

## **Autumn 2014 Update for all UK Haematology Trainees from your National Committee Representatives**

Dear Haematology Trainee,

As your representatives we're trying to help shape the future of haematology training and haematology per se, to benefit you. Here is our bi-annual update of what has been happening at the various national training meetings. Please feel free to contact us if you have any questions on any of the issues below, or any other training issues.

### **1. Shape of Training (SoT) Report**

Greenaway's SoT report was published a year ago and describes recommended changes for the future of medical training. Although many groups have raised concerns with the report, it seems as though changes are going happen in some form or another.

The current plan, according to proposals by the RCPATH and ICH, is for haematology training to increase CMT to 3 years, including a third year as a 'Junior Medical Registrar'. Haematology specialist training will be condensed to 4 years. It remains unclear whether haematology training will include any further general internal medical training: this is being resisted. A CCT in Haematology will be awarded at the end of 4 years and should be sufficient to work as a general haematologist. Although the details remain to be decided, it appears that if you wish to subspecialise, you will need to undertake a period of post-CCT training (called 'credentialing'). The details regarding this are also still unclear but it was felt that this should be assessed based on competencies (i.e. ARCP or equivalent) rather than further exams.

A haematology SoT steering group is being established to decide on the future structure of haematology training. The group will include representatives from a number of committees including several trainee representatives.

### **2. ST3 Trainees on General Medical rota**

As you may have heard, ST3 haematology trainees in some regions (Leeds, Oxford and now Sheffield) have been asked to cover the general medicine on call rota. Whilst this is very limited at present, with the current difficulties in filling gaps on the medical rota, it is likely to increase.

As trainees, we have strongly opposed this, but unfortunately, the national haematology SAC has said that they are unable to influence this development and it is up to the local deaneries to decide if it is appropriate. We would very much like to hear from anyone who has been asked/told to cover the general medical rota and what effect this is having on haematology training.

### 3. FRCPATH Examinations

The results from the Autumn FRCPATH 2014 examinations were unfortunately again disappointing. The pass rate for part I was 63%; part II 35%. In the part II morphology was a major weak spot once again, with more candidates failing coagulation than in recent sittings. There is a lot of concern that these results reflect inadequacies in laboratory training, with trainees being recurrently taken out of the laboratory to cover clinical services. This is something that has been investigated in the past; if anyone would like to be involved in revisiting these issues please contact us.

### 4. Trainee Representative positions available for 2015

For those interested in getting involved in training issues, three trainee representative positions are soon to become 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. If you are interested in applying to the role, please email a short (500 word max) statement on why you feel you are suited to the position, along with a brief CV, to the current trainee representatives (David O'Connor and Dima El Sharkawi – email addresses below). Closing date for applications is 5<sup>th</sup> January 2014.
- Trainee representative to the **Transfusion Medicine SAC**. This position is responsible for gathering information and feedback from clinical and scientific trainees in blood transfusion, across the UK, and presenting their views to the committee at its biannual meetings. The trainee representative also provides a trainee's perspective on issues not directly concerned with training, including service development and workforce planning. This representative also liaises with the RCPATH haematology trainee representative to attend the biannual Trainee Advisory Committee. Interested candidates should send a short (500 word max) statement explaining what they can bring to the position, and a brief CV to the current representative, Christopher Parrish (email address below).
- BSH are looking for a new **BSH Haematology Trainee Lead** from spring 2015. This leadership position is open to BSH trainee members based in the UK who have two or more years left in training (CCT after spring 2017), as the appointment is for two years. As well as attending the three BSH Committee meetings a year, the post-holder will be a co-opted member of the Education Subcommittee, which also meets three times a year. The Trainee Lead represents haematology trainees across the UK and works closely with other Trainee Leads sitting on the JRCPTB and RCPATH committees. Other work

commitments include communication with regional Trainee Leads, organisation of educational events and representation at BMA Junior Doctor Committee meetings via teleconference. The deadline for applications is: 12 December. First committee meeting 23.1.15. Please contact: [monwara@b-s-h.org.uk](mailto:monwara@b-s-h.org.uk) for further information

## **5. Junior Doctors Contract negotiations**

The BMA have released further information on the difficulties of negotiating a new contract for junior doctors in training. Those of you who are not BMA members are highly recommended to read the attached press release concerning the Government's proposals.

## **6. British Society for Haematology**

Exciting times are ahead with the outcome of the external review of the BSH due to be shared with BSH members in the New Year. New for 2015 will be national BSH sponsored haematology courses for CMTs and nursing staff, in addition to the regular undergraduate courses and the annual ST3 haematology induction day. Please get in touch if you'd like to be involved with any of these ventures. The Annual Scientific Meeting in Edinburgh (20-22<sup>nd</sup> April) will focus on 'Improving outcomes' and the trainee day on the Sunday will cover 'pitfalls in referrals' – both GP calls and outpatient clinics, so well worth attending.

The BSH guideline App is due to be launched imminently and will be available for iOS and android devices. 'iBlood', the new BSH undergraduate online learning resource, will go live early next year and will be a great resource for all. This year we will hopefully also see greater use of social media to provide educational and career specific updates - so follow us on Twitter (BSH - Haematology@BritSocHaem) and keep a look out for the re-launch of the facebook site.

## **7. Education in Haematology**

A good place to find out what courses and events are happening is via the BSH web page under 'courses'. If you have local events you want to advertise this way then please email Katy Amberley on [Katy@b-s-h.org.uk](mailto:Katy@b-s-h.org.uk). Some flyers for upcoming courses are attached, in addition to a document looking at the free 'Technology Enhanced Learning' that is available to all on the internet.

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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