

ACB Trainees Committee – Meeting Summary

75th Meeting of the ACB Trainees Committee held at 10:30am on Friday 29th April 2016 at ACB Office, 130-132 Tooley Street, London

STP Elective Placements

The 'STP Elective Presentation Day' was held in December 2015, kindly organised by Rosalind Bray and the other Southern Region trainee representatives. The day was very well received by trainees in their first and second years who were provided with information on planning electives while giving the opportunity for 3rd year trainees to give a presentation about their elective; which forms part of the elective requirements. Positive feedback was received including the range of talks provided, information about electives abroad, and how to plan for electives. As this day was so successful it was agreed that this would become an annual event organised by the Southern Region trainee representatives.

In addition, summaries of presented electives have all been uploaded to the ACB website. At present, there are 16 summaries available which illustrate a mixture of electives including those taken abroad and those who completed them in their host hospital. These can be accessed via the following link

http://www.acb.org.uk/whatwedo/trainees_home/electives-page

The trainees' committee is hoping to continue to increase this resource and STP trainees are encouraged to contact their local trainee representatives if they would like to contribute to this list of examples. Some feedback regarding the electives commented that trainees would like more information about funding for electives to be provided. The trainees' committee are exploring producing an article which will be published in the ACB news focussing on the practical aspects of planning and executing the elective placement.

Useful online resource: International Federation of Clinical Chemistry and Laboratory Medicine (IFCC) eAcademy

The trainees' committee would like to highlight the IFCC eAcademy, a free resource which can be accessed here: <http://eacademy.ifcc.org> This is a useful educational resource for trainees which covers a range of topics such as methodology, endocrinology and metabolism, quality management and accreditation *via* narrated PowerPoint presentations.

Manchester Accommodation shortage

This issue has been raised at the NSHCS and the Education committee meeting who are aware of the issue along with the University. Unfortunately, a solution to this issue has not been found. Manchester University have offered accommodation at a small discount

through Atrium Apartments but this is considered to be unaffordable for most within the training budgets provided. A document providing advice for STP trainees looking for accommodation in Manchester is available from the ACB website on the following link:

<http://www.acb.org.uk/docs/default-source/committees/education/trainees-com/training/advice-for-stp-trainees-finding-accomodation-in-Manchester-2015-July.pdf?sfvrsn=2>

Birmingham short term lets document

The trainees' committee are looking into providing a similar document for the Birmingham STP trainees as above.

Changes to FRCPATH examinations

The assessment system, including the examination structure for the FRCPATH examinations is being reviewed in order to ensure it remains fit for purpose. Proposals include the redesign of the Part 1 examination as a multiple choice paper, and to introduce a clinical examination paper as an alternative to the benchtop practical for medics. There will also be a procedural change to the oral examination with an increase in stations from 2 to 3 to allow more topics to be covered. There will be no changes to the curriculum. An article was recently published in the ACB news (March 2016) regarding these changes.

Pre-registration federation of clinical scientists (FCS) representative position vacancy

The pre-registration FCS representative position has been vacant for approximately 2 years. This is an exciting opportunity to work with a union and gain an insight into industrial relations issues and how your professional body works. The representative will gain experience in the NHS terms and conditions of employment and related issues. They are required to act as a two-way conduit for communications between the FCS Officers and Committee, and Trainees. The Trainee Representative would attend FCS National Committee meetings and feedback to the ACB Trainees Committee meetings.

The time commitment includes five meetings per year in London (three FCS meetings and two Trainees' Committee). The ACB will cover travel expenses to these meetings, and to other training days.

If any pre-registration trainees would be interested in this post, please contact Emma Lewis (FCS secretary) emma.lewis6@nhs.net.