



The purpose of this newsletter is to update trainees, tutors and trainers on the changes in training as of July 2011. Some of these changes are directed by our relationship with the HSE and IMC and some are internal. Firstly the changes in personnel to the Training Committee from July 2011:

Training Committee

Dr David Mannion

Chair of Training Committee

Dr Ian Surgeon

Postgraduate Dean

Dr Ellie O'Leary

Vice Dean and Trainee Director.

Dr Crina Burlacu

Simulation Director

Dr Tom Owens

Hospital Accreditation

Ms Maria Golden

Training Officer

Training Numbers

As you know the CAI now has now been contracted by the HSE to train BSTs, RTPs and SPRs trainees. The SpR numbers were initially approved at 90 but have recently been increased to 120 at the expense of RTP numbers. As the increased numbers must be spread across the five SpR years, the increase will be phased in over a number of years.

Included in the 30 new SpR posts are 8 full time posts in ICU to facilitate training of specialists in Intensive Care Medicine. Trainees rotated to these posts will work exclusively in ICU during their rotations.

Special Interest (SI) Year 5

With the increase in SpR numbers we are taking the opportunity to replace the option of a year out in the middle of the SpR programme, with a Special Interest year during the final year of SpR training. From July 2012 time out of programme will only be allowed in year 5. This time may be taken to pursue special interest

training in Ireland or abroad. At present SpRs wishing to avail of this should write to the training committee to seek approval. When availing of this year, SpRs remain officially in training, so CST will be awarded following this year.

There are currently a number of hospitals developing Fellowships suitable for the SI Year 5. Hospitals wishing to develop new posts should contact Maria Golden for details on how to do so. In time, we hope to develop a list of approved Fellowship positions in Ireland which trainees may consider for this special interest year.

Annual Recruitment

It is the wish of both the HSE METR and the IMC that the CAI would move to a single annual recruitment of trainees. Prior to this we have recruited every 6 months. We will therefore be advertising shortly for recruitment for July 2012 positions. As we move away from biannual recruitment, there will inevitably be fewer trainees in January than July for the next couple of years. Given the current manpower staffing shortages, we will aim to mitigate this shortage by offering Fixed Term Trainees an opportunity to fill in gaps in their training needed for entry to the Specialist Register of the IMC. Only those who have been referred to the CAI by the IMC (Level 5 assessment) for assessment will be considered.

Logbook

The CAI has now developed an electronic logbook to record clinical activity in both anaesthesia and intensive care. From July 2011 all trainees are required to record their clinical activity on a daily or weekly basis. Many already do so, in other formats, but it is now mandatory that the College logbook is used to record this activity from now on. The data thus recorded will then form part of each trainee's electronic record. The logbook is also available to all Fellows of the College. Non-trainees may



also find it useful to record clinical activity for their own purposes. It may be a particularly useful tool to help with the audit activity, which is now a component of the Professional Competence Scheme of the IMC.

Training Activity Log

As part of the Professional Competence Scheme all doctors, registered with the CAI and on the General or Specialist division of the IMC have to record their CME activity on the CAI website. The software developments, put in place to record these activities are now being extended to trainees.

As part of their training package, trainees will now be required to record their non-clinical training on the college website. The considerable amount of tutorials, audit, meetings etc. which have previously gone unreported, may now be recorded. This is not a statutory requirement for trainees as it is for General and Specialist Division doctors. The CAI is, however, requiring all trainees to do so. As with the electronic logbook, this will form part of the trainee's training record and will be used as part of the formal in-training reviews by the College. Prior to this, details of most training activity were lost, unless recorded on a CV. We hope all trainees will see the benefits of having this information available to them. In addition, as recording this information will form part of their future practice, we feel it is appropriate that this is a component of the training process. Trainees may access the log using their existing username and password. There is no fee for recording training activity.

In-Training Assessments & Competencies

For the past number of years we have collated all hospital in-training assessments and competency requirements in the trainee's portfolio. We are now going a step further to record this activity electronically. Tutors are now going to be asked to record this data directly on the College website. Indeed some are already doing so. Tutors who log on to the site will have access to procedures for online

completion and submission of six-monthly ITAs and Competency Assessments, for the trainees currently assigned to their hospital. They will be able to do this during and up to one month after the trainee's six-month posting to their hospital. Tutors will also be able to view Trainee ITAs submitted for the six month posting immediately prior to rotation to their hospital, as well as an overview screen on trainee progress to date. In this way we hope to complete the electronic training record of each trainee. Future records of trainees will include clinical rotations, clinical activity of the trainee while in that rotation (logbook), academic activity of the trainee while in that rotation (trainee PCS record), competencies achieved during that rotation and finally the assessment by the trainers of that trainees performance, during that rotation. Moving forward all training rotations will be recorded in this manner.

Discretionary Funding

The HSE has now implemented a fund for SpRs for training and education activities. This will be €500 per trainee per year for those who are active on the SpR programme, commencing July 2010. The HSE has stipulated as to how the fund must work. Trainees may claim each year or allow the money to accumulate for a number of years and then claim. Trainees will apply prospectively to their current trainer for a meeting/course etc. that they would like to attend. Once all receipts etc. are available, the claim is then sent to the Forum of Irish Postgraduate Training Bodies. Once approved by Forum, the CAI is informed and will issue the cheque to the trainee. The HSE guidelines on this fund have already been sent to trainees.

Simulation

In 2010, the College of Anaesthetists of Ireland launched the College of Anaesthetists Simulation Training (CAST) programme, which involved the introduction of full-scale realistic



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simulation in the overall competence-based training in the speciality of Anaesthesia. Initially introduced in March 2010 as an optional educational initiative, the CAST programme was subsequently fully integrated in the Service Level Agreement between the College and HSE-METR Unit and became, therefore, mandatory for certain categories of anaesthesia trainees. The CAI was due to train 382 trainees on mandatory simulation courses for the period July 2010 to June 2011. 92% of these group attended courses with an 8% non attendance due to a number of varying reasons. For the period July – December 2011, CAI are due to train 169 trainees, made up of BST, RTP and SpR 1-3's. The courses to be run in this period are as follows:

Anaesthesia Emergencies I
Anaesthesia Emergencies II
Obstetric Anaesthesia Emergencies
Paediatric Anaesthesia Emergencies

The CAI plans to extend courses offered to SpR 4/5 in the coming years. Trainees and hospitals departments need to be aware that these courses are a mandatory part of training and attendance at these courses is obligatory. Notice of dates for September – December 2011 will be circulated soon.

Feedback

There are always problems with new software and the various electronic developments reported here will not be immune to this. We would appreciate feedback (to isurgeon@coa.ie) from users on what works, what doesn't work, how things could be improved etc.

Website

We will shortly be upgrading our website. So please keep an eye on www.anaesthesia.ie

Dr David Mannion, Chair Training Committee
Dr Ian Surgeon, Postgraduate Dean

Dates for your Training Diary



SpR & BST Applications Open
9th September 2011

SpR & BST Applications Close
28th October 2011

SpR Interviews July 2012
13th January 2012

BST Interviews July 2012
17th January 2012

Dates for your Education Diary



MSc in Medical Professionalism
September 2011 – May 2012

Local Anaesthesia for Ophthalmic Surgery
17th September 2011

**OSCE/VIVA Revision Course for Primary
FCARCSI**
21st & 22nd September 2011

Airway Management Workshop
28th September 2011

**Core Topics Day and Autumn College
Lecture**
19th October 2011

Professionalism in Practice Workshop
GSK Medal Presentations
Winter College Lecture
25th November 2011

Ultrasound & Regional Workshop
TBC