Winter 2015 Update for all UK Haematology Trainees from your National Committee Representatives

Dear Haematology Trainee,

Here is our bi-annual update of what has been happening at the various national training meetings. If you have any training concerns whatsoever, please feel free to contact us at the emails below so that we can discuss these issues within the relevant committees.

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. The current plan is 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 (it might be the case that we can prove that a lot of what we do is related to general medicine anyway such as managing and admitting our acutely unwell patients, running a DVT service etc). 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’—not too dissimilar to OOPR/OOPEs many registrars undertake currently. The haematology curriculum will be revised to reflect these changes and include “core skills” and subjects that can be done as post CCT credentialing. Further updates on the progress of SoT can be found on the following JRCPTB webpage: http://www.jrcptb.org.uk/shape-training-and-new-internal-medicine-curriculum

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

   ST3 haematology trainees in North/South Yorkshire and now ST3 AND ST4 trainees in Oxford are being asked to cover the general medicine on call rota. We would like to know if anyone else is being asked to cover the general medical rota and if this this is having any impact on haematology training.

3. **British Society for Haematology**

   The society continues to push ahead with multiple education events and the next 6 months proves to be no different.

   Next year’s annual scientific meeting is taking place in Glasgow from the 18th to 21st April. It is being held in conjunction with the International Society of Haematology. It will have
many international speakers and promises to be an excellent event. There are prizes for the best abstracts, which will also be published in the British Journal of Haematology. The closing date is Tuesday the 19th January.

The trainee representatives plan to meet up to discuss all matters relating to hematology training and we encourage as many people to attend as possible. This will precede the trainee social event. Congratulations to last year’s pub quiz winners, ‘Quizartinib’.

All BSH events can be found at: 
http://www.b-s-h.org.uk/28_Courses_and_Events.html#
If you have local events you want to advertise this way then please email Katy Amberley on Katy@b-s-h.org.uk.

4. FRCPath Examination

We will hopefully have more of an update by the time of our next newsletter in late spring but the pass rate is meant to have improved in the last sitting—which is good news.

5. Trainee Representative positions available for 2016

For those interested in getting involved in training issues, the following trainee representative positions are 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. It involves attending 2 meetings a year at the Royal College of Physicians, raising any issues flagged up by trainees and then helping to draft a twice yearly update to all trainees. If you are interested in applying to the role, please email a short (300 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 Shamzah Araf—email addresses below). Closing date for applications is 15th January 2016 and the first meeting will be in March 2016. Please email us if you would like any further information.

- **RCPPath trainee rep to the Intercollegiate Committee on Haematology.**

The Intercollegiate Committee on Haematology (ICH) is established between the Royal College of Pathologists and the Royal College of Physicians (London). The
committee reports to the councils of both colleges and provides essential links between the colleges and the specialist societies – the British Society for Haematology, Association of Clinical Pathologists and other colleges through the Joint Collegiate Council on Oncology. Its role is to advise on a number of key areas including: training of doctors in haematology, workforce planning and standards of professional practice. The very close interaction between the ICH and the Haematology SAC is facilitated by the SAC chair being a member of the ICH. The trainee representative on this committee is responsible for gathering information and feedback from trainees nationally on subjects such as examinations, assessments, annual review processes, the curriculum and quality of training. These matters are then discussed at the ICH meetings which occur twice a year, currently held at the RCP. Attendance at these meetings can also be by teleconference. Where necessary, matters can also be raised with the ICH (via the chair and administrator) by email. The rep is also responsible for providing a trainee’s perspective when discussing agenda items which are not specifically about training.

In addition, the RCPath haematology trainee sits on the RCPath Trainee Advisory Committee (TAC), which meets twice a year at the RCPath. This forum is made up of trainees from all specialities and regional areas. This involves reporting to the TAC any relevant matters arising from the ICH or information gathered directly from trainees. Matters arising from this meeting can be rapidly discussed with the RCPath college officers (including the RCPath President) who attend at the end.

This post is ideal for someone who wants to be at the interface of the Colleges and haematology trainees and provides valuable experience of how the Colleges are organised and run. The role involves collating trainee opinions and providing information to facilitate guideline development, to improve training and the examinations process. In addition, the trainee representative serves to highlight the wider role of trainees within the NHS, for service provision and workforce planning etc. For further information about this trainee representative vacancy you can contact John and Alesia the current representatives (email addresses below) and to apply please contact Diana Maxwell at diana.maxwell@rcpath.org.

6. Haematology Courses

- The Association of Clinical Pathologists are holding an exam revision day in January. Further details can be found at [http://www.pathologists.org.uk/events.aspx?id=451](http://www.pathologists.org.uk/events.aspx?id=451). It is meant to be an excellent course for anyone thinking of doing the exam in the next year or so and costs £50, but is free to members of the Association of Clinical Pathologists (membership fee for trainees is £50).
- A one day course focusing on Hodgkin’s Lymphoma organized by the Lymphoma Association:  https://www.lymphomas.org.uk/shop/conferences-and-events/focus-hodgkin-lymphoma-london-2016

As well as the BSH webpage under “courses” another good place to find out what courses and events are happening is on the JRCPTB website at http://www.jrcptb.org.uk/specialties/haematology.

Lastly we hope you all have a nice Christmas break and a Happy New Year-if any of you have any questions, want to raise any particular issue affecting you or just have any comments/suggestions for us please do contact us-we would love to hear from you.

David Dutton (Bristol), BSH trainee lead
dutts500@doctors.org.uk

John Riches (London) ICH/TAC RCPath representative
johnriches@doctors.org.uk

Alesia Hunt (London) ICH/TAC RCPath representative
alesiahunt@nhs.net

David O'Connor (London), trainee rep., SAC
doconnor@doctors.org.uk

Shamzah Araf (London), trainee rep., SAC
s.araf@qmul.ac.uk

Duncan Brian (London), BSH education subcommittee member, RCPath e-Learning lead for Haematology
duncan.brian@gmail.com

Samah Alimam, Transfusion trainee rep. RCPath / ICH Transfusion Medicine Sub-committee
samah.alimam@nhs.net

BSH – British Society for Haematology
SAC – Haematology Specialist Advisory Committee
RCP – Royal College of Physicians
RCPPath – Royal College of Pathologists
ICH – Intercollegiate Committee on Haematology
BMA–British Medical Association