



## JCST Newsletter

### August 2019

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Dear All,

Welcome to the latest issue of the JCST newsletter, which features all the usual updates and news from JCST, as well as an important update on the new curriculum changes arriving in 2020. **These will affect everyone – please help us to tell you what the changes are by reading this.**

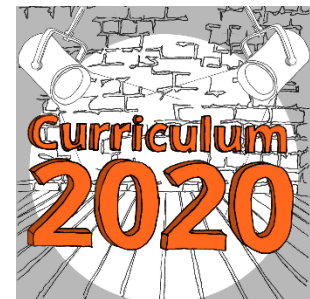
We have a wide range of ongoing and recently completed projects, and along with all the regular news and developments you'll find in the newsletter, there are a variety of other updates we would like to share with you – you can find these below as 'focus points'.

**Gareth Griffiths – JCST Chair**

## Curriculum update

**Jon Lund – ISCP Surgical Director**  
**Maria Bussey – Head of ISCP**

As you know, a new curriculum will be introduced from August 2020 **and whatever your role, trainee or trainer, the curriculum changes will affect you.** The main change is that training will be 'outcomes-based'; you can finish training when you are judged to have reached the level expected of a day 1 consultant in your specialty.



This change to outcomes-based training, and other changes driven by standards set out by the GMC, require some other changes to assessment in training. We hope by now you will have seen the new area of the ISCP website – the [orange box](#) on our home page - which we have dedicated to keeping you up to date with these changes. Features include some short user-friendly videos about the new:

- [Capabilities in Practice \(CiPs\)](#)
- [Generic Professional Capabilities \(GPCs\)](#)
- [Multiple Consultant Report \(MCR\) / trainee self-assessment.](#)

The MCR is going to be the main assessment tool of the new curriculum. It puts the professional opinion of trainers at the heart of assessment and will give specific and timely feedback to help focus training needs. You can try out the demonstration version of the MCR / trainee self-assessment and give us your feedback so that we can fine tune it to your needs before we build the final version. You can follow the links through the Curriculum Preview box on the [ISCP home page](#) or you can also just log on to ISCP, change the url in the browser address bar to [www.iscp.ac.uk](http://www.iscp.ac.uk) and then type /mcr after uk to start the MCR/self-assessment.

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In the last issue we gave you an update on the progress each specialty's curriculum has made through the GMC's mandated 2-stage approval process. Most of the curricula are now through Stage 1 (strategic approval), while Cardiothoracic Surgery and Otolaryngology have received approval for Stage 2 (educational approval). General Surgery entered Stage 2 in July and the others will follow in October.

We are now in the advanced stages of consultation and are very grateful to everyone who has given us feedback so far, your comments have helped us improve the content and navigation. Thank you also to everyone who attended and participated so actively in our Development Day events in July. We were especially grateful to Scarlett McNally for delivering the stimulating Equality and Diversity sessions.



We are also formally piloting the MCR/self-assessment tool across different specialties and regions. Let us know at [helpdesk@iscp.ac.uk](mailto:helpdesk@iscp.ac.uk) if you are interested in conducting a pilot in your training location.

## QA update

**James Wheeler – QA Lead**

**Rachel Norton – Quality Manager**

### Regional quality reports

One of the QA Group's most significant projects at present is the development of regional specialty reports, which aim to bring together a range of quality data into a single place and report at the level of the individual specialty/core programme. When complete, these reports will be shared with the relevant Head of School, TPD and SAC Liaison Member (LM) for the programme to contribute to local QM processes.

Pilots have been delivered to date by the SACs in Cardiothoracic Surgery and Trauma & Orthopaedic Surgery, taking quite different approaches.

Along with the two specialty pilots, we have asked the QA Leads of all other specialties and core to design a template report for their own SACs. This covers a common minimum dataset (JCST and GMC survey results, LM report content, etc.) as well as identified specialty-specific measures. The majority of specialties have presented their templates at the QA Group meeting in March 2019. It has been agreed that SAC QA Leads will refine and complete these over the summer, with a view to presenting final templates at the October 2019 QA Group meeting.

We aim to have a completed set of reports from all specialties and core by the end of the year.

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## Focus points

### Workforce

We recognise the challenges faced by some specialties in terms of workforce planning to ensure that the number of trainees completing training matches the NHS's requirements for new consultants in each specialty. This is a highly specialised and complex area but we are engaging with SACs, Specialty Associations and workforce planners in an attempt to ensure that all available information is taken into account when making these calculations. We held a joint Health Education England (HEE) / JCST stakeholder meeting in late May where HEE workforce leads presented their data and specialties were given an opportunity to present their views and data. We will continue to engage with workforce planners in the future to raise any forthcoming concerns.

### JCST Post-certification Fellowships

We continue to work on this project and hope to pilot a small number of fellowships from summer/autumn 2020. These fellowships will be open to those who wish to specialise in areas that are not required to be trained to independent practice level within the formal curricula prior to certification and which are required by the NHS. We will focus on three specialties to start with, namely Cardiothoracic Surgery, General Surgery and Otolaryngology (ENT).

### Credentialing

The GMC's Credentialing Framework is now available [here](#).

### Improving Surgical Training (IST)

The Royal College of Surgeons of England (RCSEng) is leading on this project with HEE. You can find further information about this pilot [here](#).

## News items from JCST

### Training pathways and selection process diagrams

A series of diagrams have been created which help to outline the training pathways available to surgeons within each surgical specialty, including detail on specialty-specific requirements, highlighting selection stages, and showing the training journey available in each specialty for uncoupled and run-through training, as well as the [IST pilot programmes](#). Alongside this, there is also a set of slides explaining the selection process for trainees, which provides an overview of the selection process for each specialty and helps to explain some of the stages involved, along with examples of the type of selection centre stations trainees may encounter.

These resources have now been added to the website [here](#) with some explanatory text, and the files have also been added under 'JCST / ISCP documents' on the [Key Documents page](#).

### Training Interface Groups (TIGs)

The TIG fellowships have all been a great success and offer training which crosses traditional specialty boundaries. Working with the Lean Dean for the TIGs, we hope to develop these further by piloting "shadow" TIG fellowships in Spinal Surgery and Skin Cancer in the near future.

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## ISCP news

### Website update – MCR

The MCR is going to be the main assessment tool of the new curriculum (see Curriculum Update above). It puts professional opinion of trainers at the heart of assessment and will give specific and timely feedback to help focus training needs. You can try out the demonstration version of the MCR / trainee self-assessment and give us your feedback so that we can fine tune it to your needs before we build the final version. You can follow the links through the Curriculum Preview box on the [ISCP home page](#) or you can also just log on to ISCP, change the url in the browser address bar to [www.iscp.ac.uk](http://www.iscp.ac.uk) and then type /mcr after uk to start the MCR/self-assessment.

## SAC membership – benefits

The Specialty Advisory Committees (SACs) are pivotal in providing external advice and opinion on provision of surgical training and ultimately in the delivery of patient safety. Because of this, we would like all trainers to consider the long-term benefit of becoming an SAC member, and the level of prestige and responsibility that comes with such an appointment. You can find an endorsement for SAC membership in our [previous newsletter](#).

Other current members have given examples of some of the benefits of being an SAC member:

- *“Collaboration of ideas”*
- *“Being at the forefront of change in surgical education and training”*
- *“Networking with colleagues in the whole of UK that become good friends and associates”*
- *“Enjoy meeting trainees from another region and picking up on trainees’ feedback to help plan own training scheme.”*
- *“Being able to influence future of training in UK”*

If you are interested in joining your specialty’s SAC, please look at the JCST website or contact the SAC Chair directly for more information. You can find the job description and person specifications for these roles [here](#).

## SAC membership – 2020 vacancies

If you want to apply to become an SAC Member, here is the planned recruitment timeframe for filling vacancies arising in 2020:

- Advert will go live 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2019, applications are accepted from this date
- Advert will close 20<sup>th</sup> October 2019
- Shortlisting, approval, and confirmation of appointments is expected to be completed by late November 2019

We will also be advertising throughout 2020 for any other additional vacancies which arise during the year – any vacancies will be advertised on the [SAC membership vacancies page](#) and on the JCST Twitter page [@JCST\\_Surgery](#).

All new SAC Members must attend an SAC Induction day before starting Liaison Member (LM) duties, if relevant. The first induction day in 2020 will be on Friday 20<sup>th</sup> March - those unable to attend this date, will need to attend an induction on Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> June instead.



## SAC Newsletters

We want to make sure that you are well informed of what is being discussed by your relevant Specialty Advisory Committees (SAC); following their most recent meeting, each SAC has produced a short report letting you know the key items which were discussed, any major decisions made, and useful dates and information for the future. Each report has been written by the SAC Chair/Vice Chair and the Trainee Rep, and they can be downloaded from the links below:

- [Vascular Surgery from April 2019](#)
- [Core Surgery from May 2019](#)
- [Trauma & Orthopaedic Surgery from June 2019](#)
- [Otolaryngology \(ENT\) from June 2019](#)

## JCST fee

In January the four Presidents of the Joint Surgical Colleges (RCS Edinburgh, RCS England, RCPS Glasgow and RCS Ireland) agreed that there will be no increase in the JCST fee in 2019-20, with the intention to hold it at this level for a further two years beyond that, to August 2022, subject to affordability. The fee will therefore remain at £260 from August 2019; you can read their full statement [here](#).

The fee is payable by logging into your ISCP account and following the 'JCST fee' link under the 'Dashboard' heading. Some Surgical Colleges also have arrangements in place to allow trainees to combine fee payments with College membership fee payments. If you have any questions about the JCST fee please see the [JCST fee FAQs page](#)

*We would encourage you, where possible, to pay by debit card and help us minimise the administrative cost of processing your fee. The Royal Colleges of Surgeons of the UK and Ireland are charity organisations and payments by debit card will have a significant positive impact on our costs. Thank you.*

## The trainee's voice



We would like to know what you want to hear about – in order to make sure you are receiving the most relevant information about the JCST please let us know if there are particular aspects of our work you would like to know more about, or receive updates on. You can either [contact us directly](#) or complete this 5 question [online survey](#).

## College news

[RCSEng news](#)  
[RCSI news](#)

[RCPSGlas news](#)  
[RCSEd news](#)





JCST Twitter Don't forget to follow us on Twitter at [@JCST\\_Surgery](#)

## Useful links

You can find all the main processes on the JCST website here: [UK trainees](#) & [Irish trainees](#)

There are FAQs on using the ISCP [here](#)

You can find all previous issues of the newsletter on the JCST website [here](#)

## About the JCST

The Joint Committee on Surgical Training (JCST) is an advisory body to the four surgical Royal Colleges of the UK and Ireland for all matters related to surgical training, and works closely with the Surgical Specialty Associations in Great Britain and Ireland. The JCST is the parent body for all ten Specialty Advisory Committees (SACs) responsible for surgical specialties, the Core Surgical Training Advisory Committee (CSTAC), the Training Interface Groups (TIGs) and the [Intercollegiate Surgical Curriculum Programme \(ISCP\)](#). The JCST and your SAC form an integral part of your training from start to completion - you can find out more [here](#).

You can find all the contact details for the JCST [here](#).

## JCST staff news

So that you know a bit more about who works within the JCST department we include a regular update on JCST staff.

### Leavers

Rickane Shah left his position as Trainee Services Coordinator in March having moved onto a new job and we wish him all the very best for the future. In May Chloe St Leger-Davey moved on from JCST, having been with us for three and a half years, and we were sad to say goodbye to Sarah Lay in May as well – Sarah had been working in JCST for the past three years, and before that she worked in the Faculty of Dental Surgery (FDS) for over three years. In June and July both Pram Kaur and Megan Warde also left JCST, having been in the department for almost eleven and a half years and eight and a half years respectively, to start exciting new career moves.

We want to thank Rickane, Sarah, Chloe, Pram, and Megan for all their help, hard work, and friendship over the years and wish them success in everything the future holds!

### New starters

We are very pleased to let you know that in March Trinsigh Rogers applied for and was promoted to the role of Committee and Trainee Services Manager – congratulations! With this change and Rickane's departure, we had to recruit new Trainee Services Coordinators and we were pleased to welcome Tahirih Doncaster to the department in May; she has settled in well and looks forward to working with you all. In July, Rachel Norton joined us as our new Quality Manager, along with two of our new Committee and Trainee Services Managers (CTSMs) – Megan Derby and Nadia Permall have both joined the Trainee Services team. We have another new CTSM joining us later this month and we look forward to introducing them to you in the next issue of this newsletter.

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## JCST staff

As well as Gareth, Jon, and James, the department consists of:

|                      |                                      |
|----------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Alan Simpson         | CESR Casework Manager                |
| Calum Cochrane       | Committee & Trainee Services Manager |
| Encarna Manzano      | Committee & Trainee Services Manager |
| Erik Majaus          | Trainee Services Coordinator         |
| Joining in August    | Committee & Trainee Services Manager |
| Lawrence Redway      | Trainee Services Coordinator         |
| Margaret Murphy      | ISCP Education Officer               |
| Maria Bussey         | Head of ISCP                         |
| Mark Johnson         | CESR Casework Manager                |
| Megan Derby          | Committee & Trainee Services Manager |
| Megan Wilson         | Head of CESR & Policy                |
| Nadia Permall        | Committee & Trainee Services Manager |
| Rachel Dowle         | ISCP Curriculum Officer              |
| Rachel Norton        | Quality Manager                      |
| Rebecca Griffith     | Project Manager                      |
| Robert Fox           | Head of Trainee Services             |
| Susana Cipriano      | Head of JCST                         |
| Tahirih Doncaster    | Trainee Services Coordinator         |
| Trinsigh (TJ) Rogers | Committee & Trainee Services Manager |
| Vacant               | ISCP JCST Data Manager / Analyst     |
| Vacant               | Trainee Services Coordinator         |

## Staff spotlight

As a brief introduction to each of the department, in this issue we would like to introduce you to Alan Simpson:



Alan Simpson – CESR Casework Manager

After many years in the Civil Service, mostly at what is now the Department for Digital, Culture, Media & Sport (including working on the London 2012 Olympic Games), I joined JCST in 2014. The best things about working in JCST are the people! I'm a keen photographer and I also enjoy researching local history – I have written four books and numerous articles on a range of local history topics.