

New Special Interest Year 5 SpR

The College of Anaesthetists of Ireland has recently received approval from the HSE to convert 30 National Anaesthesia Registrar Training Programme posts to SpR posts over a period of 3 years commencing July 2011. The College is using the expanded SpR programme to introduce the option of a new Special Interest year in year 5 of SpR training. These posts may be in Ireland or abroad.

The option of a Special Interest year 5 SpR will replace the option of time out of SpR programme in SpR years 1-4. Leave from the SpR programme will no longer be approved for SpRs at years 1-4 except for personal circumstance including maternity and sick leave or academic training. Applications for leave to pursue academic training on an approved programme will be considered by the Training Committee as before. Trainees and College tutors have been informed of these changes.

The college is now seeking applications from Departments of Anaesthesia for recognition of new Special Interest training posts towards completion of SpR training at the level of year 5. The College is inviting applications from Departments of Anaesthesia with Fellowship posts previously recognised for completion of SpR training at the level of years 1-4 and Departments of Anaesthesia who feel that they can offer Special Interest training posts. As these posts will be in the final year of SpR training it is envisaged that they will provide Special Interest training to the level of a Consultant Anaesthetist with a Special Interest. The College is preparing an on line application form to facilitate the approval process.

It will be a condition of recognition towards SpR training that these new Special Interest posts do not reduce access of trainees on the National BST, RTP and SpR training programmes to subspecialty training. There is no additional funding available for these new posts. They will be funded by substitution of existing funded SpR year 5 posts within the Department of Anaesthesia concerned.

The first of these new Special Interest posts will be 2 Special Interest posts in Intensive Care Medicine planned to commence July 2011. Other new year 5 Special Interest posts available in Ireland will be notified to SpRs and detailed on the College website as they are approved by the College. It is hoped to have Special Interest posts approved and available to SpRs for July 2012.

It is envisaged that these new Special Interest posts will provide senior level subspeciality anaesthesia training previously unavailable in Ireland. Alternatively SpRs may request leave to pursue a Special Interest year 5 outside of Ireland in a Fellowship programme approved by the Training Committee for accreditation towards completion of SpR training or they may continue standard SpR training in Ireland.

The Dean or myself will be pleased to advise further if required.

Yours sincerely



Katrina O'Sullivan
Chair Training Committee