

**JOINT ROYAL COLLEGES OF PHYSICIANS TRAINING BOARD
(JRCPTB)**

**Annual Specialty Report for Clinical Pharmacology & Therapeutics to
The Postgraduate Medical Training Board (PMETB)
for August 2007 to July 2008**

1. Establishing Schools

The SAC is not aware of difficulties setting up such schools and understood that small specialities were to be included within Schools of Medicine within Deaneries.

2. Triggered Visits

No triggered visits have been reported by the specialty

3. Effect of changes to the specialty

Clinical Pharmacology faces a major threat from the loss of posts in Universities, lack of certainty about employment prospects in the NHS and failure to make use of academic fellowships. Universities used to be major employers of Clinical Pharmacologists but with the undergraduate curriculum tending to integrate Pharmacology with other subjects many have shed such staff taking the view that prescribing is easily taught by organ based specialists or even pharmacists. More recently there has been confusion about the ability of trainees to achieve dual CCTs in G(I)M and Clinical Pharmacology. There has therefore been a collapse in morale and along with it recruitment which will in itself bring into question the viability of some training programmes as practising Clinical Pharmacologists who retire are not being replaced and there is therefore no-one to do the training

4. Key concerns for the future of the specialty

The small size of the specialty is causing major problems in assessment. We were supposed to be developing an SCE but the development of questions has been very slow and it is therefore likely that this will not be possible in time. With the small number of trainees any validation would have been impossible. The assessment tools validated for other specialities within the College are inapplicable to many of the skills in Clinical Pharmacology although we have been trying to adapt them. We will never be able to show them to be valid.

5. RITAs/ARCPs. The following includes the responses we have received from the Heads of Specialist Training for this specialty

All trainees for this specialty have had successful RITAs/ARCPs with no Rita D and E awarded for the 55 enrolled trainees.

6. European Working Time Directive (EWTD): The following includes the responses we have received from the Heads of Specialist Training for this specialty

All reported rotas are compliant

7. Training Programme Director Report information

We have not received these reports for every Deanery for this reporting period but intend to include the themes in subsequent reports.

8. Examinations

We do not have examination data available for this reporting period.

9. Assessments

Workplace based assessments for the medical specialties including Direct Observation of Procedural Skills (DOPs), mini CEX, and Multisource Feedback (MSF) have been in place since 2005. Although there have been concerns within each specialty with regard to the time involved to complete these, their use has been widely encouraged so that PMETB standards are met. We continue to pilot further workplace based assessments.

10. e-portfolio

Pilots for the specialty e-portfolios have been completed and will be available from April 2009. In the meantime, trainees have been advised to complete paper records or to continue to use their CMT e-portfolio.