCPTB officers, delivering a higher quality and consistency of communication and thereby expediting the business of the afternoon specialty meetings. The joint SAC format also creates a forum for interface across specialties on shared issues and in order to showcase best practice.

Feedback from the pilot day was very positive: 72% of par-

ticipants thought the morning plenary session aided the outcomes of their afternoon specialty meeting, and 80% found the format of the day helpful overall. Ideas were also generated as to how to refine the structure and content of the plenary session for future joint SAC conferences – particularly, in order to ensure that they are as discussion-led and interactive as possible. Building on the success of the pilot, a number of additional SACs have confirmed their intention to participate in joint SAC conferences taking place in the Spring and Autumn of 2011.

JRCPTB

Joint Royal Colleges of Physicians Training Board

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Newsletter January 2011

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The Joint Royal Colleges of Physicians Training Board (JRCPTB) is a Federation of Royal Colleges of Physicians of the UK, responsible for delivering the three Colleges' role in setting and maintaining standards for physician specialist training in the UK. Here are just a few of its key responsibilities:

- Reviews and updates specialty curricula and submits them to the GMC for approval.
- Advises on the quality management of training programmes
- Provides professional support and advice to individual trainees.
- Works with the GMC to develop appropriate performance and knowledge assessment mechanisms to evaluate trainees competence.
- Enrols trainees on to training programmes, confirming the fulfilment of entry requirements at both core and specialty levels, and when appropriate, the provisional CCT date.
- Continually monitors the progress of all trainees maintaining both paper and electronic records as required and making use of the JRCPTB ePortfolio.
- Works in co-operation with the MRCP(UK) central office in the development of specialist examinations.



Royal College of Physicians
of Edinburgh



Royal College of Physicians
and Surgeons of Glasgow



Royal College of Physicians
of London