

trainee eye

3rd Edition; March 2015

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Welcome!

Welcome to the third edition of Trainee Eye, the newsletter for ICM trainees sent by the Faculty of Intensive Care Medicine.

The Faculty sends out a bi-annual e-newsletter to all registered ICM trainees, whether they are trainees on the old (Joint) system, or trainees who have been appointed to the new programme, either as Single or Dual ICM CCT trainees. The aim of this newsletter is to open up channels of communication, and also highlight information that is directly relevant to trainees, and also to the wider ICM community.

Since the introduction of the new Single and Dual ICM CCT, the Faculty has been working hard to satisfy all necessary requirements, including those of the GMC and other partner specialties in order to create a workable and successful training programme. This has been done via the FICM Training and Assessment Committee (TAC) and also the FICM Board. Locally we rely heavily on the hard work of the ICM Regional Advisors and also Faculty Tutors, who are based within ICM training units. As the programme is still in its infancy, there are continuous updates and processes being implemented in order to ensure that trainees, trainers, Faculty Tutors and Regional Advisors alike, are supported and following due process. For updates on these, please see the [FICM website](#).

FICM website

The FICM website is currently being updated to include further information for ICM trainees so please do keep an eye on this.

The Faculty has now updated the unit briefs held on the website for units providing ICM training. This is done through close liaison with the ICM Regional Advisors and Faculty Tutors. For more information please see [here](#).

FFICM examination information

FFICM Exam Prep course

2015 will see the Faculty hold its first ever FFICM OSCE/SOE Exam prep course. This is due to be held on the 5th/6th of October 2015 in Leeds. Full details will follow and booking is expected to open online in April. Keep up to date with the details of this and future courses by visiting the [website](#) regularly.

FFICM Examination news

The Faculty have been approached (directly and via the Trainee Representative) by a number of Single and Dual ICM trainees enquiring if they are able to sit the FFICM examination whilst in Stage 1 of training. The matter was taken to the Training and Assessment Committee (TAC) for discussion. Whilst the committee were sympathetic to the arguments put forward by trainees, they have agreed that the examination regulations would not be relaxed at this time, but will be subject to review in the future. The reasons for reaching this decision are:

- The level at which the FFICM examination is set. Trainees are unlikely to pass the examination until they have obtained the full diverse experience of Stage 1. The Faculty would not wish to encourage trainees to sit an examination, investing not only financially but also in revision time, and using up examination attempts for an examination that they may not have the experience or knowledge to pass.
- As well as the knowledge and experience argument above, the FFICM is to be sat in Stage 2, as this will not coincide with the timescales for sitting other specialty examinations. This is particularly relevant to dual CCT trainees. The Faculty would not want a situation where a trainee would be prevented from progressing in their training (i.e. from Stage 1 to Stage 2) as they have failed to pass both relevant examinations. For example, if the Faculty allowed a Dual Anaesthesia and ICM trainee to sit the FFICM examination in Stage 1, and in so doing, the trainee failed to pass the FRCA, the trainee would not be able to progress to Stage 2 of their dual programme. Sitting two specialty examinations concurrently would be a huge undertaking, and the risk of not succeeding in one would have wider repercussions.

However, the Faculty has decided that it will, on a case-by-case basis, listen to requests from trainees who wish to sit the MCQ component of the FFICM in the very late phase of their Stage 1 training. This is on the proviso that the MCQ sitting in question falls in the **last few weeks** of the trainee's Stage 1 training and that the trainee's Regional Advisor confirms that the trainee is on course to complete all of their required Stage 1 competencies.

Trainees are reminded that the FFICM examination is compulsory for Single and Dual ICM CCT trainees, but not for Joint trainees, who may sit the examination voluntarily. The Faculty would recommend that Joint trainees wishing to sit the examination complete Intermediate level ICM training (which includes the complementary medicine module) before sitting.

Details about the FFICM examination, including the regulations, dates and fees can be found [here](#).

Please note the next FFICM MCQ will take place at the RCoA on Tuesday the 14th July 2015. The application window opens for this sitting on the 13th April 2015 and closes on the 4th June 2015.

ICM ePortfolio

Earlier this year NES, the ePortfolio provider, launched an update to the site including 'Bootstrap' software; the aim of Bootstrap is to facilitate a better user experience on tablets and mobiles. Along with this launch, some cosmetic changes appeared on the site, but the basic functionality remains the same. The Bootstrap launch appears to have caused some issues with the site (adding posts and linking to curricula) but these now seem to have been resolved. If users experience issues with any site functionality, NES advise trying the same action using a different web browser as a first plan of attack.

With regard to web browsers, NES have also advised that the system no longer supports Internet Explorer 7. If a user does log on using this browser they will receive a notification that it is not supported and that functionality issues may be experienced.

Please Note:

Although the Faculty has editing-admin control over information added to the portfolio, we do not have any control over the back-end software that runs the system; this is entirely controlled by NES. If you contact the NES helpdesk please be aware that they refer ***all*** queries to the colleges/faculties as a matter of routine, even if the issue is a back-end one. Faculty staff will do our best to help you with any problem you are experiencing, but please be aware that if the issue is software related (as with the above Bootstrap bugs) we will be unable to fix them and will have to raise a central helpdesk problem with the NES programmers to resolve the issue.

To coincide with the initial Launch of the ePortfolio the Faculty produced a guidance document which outlines how the ePortfolio system works, and is available from the FICM website [here](#). Over the next few months this will be updated to reflect the new look of the [portfolio](#) and include FAQs that have been raised and addressed during our first year.

From initial trainee feedback the most recurring questions at present are:

I cannot find my current Educational Supervisor on the system to add to my post

Local ES roles are not allocated by the Faculty (unlike RA or FT roles); as such we are reliant on the ES information provided by deaneries or on deanery administrators to allocate the ES role (which they have the ability to do). However, if the Faculty is informed of additional Educational Supervisors and provided with the required email address for them then we are happy to add them to the system. If the ES already has an ePortfolio username/account then we will need this information as well; this will stop us creating duplicate accounts and enable the ES to move between 'roles' on the system with one login.

When I first log in to the ePortfolio I cannot see my posts

Posts are not added centrally by the Faculty; it is up to the individual trainee to add their post details to the system.

Why does the ICM ePortfolio system not link directly to the RCoA ePortfolio?

The ICM ePortfolio is part of the NHS ePortfolio system built by NES (NHS Education for Scotland), and to which many other specialties are signed up, including the ICM partner specialties of Emergency and Acute Medicine, among others. The RCoA ePortfolio is a separate system built by a private contractor. For various reasons it was not felt at the time

of construction that the RCoA could accommodate the ICM curriculum within the anaesthetic portfolio. Trainees undertaking ICM in conjunction with a partner specialty will be obliged to maintain two separate portfolios, one for each specialty. This is because two separate ePortfolio systems (even two which are both designed and run by NES) are not designed to interact directly with each other. The Faculty recognises that this is not an ideal situation, and steps have been taken to make the transfer of information between two systems as easy as possible. Trainees may output (in PDF format) an assessment from their partner specialty portfolio and upload it to the ICM portfolio; this can then be 'tagged' within the system both to identify which kind of assessment it is (e.g. DOPS, CEX, Professional Activity, etc.) and also to which ICM curriculum competencies it applies. Trainees with portfolios for two NES specialties (e.g. ICM and Acute Medicine) can, provided they have the same username for both, switch between the two using the 'Select Roles' tab.

ICM Regional Advisors

The ICM Regional Advisors are instrumental to the delivery of your ICM training, liaising with your TPDs and negotiating with other specialties on your behalf to ensure that you obtain the training that you require to get your CCT. As you have registered with the Faculty, and you needed to liaise with your Regional Advisor to do this, you will most likely know who they are already, however if you don't, these are all [listed here](#). If you do not already have their contact details then please do let the Faculty know and we can provide them – it's always good to have these to hand in case you have any urgent enquiries.

FICM Trainee Representation

Trainee Eye is evolving - we want to include articles written by trainees for trainees. If you have an article of interest, for example an OOPE or a fellowship that you have done, or perhaps some research that you are involved in then please do send it in.

Future issues will also include paper reviews written by trainees. If a paper has recently caught your eye, from a golden oldie to something new and fresh that challenges current practices, then please do let us know and if it is suitable then either David or Ian will send you a template to help structure your review.

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For our first issue containing trainee reviews Dr David Garry and Dr Ian Kerslake have reviewed [The VANISH trial](#) and Dr Jon Rivers has submitted a [user review](#) of an online [Medstats Course](#) run by Stanford University for your consideration.

PLEASE NOTE that the views or opinions presented in these reviews are solely those of the author and do not necessarily represent those of the company.

Please also remember there is a section of the FICM website called [Career Stories](#) where we invite trainees to discuss their experiences as an ICM trainee, whether dual or single. If you would like to submit a piece for inclusion on the website please email [FICM](#)

National Recruitment update

Recruitment is now conducted centrally for England, Northern Ireland, Wales and Scotland via the West Midlands Deanery.

Interviews for ICM training posts will be taking place in Birmingham on the 13th, 14th and 15th of April 2015. The current number of posts stands at 128, a good increase on 2014's posts, which totalled 112. For the first time Scotland is joining the National recruitment scheme, making 4 of its 14 posts available through National recruitment. Year-on-year we are seeing an increase in the number of posts available which is extremely encouraging for the specialty.

Trainees should be aware that from 2016, it will not be possible to be appointed into a dual programme after ST5. This has been agreed with all partner specialties. This has been publicised by the Faculty via the newsletter *Critical Eye* which can be found [here](#) and has been disseminated to RAs, however if it affects you, or someone you know, please do make them aware. For more information about the National Recruitment process please see [here](#).

Faculty News

Consultations

The FICM keep abreast of relevant consultations from various organisations. Recent consultations to which the FICM have commented include:

- NHSE - Congenital Heart Disease Standards and Service Specifications
- UK Donation Ethics Committee - Review of the UK Donation Ethics Committee (UKDEC)
- Joint Medical Consultative Council - Consultant working environments
- FMLM - Consultation on Professional Standards of Medical Leadership and Management
- Monitor - Exploring international acute care models
- EU - Working time directive

The CCT in Intensive Care Medicine

The most recent update to the ICM CCT curriculum was approved by the GMC in August 2014. [Details of the updates to the curriculum manual are listed on the FICM website.](#)

The Faculty is currently undertaking development of a number of additional Special Skills Year modules to add to those available in [Part V of the CCT curriculum](#). At the time of writing the following modules are under development but have **not** yet been approved by the GMC:

- Education
- Home Ventilation
- Liver ICU

Further developments with these modules will be reported in future editions of *Trainee Eye*.

We are aware that many of you are now making the progression from stage 1 to stage 2 of the new curriculum. Once you have been issued with your Stage 1 Certificate please email a copy to the Faculty. Your training record will then be updated and your ePortfolio account will be linked to stage 2 of the curriculum. Please ensure your certificate is completed and signed/stamped as required before sending it in.

Workforce

The FICM Workforce Census was launched on the 23rd February 2015 and will run until 1st July 2015. We are encouraging all ICM Fellows and Members to complete this short survey. It is essential that we receive a high response rate in order to facilitate workforce planning, illustrate to external bodies the need for the ICM skill set and services and increase the number of trainee posts available for the future of the specialty.

Guidelines for the Provision of Intensive Care Services (GPICS)

Over the last twelve months the Faculty of Intensive Care Medicine and the Intensive Care Society Standards Committee has been developing a definitive reference source for how Intensive Care Medicine should be delivered and developed in the UK. '**Guidelines for Provision of Intensive Care Services**' or GPICS includes a number of recommendations and standards and will therefore be of interest to many including clinicians involved in management and the design of critical care services, managers, critical care operational delivery networks, the adult critical care clinical reference group and commissioners from both specialised commissioning and clinical commissioning groups. It will also be of interest to clinicians who undertake clinical audit to improve their practice and for revalidation. GPICS has been out for public consultation and the deadline for comment has just closed. The document should be published in March 2015.

Critical Eye

The latest [Critical Eye](#) newsletter was published in January 2015. The Faculty secretariat will begin working on the August edition of Critical Eye in May. If you would like to contribute, please contact the Faculty.

Events

FICM Critical Works: Thursday 14th and Friday 15th May 2015

There are still places available on FICM Critical Works on Thursday 14th and Friday 15th May 2015. The lectures will include scientific and political contributions from James Adeley, HM Coroner for Lancashire and Chris Danbury will bring the latest on the legislation around Deprivation of Liberty. There will also be updates on recent research trials, Sepsis and the impact of emerging infectious diseases on critical care. The Annual Faculty Lecture will be given by Dr Clifford Mann, President of the College of Emergency Medicine on the topic of political manoeuvring and lobbying.

[Bookings are now being taken.](#)

The event is worth 10 CPD points. Cost: £295 for both days (£155 for trainees and nurses) or £165 for one day (£95 for trainees and nurses).

Contacting the Faculty

The Faculty would recommend that if you have any queries regarding your training, you contact your ICM Faculty Tutor and Regional Advisor in the first instance. This is because they will have a greater understanding of local issues which may be affecting you, and they are more likely to be able to advise on a solution as a consequence. However, the Faculty are very happy to advise where possible and we would encourage trainees to get in touch via the FICM inbox: ficm@rcoa.ac.uk

The future

We hope that you have found this Faculty update useful. Please do let us know your thoughts on this. If you have any ideas of what might be useful to include in the future then please do get in touch – we would welcome your suggestions!

Best wishes,

The FICM Team