



Northwest School of Anaesthesia

Trainee Newsletter

Edition 4: May 2011

E-portfolio

I recently attended a training day

on the new 'e-portfolio' due to arrive in August. I assume, rightly or wrongly, that many of you are getting a bit fed up of the constant changes to our paperwork and the ever moving goal posts. Well, after being initially cynical I have to say I've been won over.

No more carrying around endless pieces of paper and chasing people to sign a DOPS or a CEX. With the e-portfolio you simply send an electronic request for a workplace based assessment (WBA) and the person you send it to will receive an email requesting them to complete it online. It is literally a tick box exercise for the assessor. I actually think it may make it a bit easier. You never have to see the assessor again! Also, there is a list of WBAs that need to be completed so it's easy to keep track of where you're up to.

My initial reservation was that there are no reminder emails from the system. This means if your assessor doesn't immediately fill in the form, it is up to you to remind them (as many times as necessary). I also think that certain people will be more amenable to completing the forms than others and some technophobes may never get around to learning how to use it.

My final reservation is that there may be a lack of computers, especially in theatre. However, if you have a smart phone, it will be possible to use your phone to log on to the RCOA website and update your portfolio. The College have also mooted an E-portfolio app for smart phones in the near future.

They have also assured us that the system is backed up twice by the College, although recommend downloading your portfolio and saving it on a USB stick. We can therefore all look forward to a paper-free existence!

**Claire Baylis,
Trainee Representative**

For more information on the e-portfolio:

<http://www.rcoa.ac.uk/index.asp?PageID=1465>

WANTED

Registrars to assist with primary FRCA practice days

MCQ practice days

22th-24th August

Fairfield Hospital, Bury

OSCE/SOE practice course

8th & 9th September

Wythenshawe Hospital

CPD points awarded

Email Janet Coulson at:

nwanaesthesia@aol.com

News from the last School Board Meeting

New Curriculum – As you will have heard the College's new curriculum will be implemented this August and you should have received an email from our Training Programme Director Sarah Thornton outlining the key changes to training many of you will face. Just to reiterate the key points:

- For those who began ST5 in August 2010 or those in ST6-7/old SpR training you can relax as you will be staying on the old curriculum
- If you started ST5 in February 2011 and are in ST3/4 now you will be on the new curriculum.
- ST3 will change a lot from its current format meaning trainees will move around less
- ST4 will change very little apart from new paperwork which will be on the deanery website. We will hopefully be using the e-portfolio from August so that promises to make things easier (there will be further training and information regarding this).

Continued...

- ST5-7: you will revisit cardiac and neuro during your last 3 years. This will involve about 20 lists of each subspecialty and the cardiac and neuro trainers are well aware of what you need to cover.
- You will also all revisit the paediatric hospital for 3-6 months depending on your particular career aspirations.
- The other changes are that there are compulsory resuscitation and airway management modules which will be more formalised versions of current training activities.
- Finally advanced years will be for everyone, even generalists will do a formal advanced year in the specialist areas that they want to get covered for consultant jobs.
- Examples include:
 - Neuro
 - Paeds
 - Obs 6 months/6 months paed
 - Cardiac
 - 1 year mixed any of the following hepatobiliary/vascular/ENT/head and neck/regional
 - Regional
 - Pain medicine
 - ICM – but changes to this loom large (see note below)
- Entry to some advanced years is competitive so you are strongly advised to think about your choices and contact lead trainers early.

A career in ICM – A new curriculum in ICM is also on its way. The GMC has approved a single-specialty training programme in ICM. Dual training in both Anaesthesia and ICM will still be possible, but may involve extending training depending on your particular situation. Either way, not all details have been confirmed so all those with questions about their own circumstances please contact either Jonathan Goodall or Jo Rogers (email addresses below).

Jonathan.Goodall@srft.nhs.uk
Jo.Rogers@uhsm.nhs.uk

Resigning from the rotation – Trainees are reminded that they are contractually obliged to work their period of three months notice prior to resigning from the rotation (including those post-CCT in their grace period). Whether you actually work this period is down to the discretion of the individual trust you are working for. The school board **will not** help you negotiate with individual trusts.

Oncall rooms – Many trainees have reported the increasing loss of oncall room facilities. Since the majority of us work full shift rotas the school can no longer demand the provision of oncall bedrooms. However, the School (and the GMC) expects trusts to provide designated rooms where trainees can rest, study and gain access to the internet during quiet periods oncall. If this is not the case at your trust, please let us know. Additionally trusts are obliged to provide a place for you to rest after a night shift, particularly before driving any distance home.



The Northern Cleft Foundation

is looking for post-fellowship registrars interested in attending their next trip to India.

The team will be setting up camp again in Nagpur in January 2012

You can find out more about their previous camps at:

www.northerncleftfoundation.co.uk

This is an excellent opportunity for any trainee interested in paediatric anaesthesia or working abroad

Contact Dr. Sarah Clarke at Royal Blackburn Hospital:

Sarah.clarke2@elht.nhs.uk

If you have anything you'd like printing

in our next newsletter, or anything you'd like use to raise at the next school board meeting email it to:

jonbannardsmith@doctors.org.uk