

Winter 2016 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. General Issues from the haematology SAC meeting (OCT 2016):

The Haematology Specialist Advisory Committee (SAC) (part of the JRCPTB) holds twice yearly meetings and includes training programme directors from across the UK as well representatives from the BSH and trainees to discuss issues related to training, recruitment, and the curriculum/assessments. Before the meeting the trainee representatives emailed trainees to ask for any specific concerns and some of the feedback received included the following issues:

i. Rota gaps

There were concerns that gaps in training programmes and rotas were affecting training opportunities. To assess this in further detail and obtain a better overview of the situation across the UK it was agreed that specific instances of rota gaps will be collated for each region so that a clearer picture of the issue nationally is obtained- helping to better define the problem and think of solutions in the future.

ii. Centralised Laboratory Reporting and impact on training

Haematology laboratories in some areas are being merged with less reporting of blood films and bone marrows etc in peripheral sites. There is a worry that this will affect the quality of training and reduce the exposure and time trainees have to learn laboratory skills. If this is affecting you and is an issue in your region please do let us know, in any case it is an area that will continue to be monitored as changes to the organisation of pathology labs continues to occur.

iii. Relocation and excess travel costs

We would like to remind everyone that many deaneries have money available to help cover the costs of relocation and also to cover the costs of excess travel to distant hospitals on your rotations. So please apply if appropriate.

iv. Out of training program research (OOPR)

A reminder for anyone planning to take time out for research; if you want any time from your research experience to count towards obtaining your CCT-this must be discussed beforehand with your local educational supervisor and training program director. The competencies to be gained and educational supervision during time out must be well documented and detailed on the JRCPTB form which goes to the SAC for review and consideration.

v. GMC survey-changes to the haematology specific questions

The GMC survey is a very important way of getting trainee's voices heard and highlighting issues that we feel need to be addressed. The haematology specific questions have been revised for the 2017 survey with the hope that they are more informative on the quality of training received in different regions of the UK. There will be scope to change the 2018 survey questions based on feedback received so please do contact us if you have any suggestions or comments after completing the 2017 GMC survey.

2. Shape of Training and curriculum development

There are several drivers to training and curriculum development including the changing population demographics - see future hospitals commission and the SoT report (www.shapeoftraining.co.uk). The JRCPTB website (<https://www.jrcptb.org.uk/new-internal-medicine-curriculum>) 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'. The specific changes to haematology specialist training have not been confirmed and are under discussion. Both the length of training and the haematology competencies which overlap with general medicine are being defined and negotiated by the haematology SAC with the JRCPTB. The current position of the haematology SAC with the JRCPTB is for trainees NOT to take part in the acute unselected take but continue to be involved in supporting general medical care through looking after haematology inpatients, dealing with haematological emergencies and admissions and providing lab liaison support to other specialities as required. We will continue to keep you updated to any proposed changes to training and how it might affect you.

The haematology curriculum is being revised to focus on broad reaching competencies in practice (CIPs) reflecting the key activities required to practice as a haematology consultant. The aim is to reduce the burden of assessments and documentation. The

internal general medical curriculum is also based on CIPs. All curricula will incorporate the GMC revised common competencies (now called generic professional capabilities – but the final version of these is still awaited) Haematology specific (6-7) CIPs are being drafted by the haematology curriculum subcommittee of the SAC and example areas include lab haematology, liaison haematology, haematological emergencies, outpatient haematology etc. Changes are not anticipated to occur before 2018 for CMT and 2021 for haematology specialist training. We will keep you updated of any significant proposed changes to the curriculum.

3. Review of the NHSBT Transfusion Courses

The content and structure of both the Intermediate and Advanced Transfusion Medicine Courses are being reviewed. To ensure trainees views are taken into account there is an opportunity to provide feedback on what you would like changed (if anything). Are there any particular topics you would like more/less focus on, more practicals etc? Please email Shubha Allard (shubha.allard@nhsbt.nhs.uk) with your suggestions and let her know if you would be interested in being the trainee representative for this review process. A more formal questionnaire will be sent out next year to gather views.

4. British Society for Haematology Update

This year's annual scientific meeting (ASM) is taking place in **Brighton – Monday 27 – Wednesday 29 March 2017**. Following excellent feedback from last years annual scientific meeting (ASM) we are planning on building on this with a 'How I Treat' emphasis. The plenary lectures will be Professor Nigel Mackman on 'The role of tissue factor in haemostasis and thrombosis', Prof Anas Younes on 'The changing landscape of Hodgkin Lymphoma therapy' and Prof Judith Marsh on 'How I treat Aplastic Anaemia'. We will also be having our first trainee session which will have speakers on immortalizing red blood cell lines, 'How I treat' congenital thrombocytopenias and how haematology functions in post earthquake New Zealand.

The 9th Annual Pitfalls education meeting is being held on Sunday 26th March on the pitfalls of cancer management before the ASM and is followed by the 'Young Haematologists Evening'. You can book yourself a place on the BSH website:

<http://www.b-s-h.org.uk/conference-and-events/annual-scientific-meeting/>

Finally, keep in contact with the BSH for updates by twitter @BritSocHaem and follow the fantastic @TeamHaem for ongoing cases and education.

If you have local events you want to advertise this way then please email Roberta Filippi on Roberta@b-s-h.org.uk

5. Feedback for the FRCPath Examination-Spring 2016

Part 1

81 candidates sat the exam which consisted of 2 papers, one an MCQ and the other an essay paper. The candidates have to complete all questions with no choice in the essay paper. A pass was achieved by 61/81 (75%) of candidates (Autumn 20-15 67%). 20 candidates failed the exam

Component failed	Essay only	MCQ only	Both
Number	10	5	5

Section	General Haem	Haem-Onc	H&T	Transfusion	Overall
Essay pass rate %	85	85	84	57	81

Section	General Haem	Haem-Onc	H&T	Transfusion	Overall
MCQ pass rate %	77	93	84	69	87.5

Part 2

The part 2 exam was sat by 74 candidates in 6 centres. 34 of the 74 candidates (46%) passed the exam. 40 candidates failed the exam. The exam can be considered to consist of 4 sections, transfusion, coagulation, morphology and the viva. Pass rates in the individual papers were as follows:

Section	Pass rate %
Coagulation	61
Transfusion	73
Morphology	89
Oral/Viva	86

53% of the failing candidates failed in a single area and 47% of failing candidates failed more than one section of the exam

6. Haematology Courses

- I. There are a series of short courses in haematology at Imperial in 2017, details of which can be found here:
<https://www1.imperial.ac.uk/departmentofmedicine/divisions/experimentalmedicine/haematology/shortcourse/#one>

- II. The 2017 dates for the Intermediate and Advanced transfusion courses are (<http://hospital.blood.co.uk/training/programme-diary/>):

Essential Transfusion Medicine

2017

Filton

26 - 30 June

6 - 10 November

Manchester

30 January - 3 February

9 - 13 October

Tooting

6 - 10 March

5 - 9 June

2018

Manchester

29 January - 2nd February

Intermediate Transfusion Medicine

2017

Colindale/Tooting

9 - 27 January

12 - 30 June

9 - 27 October

Filton

3 - 21 July

Manchester

6 - 24 February

2018

Manchester

5 - 23 February

Lastly 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.

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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