

## **A Message from the Chairman of the Specialist Advisory Committee (SAC) in Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery (OMFS):**

Following the recent decision by COPMeD to allow F1 trainees who feel they have already gained all Foundation competencies to apply to Specialist Training (ST): discussions have taken place with Lis Paice (COPMeD Chair) regarding some commonsense clarification with regard to eligibility for ST1 and ST2 entry.

Applicants are required to provide evidence that Foundation competencies have been achieved. This will usually take the form of a portfolio. Each application will be assessed in the Unit of Application. The services of the OMFS TPD and SAC Liaison member have been offered where assistance in carrying this out is requested.

As you know, in most of the surgical specialties ST3 is the entry point to specialty-specific training and the person specifications call for MRCS or its equivalent. In OMFS the equivalent entry point is to ST2. The person specification for ST2 (OMFS) is somewhat ambiguous. It does not call for "MRCS or equivalent" but for "the appropriate Royal College examination".

It may be that this ambiguity is appropriate in that it leaves it open for the Specialty to decide whether the "appropriate Royal College examination" may be defined as MRCS Part 1, or Parts 1 and 2, rather than the full MRCS.

It was previously possible to appoint SpRs in the specialty without MRCS, as long as the qualification had been gained by the time the post commenced.

An unintended effect of the ruling re Foundation Training may be to have significantly more ST1 applicants than anticipated with relatively few applicants to ST2. There are also likely to be more applicants to Specialist Training than there are posts available

Having been offered a number of scenarios to consider by trainees, and having had discussions with Prof Paice, we have suggested the following as a pragmatic solution to applicants:

- 1. Applicants with evidence of completion of F2 competences may apply to ST1.**
- 2. Applicants with evidence of completion of F2 and ST1 competences but without MRCS may apply to ST1**

**3. Applicants with evidence of completion of F2 and ST1 competences and MRCS may apply to ST2**

**4. Applicants with evidence of completion of F2 and ST1 competences and partial MRCS may apply to ST2**

**Notes:**

- A. Applicants who have not completed Foundation Training (F1 + F2) but who feel that they possess all Foundation competencies should submit evidence of this with their application. This may be in the form of a portfolio and will be considered as part of the application process.**
- B. Applicants who wish to train to CCT and not CESR (for Article 14) will have to supply evidence that the ST1 competences have been acquired in an educationally approved post (eg letter of appointment).**

Applicants to ST2 with partial MRCS are advised that the remaining parts of the examination should be passed before entry to ST3.

Applicants to OMFS posts should consult carefully before submitting an application to ensure that the level to which application is being made is the most appropriate. Application may be made to one level only. Advice re the application process is available on the MMC website. [www.mmc.nhs.uk](http://www.mmc.nhs.uk)