

BAPRAS Education & Training Webinar- notes on discussion 23 April 2020

Main points from this webinar

This webinar gave a forum for trainees to ask questions of the faculty. A breakdown of the Q&A is below

Resources

[JCST document on trainee wellbeing](#)

[Royal College of surgeons document on supporting training \(section 9\)](#)

Faculty

Professor A Hart, Editor JPRAS, Consultant Plastic Surgeon, Glasgow

Mr M Henley, BAPRAS President, Consultant Plastic Surgeon, Nottingham

Mr M Ragbir, SAC Chair, Consultant Plastic Surgeon, Newcastle

Miss V Rose SAC Vice-Chair, Consultant Plastic Surgeon, London

Mr R Winterton, Curriculum Lead, Consultant Plastic Surgeon, Manchester

Mr N Wilson-Jones, National Selection Lead, Consultant Plastic Surgeon, Swansea

Mr D Boyce, BAPRAS Education Committee Chair, Consultant Plastic Surgeon, Swansea

Mr B Baker, PLASTA President, Specialist Registrar, Plastic Surgery

Miss S Hendrickson, PLASTA Vice-President, Specialist Registrar, Plastic Surgery

Mr J Burke, ASiT President, Specialist Registrar, General Surgery

Mr A Brown, Northern Ireland Training Programme Director, Consultant Plastic Surgeon, Belfast

Mr S Waterston, Scotland TPD, Consultant Plastic Surgeon, Dundee

Mr B O Sullivan, RCSI, Consultant Plastic Surgeon, Dublin

Points from speaker presentations

Mr B Baker

Impacts on Training [Link to video](#)

- Many of the decisions made so far have been pan-specialty
- PLASTA/SAC/JCST have been putting together plans for training to ensure quality of care for patients, safety of trainees, build flexibility for trainees, particularly those nearing CCT
- PLASTA is happy to fight the case for any trainee that feel they've been disadvantaged by the ARCP process as it stands

National selection [Link to video](#)

- The decision regarding the National Selection process has been taken by HEE, to appoint NTN's based on submitted portfolio content.
- This process has continued as planned in spite of opposition from all specialist surgery associations
- It is important to ensure this doesn't become the standard process for national selection in future rounds

Mechanisms for recording COVID experience [Link to video](#)

- Be sure to record your experiences so panels can see how the COVID crisis has affected your training
- This is voluntary but beneficial to individuals.
- ISCP and individual deaneries have produced individual advice on this; there is also a specific ASiT log book for this purpose

Recovering training [Link to video](#)

- Elective opportunities may take a while to become available again- need to be adaptable to new ways of working
- Online learning opportunities are arising- eg PLASTA national webinar series- these are an adjunct rather than a replacement, and be aware of 'webinar fatigue' - you're not obliged to attend everything!
- PLASTA will be working with BAPRAS and ASiT to collect data on COVID's effect to training
- The RCS has [published a document](#) on recovery of surgical services- section 9 focuses on supporting training

Mr M Ragbir

NB- content of Mr Ragbir's presentation has been updated from the original webinar to take account of changes in guidance

National Selection [Link to video](#)

- The SAC put forward several proposals regarding how to deal with national selection. The preferred option was to postpone interviews for 6 months and run full national selection procedure in September 2020. Second option was to convene a shortlisting panel to review applications remotely, with remote interviews afterwards.
- While our preferences haven't been taken into account, it is appreciated that the statutory education bodies needed to take into account the picture across the whole of the UK, and the medical profession, as well as how to deal with the COVID crisis.
- All are urged to welcome new trainees and to treat them in the same way that trainees appointed in the 'usual' method would be.

Trainee Wellbeing [Link to video](#)

- Various routes for trainees with worries- nationally, there is a [JCST document](#) on trainee wellbeing, as well as locally-defined routes and guidelines
- [View BAPRAS' webinar on pastoral care](#)

ARCP [Link to video](#)

- (amended from original webinar) 'Outcome 10' has been added to the ARCP framework, to allow trainees to proceed to the next level of training or extend training time if acquisition of competencies have been delayed by COVID.

TIG fellows [Link to video](#)

- TIG fellows may be redeployed to their home deanery. If this is the case, trainees may be given a certificate of completion of this fellowship if competencies have been met, or if not, will be given an opportunity to repeat this when space is available.
- For TIG fellows that have not started their fellowship, there may be opportunity to delay or move to a different centre. Discussions are ongoing as to how this will be managed

Out of programme training [Link to video](#)

- All OOP training has been stopped, except for those applying for career breaks (this will be considered by the individual deanery)
- Tentatively agreement has been made for OOP and TIG programme to restart in August 2020

Examination [Link to video](#)

- (amended from original webinar) Decision has been made to not hold any exams prior to November 2020. This will affect the clinical exam scheduled in Salisbury in September.
- For trainees coming up to CCT, there may be a clinical exam in November 2020 (likely to be held in Glasgow). This may be slightly modified to take social distancing into account.
- It is hoped the 2021 exam schedule will return to normal.

Syllabus changes [Link to video](#)

- New curriculum will be implemented in August 2021
- Number of workplace assessments are being reduced; supervision levels will be implemented (from 1-5 based on how confident the trainer is to allow you to undertake a procedure)
- Critical conditions- each specialty will have a list of procedures that a trainee must be able to perform- for plastics, these include burns, severe soft tissue infection, emergency management of lower limb trauma, compartment syndrome and emergency microvascular salvage.
- Certification requirements in the new curriculum are less than at present

Questions and Answers- transcript

- Can you clarify the ARCP outcome for trainees approaching CCT in August 2020 and the only pending prerequisite for CCT is the ATLS course which was cancelled due to COVID?

-We have agreed that if the course was booked prior to COVID and cancelled due to COVID it will not stop outcome 6

-How will we make sure that ARCP requirements are applied uniformly across all regions?

-LM has been asked to attend all ARCPs during this period. The various outcomes are very uniform

-Will a Trainee sanctioned OOPE be honoured in spite of trainee now becoming ST8 due to delay?

-Yes. We will extend their training time as part of outcome 10

-Will there be a backlog to sit FRCS(Plast)? Would extra capacity for exams, in particular for the 2nd part be arranged if needed to deal with this, as this may impact progression and fellowships

including TIG applications etc?

-We are really trying to ensure the FRCS(Plast) part 2 goes ahead. At the moment we have not heard that it will be postponed. We are well aware of the impact cancelling this will have on trainees

-Thank you, Rosie, for the clarification regarding ATLS. Would be grateful if this can be put in writing as the latest JCST statement mentioned that trainees not completing mandatory courses are given an outcome 10.2. Thank you for easing our concerns.

-It was in a SAC agreement but will get it formalised

-Can trainees request an extension to their CCT date in order to not lose out on time in training due to COVID?

-Yes, as outcome 10

-How do we evidence our voluntary attendance of webinars in ISCP as part of our ongoing education? Most webinars do not offer certificates of attendance. Many thanks.

-You can upload a record of attendance as external course / teaching attended on ISCP. We are working on certificates but challenging given we have →200 attendees. If anyone knows of an automated process for certificates following webinars, please let us know!

(Post meeting note- Certificates of attendance are being provided for all BAPRAS webinars- these will be sent in the week after the meeting)

-With regard to the ST3s, will there be a second round later this year?

-Unfortunately not

-I am one of two (I think) trainees who couldn't be accommodated in March FRCS part 2 exam. How many candidates are planned for the September exam, and what accommodation may be made given the levels of preparation / ability to spend time in other units for prep for the exam (Glasgow course cancelled for August as of today).

-You'll be fine - don't worry. It will only be oversubscribed if it gets cancelled, which we are trying to resist. So, I am expecting you to attend my teaching!!!

-Unfortunately, the JCIE will view your TPD sign off as evidence that you are ready and do not need additional help.

-You need to do your best to get prepared for it. Online practice and local clinics would be helpful.

Very helpful updates all. Two questions please:

-1. There has been mention in NW deanery of a grace period so that senior trainees may not transition to the new curriculum. Is this the case or will all trainees transition to the new curriculum in August 21?

-2. Within our deanery there has been mention that 'burnout' OOPC will be considered for trainees who post-deployment feel they need this. Is this the case given what has been said about halting of OOP requests?

- There is a slightly complex algorithm of when trainees will transition to the new curriculum depending upon the stage they are at, but I think it is available on ISCP website. If not, it will be circulated separately over the next few days. It won't be immediate for everyone in August 2021.

-Certain operations like hand fractures are increasingly treated conservatively in COVID time and most likely will be post-COVID. Will this be reflected on the indicative numbers required for CCT.

Thanks

-This will be reviewed (along with the other indicative numbers) now the curriculum has been approved as mentioned by Mr Ragbir. The data from the National Training Survey we are circulating this week will be invaluable to inform 'peacetime' numbers so please contribute, equally, we are planning surveys of COVID time training activity so please make sure to be as active as possible completing surveys as they come out to help inform the SAC.

-If part 2 is oversubscribed will UK trainees be preference for this exam?

-It will only be oversubscribed if it gets postponed

-What is the status of trainees that were on OOPR that have returned fully to clinical work, especially if returning to plastics? Are we considered on a clinical placement or on OOPR? And on a different topic, how can we get added onto the communications for PLASTA webinars?

-The webinar communications are sent to the PLASTA mailing list, which you can usually sign up to on our website at https://www.plasta.org/about/how_to_join_plasta.aspx - we are opening a new membership/ mailing list process very soon so keep an eye on this please as it will be updated in the next few days.

-Is there is a time frame in place for deciding if the September part 2 exam will go ahead? If there is a second peak, and is there is alternate format being considered to protect a March exam?

- This may be assessed next week

-For ST3 interviews next year, will the self-assessment form be altered considering the lack of theatre exposure, national presentations and all the difficulties to achieve the rest of competencies?

-There are currently no plans to specifically change this since all trainees are affected equally

- How will OOP trainees extend their OOP as HEE are not accepting OOP applications - particularly those on established PhD programmes.

Secondly - Several foreign flap courses have gone to webinar-based models with live dissection. In view of the likelihood of off/on lockdowns for several months - is this a route for BAPRAS?"

-BAPRAS will look at online teaching, as are some individual course managers. Overall, we need to look at this in much more detail, and more creatively. JPRAS initiated this within BAPRAS a year ago, and there is a work programme. Needs more attention & urgency now of course

-What is happening with Cleft services?

-In light of what has happened this year with the amended ST3 application process, applicants with weaker portfolios that may have performed well at interview have potentially missed out.

This is further compounded in the next application round due to penalisation from years accrued post-graduation. In addition, with the pandemic, operative exposure etc is reduced and is unlikely to compensate for the above.

-Should this year not be included as an extra year post-training for next year's applicants

-Sorry as we're tight for time will need to leave this with the previous answers. The webinar should be available online in the near future if you missed the early comments. The short answer is this

year will still be included - to exclude it will impact everyone differently and therefore would not be fair. However, the extra year has relatively small impact on your overall score, they are planning to publish this more transparently, so this is clear. We have tried to cover this, and I fully understand your frustration. Each candidate will have a different view and therefore a blanket decision will be supported by some but not others. If a candidate wanted not to include this year it could be considered but ALL portfolio material, publications, presentations, logbook etc for the excluded year would not be able to be included. This could be addressed at the portfolio discussion.