

Report to ACB west Midlands AGM

Regional Tutor's Report

Dr DT Vallance April 2007 - March 2008

Grade A (Pre-registration clinical scientists)

New appointments

Four candidates were offered training places in the West Midlands Trainees and commenced in Sept 2007 (Rachel Kinsey and Jenna Waldron both at Heartlands Hospital, Jane Dickens at City Hospital and Matthew Whitlock at UHB, Selly Oak Hospital). There are currently 4 trainees in their first year with a total of 12 Grade A in training in the West Midlands. We are planning to recruit 4 trainees in Sept 2008.

MSc course

Trainees who commenced in September 2007 will complete the MSc course in two years, with the training course itself remaining at three years. The number of modules taught per term has increased so that most Fridays during term time are used for the formal taught component of the MSc course. Negotiations continue with the University of Birmingham regarding the future of the MSc course. We will be able to recruit in 2008 for the course but will need to secure extra funding if the MSc course is to continue. The increase in fees for 2008-9 for new students has been met by the Deanery.

Grade A Assessments

Four trainees have now completed their training and three were assessed in November 2007 and were awarded Certificates of Completion. One assessment was delayed due to unavailability of assessment panel members. None of the trainees completing their training were able to secure substantive Grade B posts, but the WMTC steering committee was able to negotiate with the West Midlands Deanery for an extension of one year for all those completing the course. Discussions continue with the West Midlands Deanery to look for solutions to the current workforce problems with grade B posts

Grade B (Post registration clinical scientists in training)

New appointments

The West Midlands Region continues to attract high calibre applicants for Grade B clinical scientist posts. Recent appointments of Grade B clinical scientists to training posts include Anna Sanders at Russells Hall Hospital, Donna Fullerton at the Children's Hospital and Angela Kremmyda at Royal Shrewsbury Hospital. Please ensure that both the Regional Tutor and Manpower Advisor are informed when new appointments are made so that lists of pre and post registration clinical scientists in training are up to date

MRCPath

Rachel Webster organised a series of tutorials during 2007-8, moderated by senior members of the profession, to review past papers. These tutorials have been successful and further tutorials will be organised. MRCPath examination successes over the past twelve months include Kirsty Gordon, Joanne Heynes, Hazel Hutton, Daniel Herrera, Lynette Shakespeare and Catherine Wood (Part I written), Deon Coley-Grant and Pervaz Mohammed (Part I written and practical), Sadie Marsh (Part I practical), Rachel Webster and Loretta Ford (Part II viva).

National Training Courses

National Training Courses (NTC) were held in Manchester and Plymouth over the last 12 months. The West Midlands Region will be organising the NTC in Spring 2009.