

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

**Annual Specialty Report for Immunology to
The Postgraduate Medical Training Board (PMETB)
for August 2007 to July 2008**

1. Establishing Schools

In most deaneries across the country, Immunology has been included in the school of medicine

2. Triggered Visits

There have been no triggered visits reported for this specialty

3. Effect of changes to the specialty

Increasing awareness of immunological disease, the huge expansion of immunologically-based therapies (biologics, therapeutic monoclonal antibodies), increasing burden of severe allergy and demand for consultant supervision of Immunology laboratories in district general hospitals is sustaining consultant expansion in the specialty. All of the above developments are enhancing the role of the clinical immunologist as a physician and it is likely that this trend will continue.

4. Key concerns for the future of the specialty

Recruitment to small specialties such as Immunology and Allergy should be nationally co-ordinated to ensure that these specialties have a sufficiently high profile to attract high calibre trainees.

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

No information has been received for the 39 trainees enrolled in Immunology

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

There have been no concerns reported for this specialty.

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 are live for enrolled Immunology StRs. In the meantime, trainees had been advised to complete paper records or to continue to use their CMT e-portfolio.