

# GAT Training Survey

At this year's GAT Annual Scientific Meeting in Oxford, we undertook our annual training survey. Delegates were invited to complete a nine-question survey, with the aim to provide a snapshot of the state of training across the country. Now in its third year, the completed survey also allows comparison with previous years' results, invaluable given the ongoing changes to our working and training patterns.

The Questions asked were

- What is your current grade?
- Which pay band is your current job?
- In your most recent five weeks of training, how many half-day teaching lists have you had in total?
- At night do you currently have a room with a bed for your use?
- In your hospital are you asked to write the name of a supervising consultant on every anaesthetic chart?
- Have you had an appraisal in your current job?
- Do you think your current anaesthetic training scheme will prepare you adequately for your chosen career?
- Do we need to compensate for the reduction in working hours by increasing the duration of training?
- What would you do to improve life for trainees?

Of the 256 delegates completing the survey, 59% were post-Fellowship Registrars, 12% were pre-Fellowship Registrars and 29% were Senior House Officers.

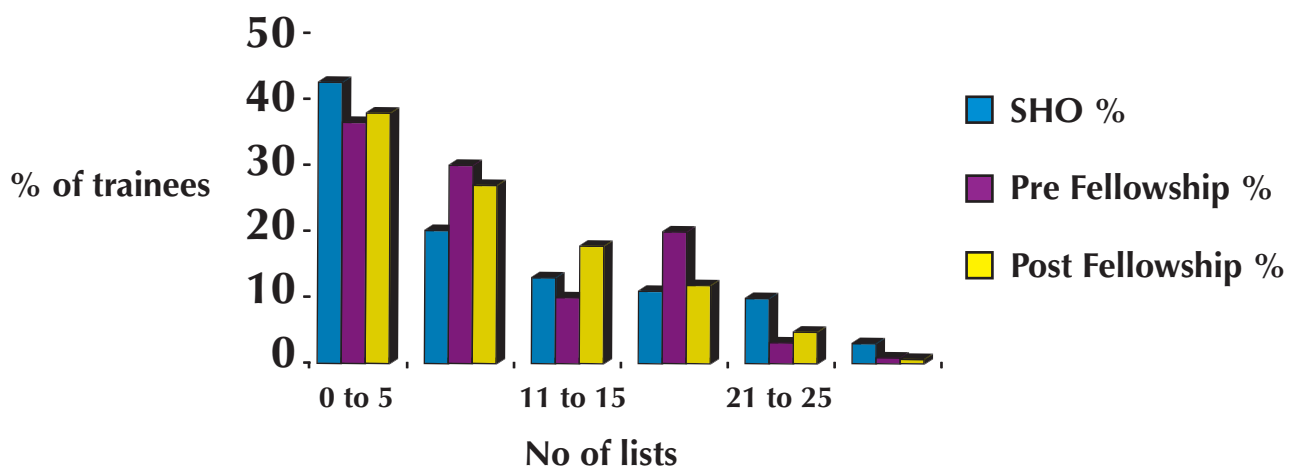
64% of trainees worked on 2A compliant rotas, 17% worked on 2B compliant rotas, with the remaining trainees working either 1A compliant or flexible rotas. Only one trainee was still working a Band 3 rota.

The retention of on-call Rooms for doctors working overnight remains a contentious issue and one that GAT has been involved with over the last twelve months. Of those trainees completing the survey, 90% still had use of a room, although an increasing number commented that the rooms were under threat or due to be removed. The AAGBI has recently highlighted the need for rest/napping in their publication on fatigue and the anaesthetist.

In this year's survey, we introduced a question to look at the requirement for a named consultant. 25% of trainees worked in hospitals where they were asked to write the name of the supervising consultant on the anaesthetic sheet.

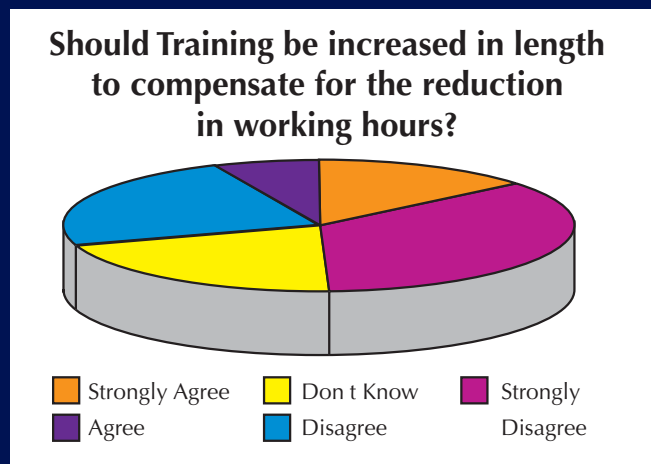
In terms of training, over a third of trainees received less than 5 teaching sessions in total over a five-week period. 23% received between 6 and 10, 15% between 11 and 15, 12% 16 – 20, 4% 21 – 25 with two trainees receiving more than 25. A more detailed breakdown is included in the graph, but what needs to be highlighted is that over 40% of SHOs received less than FIVE teaching sessions in total during a five-week period. This is up from 28% at the same time last

### In your most recent five weeks of training how many half-day teaching sessions have you had?



year, and may reflect changes in working and training patterns that have resulted from the introduction of the European Working Time Directive.

72% of trainees in total had received an appraisal in their current job.

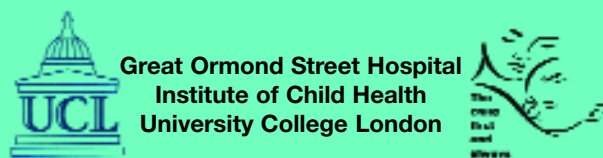


The number of trainees who felt that their training programme would prepare them adequately for their chosen career was 75% - 79% in 2004, 63% in 2003. The opinion this year was again divided as to whether training should be increased in length to compensate for reduced hours and case exposure.

Delegates were given the opportunity to provide comments as to how they felt their lives could be improved. Leaving aside the one delegate who commented life couldn't get any better, nearly one hundred comments were received. The first main theme was the need to retain on-call Rooms at night and to return to either partial shifts or an on-call rota. The second theme was the need for less service commitment, especially in Intensive Care, and an increase in training sessions or at least, more directed training sessions.

Although the survey has limitations, being completed by a self-selecting group of trainees and representing only a tenth of the total trainee number, it provides a valuable insight into the state of training today. The issue of Senior House Officer training needs to be urgently looked at and acted upon if the results of the survey are truly representative of the United Kingdom. Many thanks to all those who completed the survey and any comments would be greatly appreciated.

Michael Parris



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Closing date 6th January 2006