

This newsletter has been designed to provide you with regular tri-annual correspondence and updates from your Specialty Advisory Committee (SAC).

2020 Curriculum

Are you ready for the changes?

All trainees except those starting their ST8 year in or before August 2020 will transition to the new curriculum.



The main changes are:

1. The multi-consultant report will replace most of the work-based assessments and ISCP topics. The aim is to get away from “tick boxing” and assessing every part of neurosurgical training in minute detail. Instead high level progress against the general professional competencies and capabilities in practice will be assessed on a 3 monthly basis.
2. ST2 entry will replace ST3 entry from 2021.
3. Phase 1 training (ST1 and ST2 only) may now include Neuroradiology and / or Neuropathology. Trainees should not repeat jobs they have previously undertaken such as ED.
4. A critical progression point at the end of ST2 will define what is required prior to progressing to “phase 2” training. This includes passing MRCS and having some experience with craniotomies and laminectomies.
5. ISCP is being redesigned to accommodate the changes.
6. ARCPs, educational supervision and the exams remain much the same.

For more information please see the top link in the box opposite.

Workforce Planning

The number of trainees on the specialist register but without substantive jobs remains high despite on going consultant expansion. Recruitment through national selection has been capped for the first time this year. The Neurosurgery census (2nd March) will provide valuable information on how many CCTs we can expect in the next few years – please complete this!

Operative and Clinical Exposure

We have seen a big expansion in middle grade doctors that can only dilute training experience. Some things to consider that are used in some centres include advanced clinical practitioners / physicians associates to allow ST1 and ST2 doctors to get to theatre, trainees participating in NHS initiative lists in private sector hospitals and trainees taking OOPes to gain experience and confidence.

INR Credential

The curriculum for the interventional neuroradiology credential has now been submitted to the GMC. It is expected to be two years in length and it may be possible to do one of those years at ST8. The full details are subject to GMC approval.

Exams

EMI questions will be removed from 2021. There will be a change in format in section 2 such that there will be two 15 minute intermediate cases instead of one 30 minute long case from Oct 2020.

Induction Simulation Training Dates

ST1: 24th - 28th August in Manchester
ST8: 16th - 20th November in Bristol

ST3: 7th - 13th December in Coventry

Curriculum links

[New curriculum presentation](#)

[Neurosurgery curriculum \(current\)](#)

Quality Assurance

[JCIE - FRCS examination results](#)

[Quality Indicators](#)

[GMC survey data explorer](#)

Workforce

[GMC data explorer](#)

Training resources

[Gold Guide](#)

SAC Vacancies

3 vacancies will be advertised in the next few days. The role is important and rewarding but it does require commitment and is competitively appointed.

Remember, please follow us on twitter for further news updates

 [@JCST_surgery](#)