

To: Trainees and Educational Supervisors in Medical Oncology and Clinical Oncology

cc: Consultants, RSAs, SAC Members

28 August 2007

We understand from talking to colleagues and trainees that there is a good deal of uncertainty and concern amongst trainees and new consultants in Clinical and Medical Oncology about the future of their disciplines. We are writing to reassure you that trainees in these separate disciplines will continue to train towards a CCT in either medical oncology or clinical oncology. Representatives from the two disciplines (from the College training committees and ACP) have met to discuss ways of enhancing training in the cancer disciplines by bringing together core components of both Medical and Clinical Oncology. These discussions are at a very early stage. It was considered that there were potential advantages in having medical and clinical oncologists training together early on in their specialist training, following completion of core medical training.

It was also recognised that the rapid advances in, and increasing complexity of, cancer treatment means that training must allow both flexibility in the early years and also the appropriate specialisation to meet the needs of patients with cancer in the future, so that the workforce is adaptable to the needs of the patients.

Our discussions continue. We will keep all of you briefed as they begin to mature but to restate our position: –

The disciplines of Medical and Clinical Oncology are mutually respected and it is recognised that both disciplines will be required in the future. Your training remains important for patients with cancer.

Do get in touch by email if you have any comments to contribute to this continuing debate.

All best wishes

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