

# JCST

Joint Committee on Surgical Training

## JCST Newsletter

October 2018

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### Chair's report

*Gareth Griffiths – JCST Chair*

Welcome to our new look newsletter. We hope you'll find it interesting and informative, and if you have any suggestions to improve it please do let us know.

I and two of my colleagues, Jon Lund (Surgical Director of the ISCP) and James Wheeler (Quality Assurance Lead) are now settled in our respective new roles. As we all know, rotating into new posts is always a challenging and interesting experience. Through these changes, though, we're very grateful to all the staff in the JCST office for the continuity they provide. Aidan Fitzgerald, Chair of the Interface Training Oversight Group, and many SAC Chairs have also provided continuity. You can find a full list of the JCST team later in this newsletter.



The trainee services section of the JCST has undergone considerable re-structuring following a review of the Royal College of Surgeons of England staffing structures. Staff in this section are our "front of house", dealing with ISCP Helpdesk enquiries and all other work relating to trainees' progress through training to certification. You can find more information about the trainee services section, and the whole JCST, under 'About the JCST' in this newsletter.

I'd like to wish you all the very best for the coming year, to welcome our newest trainees, and to offer our congratulations to those looking forward to certification soon.

## QA update

*James Wheeler – QA Lead*  
*Sarah Lay – Quality Manager*

Our quality indicators (QIs) for training posts have been reviewed for the 2018/19 training year, and are now available on the JCST website [here](#). We have also reviewed the QIs for Training Interface Group (TIG) fellowship posts, which you can find [here](#).

We measure compliance with the QIs via the [JCST trainee survey](#) - your survey responses are vital to our assessment of the quality of training across the UK, and we are very grateful for all the feedback we receive. Look out for the new version of the survey, which will go live in your ISCP accounts in autumn 2018.

We have also started work on QIs for training programmes, which we look forward to discussing further at the next JCST QA Group meeting.

The GMC's 2018 [National Training Survey](#) was live from March to May of this year, and the initial findings and outcome reports are available [here](#). We are currently conducting our own detailed analysis of the outcomes; we are pleased that rates of overall satisfaction amongst specialty trainees remains high, but we are also concerned about wider messages regarding rota gaps and burnout. We will be considering these subjects in depth in conjunction with ASiT and BOTa representatives over the coming months.

## Curriculum update

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



The biggest challenges and changes we're all facing at present are the [new standards for curricula](#) that have recently been introduced. These will be applied to all specialties in the next couple of years and will involve a new emphasis in training, moving away from the individual granular Workplace Based Assessments and towards more holistic teaching and assessment. These will incorporate all of the main activities we all undertake as surgeons, such as carrying out the emergency take or running an operating list. All curricula are in the process of being rewritten and approved, and we will update you as and when they will become available, including updates on the new feedback-driven assessments which will be introduced as well.

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## News items from JCST

### ISCP website update

We would like to apologise for the issues that affected the ISCP website in June and September – the temporary slow performance and inaccessibility of the website was due to a malfunction with the internet servers, managed by an external party. We appreciate the difficulty this caused, especially as we entered into the busiest part of the ARCP season. We are pleased to say that ISCP is now running on two servers, so these problems should no longer be an issue in future.

The New Multi-Source Feedback (MSF) was released at the end of August – further details are available [here](#).

### Bullying, Undermining, Harassment and Discrimination

We want to do all we can to eliminate this. We're working on a pilot to collect examples of good and bad behaviour with the intention of publishing selected examples to help nudge behaviour towards the good and away from the bad. Watch this space!

### Reflective practice

The Academy of Medical Royal Colleges (AoMRC) recently published guidance and a toolkit on Reflective Practice – you can find the full guidance document [here](#) and the toolkit [here](#).

## JCST fee

As mentioned in our [March 2018 newsletter](#) the four Presidents of the Joint Surgical Colleges (RCSEng, RCSEd, RCPSGlas, RCSI) decided that the JCST fee would remain frozen at £260 for the coming academic year (August 2018 to August 2019).

**Please do not forget to pay your fee for the coming year – you will not be able to make any additions/edits to your portfolio until you have paid.**

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](#)

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## SAC membership

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. Here is an endorsement from one newly appointed SAC member:

*"I joined the SAC as it presents an excellent opportunity as a relatively new Consultant to be part of a National Committee involved in shaping training at an exciting time for the specialty. The opportunity to be involved in decision making that will form the framework of training for the future is a huge responsibility and considerable honour. Some of the leading names in the specialty are part of the SAC and the experience of working closely with them will stand me in good stead for the future. I have aspirations to be a future TPD and the SAC will provide invaluable insight and experience."*

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](#).

## Exception reporting

Exception reporting relates to both breach of contracted working hours **and** the educational content as compared to your educational agreement.

We would encourage trainees to use this system as a way to report any concerns you may have about your training; a letter about this can be found [here](#) on the JCST website (under JCST / ISCP Documents - JCST CoPSS contract letter Exception Reporting (Feb 2017)) and further information can also be found on the [BMA website](#).



## “The trainees’ voice” - what would you like to hear about?

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.

Do these newsletters work for you? Would you like them to be sent more frequently, or is two per year enough? Would you like them to have more detail, or a specific focus per issue? Let us know what you think and we will do what we can to help you.

College news and dates for the diary

[RCSEng news](#)

[RCPSGlas news](#)

[RCSI news](#)

[RCSEd news](#)



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

## Useful links

You can find all our 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](#)

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## 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 Schools of Surgery and the Deaneries. 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 \(ISCP\)](#). Our main areas of work are:

- Trainee Services (and committees)
- Curriculum development and assessment framework
- Quality
- Certificate of Eligibility for Specialist Registration (CESR)

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 department [here](#)

## JCST staff news

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

### Leavers

Sadly we have recently said goodbye to three excellent members of the JCST department. Cristel Santos, our Data Manager, left after more than 10 years with the department. In this time she was instrumental in the development and improvement of the ISCP website, ensuring that the department is now GDPR-compliant (a huge undertaking!), and generally managing almost every aspect of data governance, management, system development and helpdesk support.

We also said goodbye to two of our Trainee Services Coordinators (TSCs), Phoebe Croxford and Jack Tompsett, who have both returned to Australia. They have been superb ambassadors for the JCST and ISCP, offering ongoing support for all trainees / trainers and ISCP users, guiding them through system updates, GDPR, ARCPs, and any other queries that have come into the ISCP helpdesk.

All three will be missed and we wish them all the very best for the future!

### New starters

We are pleased to announce that we have recently recruited two new TSCs, Lawrence Redway and Erik Majaus, who have replaced Phoebe and Jack, and are already settling into the JCST well. They join our other recent starters - Karina O'Neill, Rickane Shah, and Calum Cochrane; I am sure you will have an opportunity to be in touch with some or all of the team in future.

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## JCST staff

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

Alan Simpson	Casework Manager (CESR)
Calum Cochrane	Committee & Trainee Services Manager
Chloe St Leger-Davy	Committee & Trainee Services Manager
Encarna Manzano	Committee & Trainee Services Manager
Erik Majaus	Trainee Services Coordinator
Karina O'Neill	Committee & Trainee Services Manager
Lawrence Redway	Trainee Services Coordinator
Margaret Murphy	ISCP Education Officer
Maria Bussey	Head of ISCP
Mark Johnson	Casework Manager (CESR)
Megan Warde	Committee & Trainee Services Manager
Megan Wilson	Head of CESR & Policy
Paramjit Kaur	Committee & Trainee Services Manager
Rickane Shah	Trainee Services Coordinator
Robert Fox	Head of Trainee Services
Sarah Lay	Quality Manager
Susana Cipriano	Head of JCST
Trinsigh (TJ) Rogers	Trainee Services Coordinator
Vacant	ISCP JCST Data Manager / Analyst
Vacant	ISCP Curriculum & Assessment Officer

## Staff spotlight

As a brief introduction to each of the department, in this issue we would like to introduce you to Susana Cipriano.

Susana Cipriano, Head of JCST

I enjoy long walks in nature, discovering new places and spending time with family and friends, whenever possible. What I most enjoy about JCST is the variety of people you get to meet and work with, and the overall diversity of the job – there is never a boring day in JCST!

