



## Consultation on the proposals for training in the infection specialties

### **A joint venture between the Royal College of Pathologists and the Royal Colleges of Physicians under the auspices of the Academy of Medical Royal Colleges**

#### **Introduction**

The future of infection training has been the subject of discussion in a number of fora including the RCPATH College Advisory Training Teams (CATTs) and medical microbiology blue skies conference. There has been concern that present infection training will not meet the future needs of the NHS without having some core medical training firmly embedded within the curriculum (presently Specialty Registrars [StRs] in medical microbiology and virology can be recruited directly from F2).

#### **Background**

Under the auspices of the Academy of Medical Royal Colleges a meeting was held in February 2007, chaired by Professor Neil Douglas, where it was agreed that “there was a desire to develop a core, joint or themed infectious diseases training/curriculum”. An Infection Training Working Party was formed. The composition of the Working Party is set out in the terms of reference (Appendix 1). The Working Party met four times in May, June, August and September. There was general agreement that any future discussions on Infection Training must take into account:

1. the Health Service requirement
2. training requirement
3. health of the population in the hospital and in the community.

#### **The way forward**

There was agreement that any new model of training should be broad enough to incorporate training in the infection specialties of Medical Microbiology, Medical Virology, Infectious Diseases and Genitourinary Medicine (GUM). The specialties of Public Health and Paediatric and Child Health were also invited to participate in the working group but decided not to for the present time. The GUM representatives on

the working party remained involved in preliminary discussions but could not fully commit to the end result. This was accepted by the working party.

## **Proposals for training in the infection specialties**

It was clear from early discussions that:

- there was a need for Core Medical Training (CMT) (or equivalent) to be part of the Infection Training programme requirements. A detailed analysis of the PMETB approved CMT curriculum took place to ensure that the curriculum met the needs of those doctors undertaking training in infection.
- there was a need for some form of Core Infection Training (CIT) prior to entry into one of the infection specialties. As a result it was necessary to identify common ground between all of the existing PMETB approved curricula for the infection specialties, which could be extracted to form the competencies required for CIT. The proposed content of CIT will include a period of laboratory based training, intensive care and sexually transmitted infection training.
- the remaining content in the specialty curricula should form the substance of the specialty programmes following CIT.

The preferred model consisted of CMT, followed by a period of CIT followed by specialty training in one of the infection specialties (see Appendix 2).

The working party stresses that:

1. the new programme of training will change the delivery of the existing curricula with emphasis on the delivery of acute clinical competencies early in the programme.
2. doctors at the end of this new training programme will fit better into the current modes of consultant service delivery and will be able to contribute to the evolution of infection services that are required and delivered, namely;
  - a. Diagnostics (including pre and post analytical advice and clinical interpretation)
  - b. Clinical management of the infected patient
  - c. Infection control
  - d. Health protection
  - e. Health promotion
  - f. Sexual health.

## **Future developments**

The working party was well aware that further work was required in the following areas:

1. Curricula expressed in terms of knowledge, skills and attitudes.
2. Assessment systems required to support the proposed Infection Training curricula.
3. A plan for selection for entry into specialty which could be one or more of the following:
  - a. at the time of entry to CMT
  - b. at the time of entry to CIT

- c. at the time of exit from CIT
4. It was recognised that this also had ramifications for workforce planning, both for the medical training and consultant career grades and clinical scientists.
  5. Ensuring the needs of academic trainees are catered for.
  6. Ensuring opportunities for research and deanery secondments.
  7. Compliance with the possible outcome of the Tooke Enquiry.

Before the working party continues to address the future development of infection training, it was agreed that there should be a consultation with the Members and Fellows of both the Royal Colleges of Pathologists and Physicians (and any other Colleges that may subsequently express an interest in becoming involved).

At the same time, views will be sought from with the Conference of Postgraduate Medical Deans (COPMeD), NHS Employers, those involved in service delivery in the infection specialties and universities.

### **Issue for consultation**

The working party is keen primarily to hear views, comments and suggestions from all interested parties on proposals for future training in the infection specialties. The working party is more interested to hear views on the broad aims of the proposals rather than the details of it at the current time.

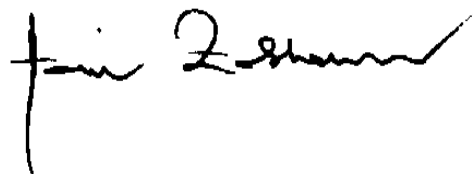
As the work of the party continues, there will be further opportunities to provide feedback on the details of the proposals as they emerge.

### **Appendices**

- Appendix 1: Infection Training Working Party Terms of Reference  
Appendix 2: Proposed infection training model



**Dr Chris Clough**  
**Medical Director (JRCPTB)**



**Dr Hani Zakhour**  
**Director of Training and**  
**Educational Standards (RCPath)**



The Royal College of Pathologists  
*Pathology: the science behind the cure*

## **Infection Training Working Party**

### **Terms of reference**

#### 1 Background

**The Academy of Medical Royal Colleges convened a meeting to discuss the future of infection training on Wednesday 7 February 2007. The meeting was chaired by Professor Neil Douglas. The outcome of the meeting was that an Infection Training Working Party would be convened which would include representatives from the Royal Colleges of Pathologists, Physicians and Paediatrics and Child Health. The working party will report back to Professor Douglas in October with proposals for the future development of infection training.**

#### 2 Primary aim of the Infection Training Working Party

##### **2.1 To agree and produce proposals for the future development of infection training.**

#### 3 Objectives of the Infection Training Working Party

##### **3.1 To produce a report with proposals for future training in infection.**

#### 4 Specific issues to be addressed

##### **4.1 The need for joint training of infection disease specialists, medical microbiologists, virologists and genitourinary medicine (GUM) doctors.**

##### **4.2 The need for dual certification (CCT) and specialist registration (if relevant).**

##### **4.3 What do Hospital Trusts, primary care and health protection need?**

##### **4.4 How is infection training for paediatric and public health trainees and other specialties related to infection managed?**

- 5 Reporting structure
- 5.1 The Infection Training Working Party will report their proposals directly to the Academy of Medical Royal Colleges.
- 6 Membership of the Infection Training Working Party

**Members of the working group are drawn from the Royal Colleges of Pathologists, and Physicians.\***

Joint Chairs: **Dr Chris Clough (RCP) Dr Hani Zakhour (RCPath)**  
RCPath Representatives: **John Hood (MM), Jim Stephenson (MM), Goura Kudesia (V), Helen Williams (MM SAC rep)**  
RCP Representatives: **Andrew Todd (ID, TM), Richard Lau (GUM), Chris Conlon (ID)**  
Trainee Representatives: **Harriet Hughes, Damien Mack**

**\* Subsequently, the following were also co-opted: Dr Martin Gill (RCPath MM), Dr Celia Aitken (RCPath V), Dr Alastair Miller (RCP ID), Professor Shelley Heard (RCPath incoming Director of Training and Educational Standards)**

- 7 Timeframes
- 7.1 **The working party will be short life (six months) and will report back to the Academy in October 2007.**
- 8 Meetings
- 8.1 **Meetings will be held as necessary at The Royal College of Pathologists, 2 Carlton House Terrace, London SW1Y 5AF.**
- 9 Resources
- 9.1 **Travelling and other expenses will be paid to members of the working party (or deputies when appropriate) in line with the College's expenses policy. The expenses policy and claims form are available on the website at [www.rcpath.org/index.asp?PageID=732](http://www.rcpath.org/index.asp?PageID=732) and hard copies can be provided upon request.**
- 9.2 Administrative support will be provided primarily by the Training and Educational Standards Department at the Royal College of Pathologists.

The Royal College of Pathologists  
1 May 2007 (amended 10 October 2007)

## APPENDIX 2: PROPOSED INFECTION TRAINING MODEL

