

SPECIALTY ADVISORY COMMITTEE IN PLASTIC SURGERY

Confirmed minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 8 September at The Royal College of Surgeons of England

Members present:

Miss V Lees	Chair
Mr P Durani	
Mr A Fitzgerald	
Ms J Geh	
Mr K Hancock	
Mr M Henley	
Mr L Kangesu	
Mr I Mackay	
Professor J Nanchahal	
Mr A Ray	
Mr B Powell	

In attendance:

Ms N Aro	Specialty Manager
Ms P Kaur	Specialty Assistant
Ms H Lewis	QA Manager
Ms S Nicholas	Head of JCST
Ms J Söreskog-Turp	QA Coordinator

33. Welcome and apologies for absence

Miss Lees welcomed members to the meeting including Mr Milind Dalal as the new Core Training Group representative and Mr Barry Powell as the future ISB Chair.

Apologies were received from Mr A Grobbelaar, Mr T Burge, Mr S Carroll, Mr H Giele, Mr T Goodacre, Miss W Reid and Mr J Watson.

The Committee received a table of members' attendance at SAC meetings for their information.

34. Membership and Programme Directors

The lists of SAC members, Liaison Members and Programme Directors were received for information.

Miss Lees extended formal thanks to Mr Loshan Kangesu and PLASTA representative Mr Piyush Durani for their work on the committee and noted this would be their last meeting. Miss Lees also thanked Mr Watson for his contribution to the SAC in his absence.

Miss Lees noted that Mr G Cormack was demitting from his post as Programme Director in the East of England and would be replaced by Mr Maurice Meyer.

34.1 The Committee noted that two new members would be appointed to the SAC from BAPRAS and as a Joint Colleges representative.

34.2 Mr Kangesu confirmed that this would be his last meeting as a BAPRAS representative and a replacement would be arranged for the next meeting. Miss Lees thanked him for his contribution to the SAC.

35. Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 2 June 2011 were agreed.

36. Matters arising from the minutes of previous meetings not discussed elsewhere on the agenda

36.1 The Committee received the CoPSS recommendations for SAC Liaison Members and confirmed externality in training programmes was still very important.

37. Matters for SAC Consideration

37.1 Final Years Curriculum Submission

The Committee discussed the submission of the Final Years Curriculum.

Miss Lees explained that the final version of the later years curriculum was in consultation until the end of September 2011 where all feedback and responses will be received and where applicable incorporated into the document. The curriculum will then be submitted to the GMC in October who will then take the final decision on its approval. If the curriculum is approved then it will go live for trainees to use in August 2012. Miss Lees confirmed that the curriculum can be changed once it has been accepted by the GMC. Miss Lees explained that work would eventually be done on the Early Years and Intermediate Curriculum but at present the emphasis was on Later Years because there was no curriculum in place for trainees to work from.

Mr Durani commented that this curriculum drives trainees to take the exam at the end of Year 4/ST6 so that they can start to sub-specialise and take up interface fellowships for their last two years in training. He noted that on the other hand, trainees were being told by examiners that they were sitting the exam too early and this had created tension amongst trainees and there was a need for the Committee to confirm whether the exam is set for intermediate level or if it is an exit exam. Miss Lees confirmed entry to Final Years Training is specifically not linked to sitting the exam and the advices around the exam are unchanged. Mr Powell added that trainees should only be signed up for the exam when they are at the level of a day one consultant, he emphasised that it was much more important that trainees were signed up correctly now because restriction rules were now in place.

37.2 Update on Model for National Selection

The Committee received an update on the model for National Selection.

Miss Lees informed the Committee that the model had undergone an extensive period of consultation after its last recruitment round in March. A great deal of work had been done since the middle of July to ensure that there was better validity with the system and to get the best trainees into training programmes. The interview process will now include a portfolio station where candidates will be required to present evidence to support their application and there will be an onsite appeals process if there were any disagreements. Miss Lees confirmed that the London Deanery would like to develop the online platform and would be applying for money from the DH. The new process had received positive feedback so far from the trainees.

There were some discussions on the last recruitment round. Mr Dalal added that there was some feedback from the Core SAC that some trainees applying to ST3 posts were not sure of the requirements and many who obtained the ST3 posts in the last round were outside of core training; only 9% of those appointed came from core training. Miss Lees explained that the process was specifically structured to ensure a level playing field between those who had been in the specialty longer and those applying from core training. Formal analysis of various aspects of selection would be undertaken following the next round. Mr Dalal suggested that greater contact by consultants supporting their core trainees was needed to help their chances.

Miss Lees added that there would be a peer review of candidates as part of the application process which would hopefully reveal any underlying probity issues that may have otherwise been missed.

[Post-meeting note: this proposal has not been adopted following advices from the London Deanery legal team]

37.3 Mapping of simulation to the early and intermediate curriculum

The Committee received a report on the mapping of simulation to the early and intermediate curriculum.

Miss Lees explained that Mr Grobbelaar was leading the project to establish the available courses and facilities that were available in the country and a request has gone out to all TPDs for this information. Miss Lees continued that the study leave budget for trainees was under threat and by incorporating some courses into the curriculum it provided a way to protect some of that money. Study leave budget would subsequently be known as 'curriculum support monies.' The deadline for the completion of this project is at the end of November 2011.

37.4 Fellowship Register

The Committee received a PowerPoint presentation on the fellowship register from Mrs Söreskog-Turp. The fellowship register is a record of all the fellowships in Plastic Surgery, both new ones and existing ones that trainees have attended that have obtained SAC approval. Miss Lees commented that this was a good resource and would allow the SAC to have better information on fellowships.

37.5 Update on the ISCP

The Committee received a paper on the recent updates with the ISCP produced by Ms Maria Bussey who had sent her apologies to this meeting. Miss Lees thanked Ms Bussey in her absence.

37.6 SAC Communication

The Committee discussed its communication with other bodies and whether a more direct method was needed. Miss Lees suggested that the minutes of the SAC be circulated to Programme Directors and trainees so that key issues are made known and for transparency. It was agreed that the unconfirmed minutes would be uploaded to the JCST website following each meeting with the confirmed version posted after the subsequent SAC meeting. An informal summary would be placed on the PLASTA website by the PLASTA representative

Action: This to be implemented after this SAC meeting.

38. Joint Committee on Surgical Training

The Group received the minutes of the meeting held on 1 July 2011.

Ms Nicholas reported that Mr Ian Eardley had officially taken over from Mr Chris Munsch as Chair for the JCST and Mr Eardley's former post as the ISCP Surgical Director was currently under recruitment. The JCST is still under review, the initial review took place in early 2011 but when the results were produced it was felt that the review group had not completely grasped the concept and in July 2011 the Joint Colleges decided that a second stage review was needed and was likely to be done by an external body.

Ms Nicholas noted that Dr Vicky Osgood had assumed her position as Deputy Director of Postgraduate Education at the GMC and Ms Nicholas was optimistic in working with her. There were however some problems at present with the CESR applications and as the certification office was due to relocate to Manchester there were some difficulty with the work

at present.

39. Training Interface Groups

39.1 Reconstructive Cosmetic Surgery

The Committee received the Executive Summary of the Reconstructive Cosmetic Surgery meeting held on 20 June 2011 and Mr Henley gave the Committee a report on some of the important points from the meeting.

Mr Henley suggested that it may be time to revise the exam requirement for the interface fellowships because this then eliminated the extremes of when trainees took the exam. He suggested that trainees could attend interface fellowships based on their Programme Director's recommendation and not be linked to the exam. However Mr Durani noted that it was important that trainees did have the exam before starting an interface fellowship because it allowed them to concentrate fully on the fellowship experience.

It was confirmed that the Head and Neck Oncology, Cleft Lip and Palate and Hand Surgery interface fellowships all currently require the exam as mandatory, whilst Breast Surgery, Trauma and Cosmetic surgery interface fellowships did not.

Action: Miss Lees to write to Mr Chris Caddy to request that the Breast Surgery interface fellowships have a mandatory requirement for the exam.

39.2 Hand Surgery

Miss Lees gave a report to the Committee on the Hand Surgery meeting held on 2 September 2011. She noted that new processes and timelines would be introduced between the interviews for the ATP and the start date. It was also agreed that there would be two rounds of recruitment to give more trainees access to the posts which would be particularly beneficial to plastic surgical trainees with only two diets of the FRCS(Plast) examination per year.

40. Quality Assurance

40.1 Specialty Specific Standards for training.

Mr Arup has created Speciality Specific Standards for Plastic Surgery. After a discussion the Committee approved the Standards with two minor adjustments to Standard 12 and 13.

40.2 Core Surgical Training Specific Standards

Mr Dalal has developed two Standards for Core trainees in Plastic Surgery attachments. The Committee approved them and also discussed whether to add another standard in regards to mentoring junior trainees. They decided to wait and see the response from the Programme Directors meeting.

40.3 Standards for CCT

The JCST has asked each SAC to set CCT requirements for their speciality. Miss Lees asked the Committee to send their suggestions to Mr Rae and reminded the committee that the standards have to be achievable for trainees.

Action: Mr Durani was requested to obtain the trainee's opinion on the requirements.

40.4 Annual Specialty Report

Ms Lewis informed the Committee that GMC only wants one report from surgery this year instead of one from each speciality. The format for the Liaison Member report will still be the same. A few members expressed concern over writing the report as they had not been

invited to any ARCPs by the deanery. Ms Lewis asked the Liaison Members to mention this in their report. Ms Lewis also reminded the members that the ASR is regarding the training year Aug 2010 – July 2011 (except for London). Some members were unsure which forms to use so Ms Lewis agreed to send the Liaison Member forms to Ms Aro to circulate.

Action: Ms Lewis to send Ms Aro the liaison member form for circulation. Ms Aro to circulate forms.

40.5 JCST Trainee Survey

Each SAC needs to develop survey questions in order to make sure that the Specialty specific standards are met. Mr Arup agreed to draft the questions for the new trainee survey and send them to the QA Department.

40.6 GMC National Trainee Survey 2012

The GMC has asked the SAC to create specialty specific questions for the GMC survey. The GMC survey runs annually so the questions need to be more generic compared to the JCST survey questions, which evaluates each placement.

Action: Mr Rae to write the questions based on the standards and the JCST survey questions.

43. RITA/ARCP Outcomes

The list of unsatisfactory RITAs and ARCPs were noted for information.

Miss Lees requested that the Secretariat carefully observe the forms that are received as it appears that not all are being sent to the JCST:

Action: Miss Aro to action.

Mr Mackay queried whether a trainee who failed the exam at the last sitting and was subsequently issued with a RITA E/ARCP 6 would be required to sit the exam at the next sitting. Miss Lees confirmed that the trainee does not have to be put into the next sitting automatically but when the trainee was fully ready to sit it again.

44. Chair's correspondence

44.1 GMC Decision Letter for ACF WCAT post in Wales

The Committee received the GMC decision letter for an Academic Clinical Fellow post on the Wales Clinical Academic Track for their information.

44.2 Moh's Surgery Fellowships

The Committee received a letter from Mr Hancock addressed to Ms Catriona Irvine (Clinical Vice President, British Association of Dermatologists).

Mr Hancock explained that he had held discussions with Professor Davinder Sandhu on whether a Moh's surgery fellowship would make a suitable interface fellowship. Professor Sandhu agreed that it would be and was able to secure funding for a year's worth of fellowships which would be divided into three four month fellowships. It was anticipated that the posts would be advertised in November/December 2011 where a Plastics and a Dermatology unit would work closely together. Fellowships would only be sited in departments where there was enthusiasm and support for the project. Mrs Geh suggested that such support may not be universal. Mr Henley added that the BSDS may block their trainees from applying for these fellowships altogether.

The British Society for Dermatological Surgery (BSDS) had recently circulated guidelines for the Moh's fellowships but this had excluded surgical trainees but Mr Mackay added that there were a reasonable number of Dermatologists who wanted to co-operate and work together.

45. Any Other Business

The Committee discussed a trainee who was signed off as fully competent and issued with an ARCP 6 two years before their expected CCT date. Miss Lees explained that at this stage it would not be possible for this trainee to be issued with a CCT but if the trainee relinquished their training number then it would be possible for them to be added to the Specialist Register via the CESR route. It was however confirmed that obtaining the CESR had implications on transferring to other European countries and it may also affect private practice. Mr Hancock suggested that this trainee spends their final two years of training in fellowship posts instead of leaving the training programme and Mr Mackay confirmed that the trainee had been advised to do this. Miss Lees suggested that the ARCP 6 form be rejected as invalid due to the time that it was issued and then allow the trainee to attend a fellowship to increase their competitiveness.

Action: Miss Aro to return ARCP 6 form to the deanery as an invalid document as it was not within four months of the trainees expected CCT date.

Mrs Geh wanted to confirm whether her skin fellowship application had been approved by the SAC and Miss Lees confirmed that it had been and suggested that she contacted Mrs Söreskog-Turp for the confirmation.

Action: Mrs Geh to contact Mrs Söreskog-Turp for the confirmation of the fellowship approval.

46. Dates of future meetings

The committee noted that SAC meetings would be held at The Royal College of Surgeons of England on the following dates (all meetings start at 10:15 unless stated otherwise):

2012:

Thursday 26 January

Thursday 7 June

Thursday 6 September

Friday 7 September SAC with TPDs meeting