

# Vascular SAC Newsletter, December 2020

Newsletter

Dear Colleagues

As a result of the Covid-19 pandemic this has been a difficult year for all and it has had a significant impact on national recruitment, the FRCS exam and surgical training. In May 2020, 27 ST3's were appointed through a non-face-to-face portfolio self-assessment recruitment process. Plans are afoot for face-to-face recruitment in 2021, but with alternative plans in place, should social distancing still not allow this to occur. The FRCS exam was cancelled in May but with some adjustments to the normal exam, it went ahead in early November 2020. The pandemic has also had a significant impact on the provision and delivery of vascular services and hence this has impacted on the delivery of vascular surgical training. JCST data suggest that log book operatives have been halved compared to comparable data in 2019 and about 20 % of trainees have had either a 10.1 or 10.2 ARCP ('Gold Guide' Derogated outcomes). These outcomes will remain in place and will be able to be given until April 2021.

The major positives are that the New Vascular Surgery Curriculum has been now been accepted by the GMC and can be viewed on the JCST website. This will be implemented from August 2021. The new curriculum is outcome based and will see the implementation of the Multiple Consultant Report (MCR). Information about this and how to create it, is available on the ISCP website (<https://www.iscp.ac.uk/media/1113/vascular-surgery-curriculum-aug-2021-approved-oct-20.pdf>) and there will also be various education events discussing the new curriculum in early 2021. In addition, to this we have been the first specialty to publish regional training reports following a detailed Delphi process. These reports will now be published annually.

Wishing you a safe and better 2021!

Mark McCarthy

Chair of Vascular SAC



@VascSACChair



## SLANEY MEDAL WINNER, 2020



The Vascular SAC would like to congratulate all the successful FRCS Vascular Surgery Exam 2020 candidates including Mr. Douglas Mackenzie for winning The Slaney Medal 2020



## VASCULAR FRCS EXAM

As with everything else, the Covid-19 pandemic had a profound effect on the Vascular Exams in 2020. In January we were able to run the section 1 MCQ paper as normal and successful candidates were preparing themselves for the Section 2 exam in May which was to be held in Dublin. As the pandemic developed, it became increasingly clear that all exam activity would need to stop and, following a statement from the JSCM in April, exam activity across all 10 of the surgical specialties was cancelled until at least after the summer. Initially it was hoped that it would be possible to restart the exams and continue to have patient involvement but, as Covid-19 numbers began to increase again in the autumn, it became obvious that patients could not be exposed to unjustifiable risk and an alternative would need to be found. After much discussion, it was agreed that JCIE would run a diet of each specialty's Section 2 exam in November and early December, running many of these back to back, in a limited number of venues. This proved to be a huge logistical

challenge for the JCIE staff but the Vascular Exam took place in Glasgow in early November, following on from the Trauma and Orthopaedics and General Surgical diets. Extensive consultation around the delivery of the exam had taken place, including with the GMC, Scottish Government and Health Protection Scotland all of whom were very supportive, as they appreciated the necessity for our trainees to take the exam and proceed with their careers. The patients in the clinical exam were replaced with clinical scenarios and the oral question day ran as normal. Whilst these changes did make for a slightly different exam experience, it was felt that this was as close to our usual exam as could be delivered in these extenuating circumstances. The top candidate was Douglas Mackenzie and he was awarded the Slaney Medal which was announced virtually at the Vascular Society ASM. The next Section 1 exam will run as normal in early January but the next Section 2 exam will continue with an altered format. It is unlikely that we will be able

include patients and so the exam, which will take place in Edinburgh, will probably be the same as that in Glasgow with the clinical cases replaced by clinical scenarios. All this had made those in JCIE reflect on future exams. There is a feeling that patient contact will be more limited, partly to mitigate against issues which we have encountered this year, but also to allow exams to be taken out of a clinical setting such as hospital out-patient departments which is becoming increasingly unsustainable. Any changes will need to be approved by the GMC, and notification to candidates given a year in advance, so things will not alter immediately. Whilst it has been a very challenging year for the Vascular Exam, I am delighted that we did manage to hold an exam and was reassured by the candidate feedback on how pleased they were that we did so.

Douglas Orr

Chair, Intercollegiate Board in vascular Surgery



# VASCULAR SURGERY CURRICULUM

***Mr. Keith Jones is Lead Member for Curriculum 2021 Development and departing Deputy SAC Chair. In this article he updates us on the publication of the new Vascular Surgery Curriculum***

I am delighted to announce that the new Vascular Surgery Curriculum has been agreed by the GMC and will come into use for Vascular NTN's in August 2021. The GMC was pleased with the revised curriculum after collaboration between Vascular Surgery and Interventional Radiology and expect that Vascular Surgery trainees will learn endovascular techniques without limiting training opportunities for Interventional Radiology trainees. In order to facilitate this the curriculum has objectives within the syllabus rather than defined skill levels and these will be assessed within the higher-level outcomes. These changes have also been reviewed by NHS employers, who are also assured that this curriculum is deliverable. I would also like to give thanks to all the stake holders for their valuable time and input.

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## Curriculum Writing Group:

Keith Jones, Curriculum Lead Author  
Mark McCarthy, SAC Chair  
Hannah Travers, SAC trainee rep.  
Murray Flett, SAC member  
Stuart Suttie, SAC member  
Robert Davies, SAC member

[Vascular Surgery Curriculum 2021](#)



**GINNY BOWBRICK**  
NEW DEPUTY SAC CHAIR

# SAC MEMBERS 2020

I qualified from Barts in 1989 and decided on a surgical career the first time I scrubbed up as a medical student to assist. I was a registrar in the Southeast with my final year at St Thomas' and spent 18 months as a research registrar at St Mary's where, on my first day and feeling a bit nervous, I was welcomed by Professor Averil Mansfield with tea, biscuits and a chat. This act of kindness left a lasting impression on me as to the effect a trainer even as eminent as her can have on a trainee.

I have been a Consultant at Medway Maritime Hospital, Kent for 15 years and am currently their Acting Director of Medical Education. I have been involved in Medical Education from the start of my consultant career when I joined the SE Thames General Surgery STC of which I later became TPD.

I joined the Vascular SAC in 2018 which has been an extremely rewarding experience. I enjoy my involvement as Liaison Member with the training programme in the West Midlands and am a member of the Steering Committee for ST3 National Selection of which earlier this year I became the Lead for Vascular Surgery. This is currently proving to be a more challenging experience than I had anticipated!

I have just been appointed as Head of School of Surgery for KSS Deanery and am excited at the challenges ahead but also aware that there is much to be done to ensure that our trainees are able to make up for lost training opportunities this year.

I have four children and the middle two who are twins are autistic with severe learning disabilities. Inclusivity and equal opportunities in training are extremely important to me and I hope that by taking up these positions of leadership in Medical Education I can show that "if you see it, you can be it".

Mr. Mark McCarthy	Chair
Mr. Keith Jones	Vice Chair and SAC LM for Wales
Dr Paul Sadler	Lead Dean
Mr. Douglas Orr	Chair of Vascular Exam board
Miss Virginia Bowbrick	SAC LM for West Midlands
Mr. Mike Clarke	SAC LM for East of England
Mr. Paddy Coughlin	SAC LM for KSS
Mr. Rob Davies	SAC LM for London
Mr. Murray Flett	SAC LM for Northern Ireland
Mr. Jonathan Ghosh	SAC LM for Scotland
Mr. Ashok Handa	SAC LM for South West
Mr. David Lewis	SAC LM for Yorkshire and Humber
Miss Zenia Martin	Republic of Ireland
Mr. Tam Siddiqui	SAC LM for Oxford/Wessex
Mr. Stuart Suttie	SAC LM for North East
Mr. Andy Tambyraja	SAC LM for North West
Miss Hannah Travers	Trainee Representative