

Report of RCOA Training Committee Meeting 6th May 2009

Another wide-ranging meeting. The following items may be of interest to GAT members:

- The College is looking to introduce some form of higher assessment to be completed in the final year or two of training. At the moment it is envisaged that this will NOT be an exit exam, but more likely some extended case summaries of the form already used in ICM training and perhaps a viva. This is all still in the very early stages of planning.
- It appears that the most recent primary exam results were again disappointing. The weakest area is Physics and Clinical Measurement. It is not clear why the standard of candidates is dropping although there are several theories. The College is looking at re-introducing a Basic Sciences Course.
- The Committee discussed the rules for special interest training at Higher/Advanced levels, but failed to come to a decision. The issue is whether training should be extended when a trainee takes up a non-clinical specialist post such as a year in research or a Darzi fellowship. At the moment there is inconsistency. The Committee seemed to be leaning towards delaying CCTs.
- The devolved nations are (along with everyone else) concerned about the implementation of the 48hour week in August. Both Wales and N Ireland have recently appointed a large number of novices in the hope that they will ease the pressure. It is anticipated that many trusts will appoint doctors from the Indian sub-continent to trust grade jobs under the Medical Training Initiative in order to make rotas compliant.
- National recruiting will begin gently in 2010 with a national applications process for ST3. There will be a standard job specification and application form. Candidates may apply to up to two Units of Application (UoAs). A UoA may be a single school, academy or devolved nation. Initially UoAs will interview using local rules, but the long-term aim is to standardise the interview. Job offers will be made simultaneously, with candidates given a limited window in which to accept. A second clearing round will then take place to match unsuccessful candidates with unfilled posts.

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