



JCST Newsletter

February 2020

Dear All,

Welcome to the latest issue of the JCST newsletter, which features news about our planned new curriculum launch in August, the Training Interface Groups (TIGs), and all the usual updates and news from JCST.

There have been a wide range of ongoing and recently completed projects, and along with all the regular news and developments you'll find in the newsletter, there are a variety of other updates we would like to share with you – you can find these below as 'focus points'.

Gareth Griffiths – JCST Chair

Focus points

New curricula in August (subject to final GMC approval)

As you know, a new curriculum will be introduced from August 2020 and **whatever your role, trainee or trainer, the curriculum changes will affect you**. The main change is that training will be 'outcomes-based'; you can finish training when you are judged to have reached the level expected of a day 1 consultant in your specialty.

It is vital that everyone is aware of how the new curricula will affect them, and understanding how the [Generic Professional Capabilities \(GPCs\)](#), [Capabilities in Practice \(CiPs\)](#), and the [Multiple Consultant Report \(MCR\)](#) will be key to this. You can see here for [information about the new curricula](#).

Future of TIGs

Following a decision taken by the GMC's Curriculum Oversight Group (COG) to remove the TIGs from parent specialty curricula thus removing their "pre-certification status", we have been in contact with the GMC to discuss the implications of this decision. We have discussed the transition arrangements for those already undertaking TIG fellowships, and we understand that there is scope regarding the length of the transition period before new arrangements come into place. The GMC indicated they want to retain the quality of the training which is delivered, and we are in discussions with them about the best model to propose for the future.

New issue of Gold Guide

A new issue of the Gold Guide is due to be published at the end of March – please ensure you are familiar with it, along with any updates, additions, or alterations to the content.

Post-certification Fellowships

This project is still progressing, and we plan to take the latest fellowships' proposal and relevant documents to the UK Medical Education Reference Group (UKMERG) to seek their input on the development of the fellowships. The plan is still to run a pilot with a small number of fellowships in a limited number of specialties although we will not be ready to start this in August 2020 as previously planned.

Credentialing

The work on credentialing is still on-going across a number of Medical Royal Colleges; we are currently exploring how we should approach potential credentials with the GMC and UKMERG.

QA update

James Wheeler – QA Lead

Rachel Norton – Quality Manager

JCST Quality Indicators

Work is underway to review JCST's Quality Indicators for surgical training. The JCST Quality Indicators are reviewed every year and there will be changes in 2020 to align the QIs with the new curricula. Each Specialty Advisory Committee (SAC) will discuss their specialty-specific requirements before the JCST QA Group finalises and publishes the new QIs in summer 2020.

Further news for trainees and trainers on the Quality Indicators, including updated FAQs, will be added to the [Quality Indicators page](#) of the JCST website.

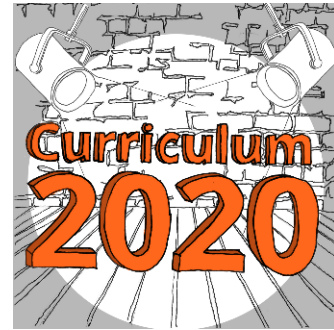
This work will be followed by a review of the JCST survey questions that measure achievement of the QIs.

If you have any queries about the QIs, please contact us qa@jcst.org

Curriculum update

Jon Lund – ISCP Surgical Director

Maria Bussey – Head of ISCP



Curriculum progress by specialty

The new curricula for Cardiothoracic Surgery, General Surgery, and Otolaryngology have been approved by the GMC's Curriculum Advisory Group (CAG), and we are currently working on the completion of the remaining curricula.

Trial MCR

Using the feedback we have received so far, a trial version of the Multiple Consultant Report (MCR) will be going live later in February – see here for [more information about the MCR](#).

Topic picking being removed

Initially introduced as a way of highlighting which syllabus topics had been assessed through WBAs, topic picking is being removed and will no longer be a feature within ISCP. It became evident that the tool was either not used at all, or being used as a 'tick-box' exercise with trainees instructed to re-visit all WBAs to try and cover the entire syllabus, which created extra work for both trainees and the JCST helpdesk team.

With the forthcoming outcomes-based curricula topic picking will no longer be relevant, and based on feedback from stakeholders, from trainees in particular, the removal of topic picking will be very welcome.

News items from JCST

Trainee Forum

At the end of 2019, JCST proposed holding a Trainee Forum in order to give trainees a further opportunity to raise issues that are relevant to trainees; we are currently arranging this and will be holding the first such forum this summer - we will be in touch with the relevant parties soon. We look forward to reporting back on the outcome in our next newsletter.

Breast surgery specialty - update

At the request of the GMC's Curriculum Oversight Group (COG) we are embarking on a year-long stakeholder consultation process regarding the possibility of creating a new Breast Surgery specialty. The results of this consultation will be reported to the UKMERG, which is responsible for the discussion and approval of matters relating the medical education and training across the UK.

Recruiting for new JCST and ICBSE Chairs

The Chairs of both JCST and the Intercollegiate Committee for Basic Surgical Examinations (ICBSE) reach the end of their tenure in post, and so their roles are being advertised – further details regarding the role and the application process can be found [here](#).



GMC's annual 'State of medical education and practice in the UK' report

The latest [state of medical education and practice in the UK](#) report is available on the GMC website, along with their [latest workforce report](#) as well.

ISCP news

List of all website developments

The (small) team of web developers who work on the ISCP site have been creating and releasing numerous updates over the past 12 months, based on feedback from users, in order to improve how the site functions. These developments have included:

- MCR pilot 2 and demo versions
- Self-assessment pilot 2 and demo versions
- New curriculum Learning Agreement pilot
- Improving IT infrastructure (servers and databases) to improve site performance
- Surgical Curriculum 2020 'What you need to know about the new MCR' pages
- Removing topic picking
- Links to guidance and resources on all WBAs
- MSF pop up for each rating descriptor to aid understanding of what each rating means
- MSF pop up before saving to guide users to only create the necessary number of MSFs
- MSFs included in the Portfolio report
- Trainee Survey 2019-20
- Retract function pop up to aid understanding of what it will do
- SAC Liaison Member Reports

ISCP in Iceland

The use of ISCP by early-years trainees in Iceland has been continuing since early in 2019, and has proven to be successful, with positive feedback from trainees and trainers alike.

Site design

We have been looking into improving the design of the ISCP website – how the pages look, 'feel', and function for all users, in order to make the site as helpful and useful for everyone. We have recently started working with designers to help how it looks/acts for users, and these design changes will play a key part in future developments and the how the new curriculum tools, like the MCR, will work within the site.



SAC Newsletters

We wanted to make sure that you are well informed of what is being discussed by your relevant Specialty Advisory Committees (SAC); following their most recent meeting, each SAC has produced a short report letting you know the key items which were discussed, any major decisions made, and useful dates and information for the future. Each report has been written by the SAC Chair/Vice Chair and the Trainee Rep, and they can be downloaded from the links below:

- [Vascular Surgery SAC Newsletter – January 2020](#)

JCST fee

The four Presidents of the Joint Surgical Colleges (RCS Edinburgh, RCS England, RCPS Glasgow and RCS Ireland) have agreed that there will be no increase in the JCST fee in 2020-2021, as proposed in their [2019-20 statement](#). The fee will therefore remain at £260 from August 2020. You can find more information on the JCST's financial position [here](#).

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](#)

It is now possible to pay the fee for the 2020-2021 academic year – we advise that care is taken to select the correct year when making this payment.

We would encourage you, where possible, to pay by debit card and help us minimise the administrative cost of processing your fee. The Royal Colleges of Surgeons of the UK and Ireland are charity organisations and payments by debit card will have a significant positive impact on our costs. Thank you.



The trainee's voice

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. You can either [contact us directly](#) or complete this 5 question [online survey](#).

College news

[RCSEng news](#)

[RCSI news](#)

[RCPSGlas news](#)

[RCSEd news](#)



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

Useful links

You can find all the 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](#)

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 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 \(ISCP\)](#). 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 [here](#)

JCST staff news

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

New starters

Last year we were very pleased to welcome some new members of staff to the department - Verity Walker joined the Trainee Services Team in August as a new Trainee Services Coordinator, as well as Keelan Mackle who joined the same team in October as a new Committee and Trainee Services Manager. Paul McCabe also joined in October as the department's new Data Manager and he, Verity, and Keelan look forward to working with you in future.

JCST staff

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

Alan Simpson	CESR Casework Manager
Calum Cochrane	Committee & Trainee Services Manager
Encarna Manzano	Committee & Trainee Services Manager
Erik Majaus	Trainee Services Coordinator
Keelan Mackle	Committee & Trainee Services Manager
Lawrence Redway	Trainee Services Coordinator
Margaret Murphy	ISCP Education Officer
Maria Bussey	Head of ISCP
Mark Johnson	CESR Casework Manager
Megan Derby	Committee & Trainee Services Manager
Megan Wilson	Head of CESR & Policy
Nadia Permall	Committee & Trainee Services Manager
Paul McCabe	ISCP JCST Data Manager / Analyst
Rachel Dowle	ISCP Curriculum Officer
Rachel Norton	Quality Manager
Rebecca Griffith	Project Manager
Robert Fox	Head of Trainee Services
Susana Cipriano	Head of JCST
Tahirih Doncaster	Trainee Services Coordinator
Trinsigh (TJ) Rogers	Committee & Trainee Services Manager
Verity Walker	Trainee Services Coordinator

Staff spotlight

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

Rebecca Griffith, Project Manager



I've been a member of staff at the JCST for a year now and still love being part of such a great team. The people really do make it! Some of my favourite moments have been when working with the ISCP Web Developers to deliver new functionality to the ISCP site that users have asked for, and getting positive feedback about the changes.

I love learning about emerging technologies, especially those that will help people to live more independent lives such as Brain Computer Interfaces and robotics. And I am a big fan of dogs of all descriptions!