

### Undergraduate teaching in general practice

#### NOTE FOR SAPC AGM – July 2019

#### Current priority areas of discussion at SAPC Heads of Teaching Group (HoTS):

**1. Undergraduate teaching finance.** Despite undertakings since 2013 when a new secondary care Tariff was introduced, there is still no indication that a new Primary Care Educating Tariff is likely to be forthcoming in the foreseeable future. This is in spite of collection of detailed costing data from 50 teaching practices providing evidence that current payment rates for undergraduate GP placements are significantly under-costed compared to secondary care. The mean cost to practices in study was found to be £111 per student session. This is broadly similar to the Tariff currently paid in secondary care and supports the argument for a single Tariff across primary and secondary care. Whilst this argument seems to be largely accepted by DHSC and HEE the funding working group, the practical question of how to fund any uplift for primary care Tariff remains unanswered. The proposal favoured by SAPC and RCGP to reduce secondary care Tariff in order to increase primary care Tariff has not surprisingly met with strong resistance from secondary care providers. Disappointingly the Healthcare education and training tariff for 2019-20 published in April 2019 failed even to mention a hint of change with respect to funding of education and training in primary care. The RCGP and the British Medical Association have both written (with SAPC input) to the Secretary of State for Health to raise this issue, calling for funding a fair national primary care tariff to be implemented that meets the costs of delivering education and training in primary care. RCGP have also organised a student postcard petition which was recently delivered to Secretary of State Matt Hancock at the Department of Health and Social Care. Current political turmoil and Brexit paralysis have no doubt further hampered progress in negotiations. An RCGP/SAPC liaison group has been set up to try and move this matter forward.

**2. Promoting general practice as a positive career choice for medical students. The Wass Report.**

GP recruitment concerns remain topical and promoting general practice as a positive career choice for graduating students continues as one of our top priorities along with ensuring that future secondary care doctors have appropriate experience in primary care at undergraduate level.

The full Wass report “By Choice - not By Chance” which can be found at:

<https://www.hee.nhs.uk/sites/default/files/documents/By%20choice%20not%20by%20chance%20web%20FINAL.pdf>.

HoTs are working closely with RCGP on promoting GP careers with particular support from Chris Bull and the Medical Students and Foundation Doctors Committee.

**3. New national curriculum guide for undergraduate general practice**

The joint RCGP/SAPC document “Teaching General Practice: Guiding principles for undergraduate GP curricula in UK medical schools” has now been published and is available at: [rcgp.org.uk/undergraduate](http://rcgp.org.uk/undergraduate)

The guide does not propose a one-size-fits-all national undergraduate GP syllabus, but rather a set of guiding principles for individual medical schools to refer to and adapt according to local needs. Hard copies are being produced and will be circulated to all UK and Ireland medical schools.

The project has very much as a collaboration between SAPC and RCGP and represents our first joint publication. We are now developing a set of teaching and learning resources built around the themes in the curriculum guide.

#### **4. New Medical Schools**

Five new English medical schools are now preparing to offer places starting in 2019 or 2020 ie Sunderland, Edge Hill, Anglia Ruskin, Lincoln and Kent. As new GP HoTs are gradually being appointed we are inviting them to join the national HoTs group. A new independent medical school is also being planned at Brunel University,

**5. Teaching capacity in general practices.** Recruitment and retention of practices to host undergraduate GP placements continues to be a challenge in face of increasing service pressure and demands of postgraduate training. Capacity varies around the UK and some local initiatives have proved helpful.

Improvement in funding, if forthcoming following recommendations of the Health Committee and HEE GP Careers Working Party, would help but other innovations and incentives are being considered to increase placements available. There are already some promising developments in terms of collaboration between postgraduate and undergraduate training groups to engage GP trainees in undergraduate teaching. Near Peer teaching of this sort is proving both feasible and effective. We hope it can be developed to the point where it is embedded in the GP training programme nationally

**6. Promoting options for academic experience within GP training programmes.** We continue to work with HEE GP Schools, NIHR, universities and RCGP to promote clinical academic training programmes in order to prepare the next generation of primary care academics. It is encouraging that NIHR have this year supported a number of themed Academic Clinical Fellowship (ACF) posts in medical education.

**7. Enhancing recognition,** reward and career development opportunities for university based primary care educators remains a priority matter for the HoTs group.

**8. Organisation of HoTs group.** Joe Rosenthal (UCL) & Alex Harding (Exeter) continue to co-chair the HoTs group supported by a small "HoTs Exec" comprising Joe and Alex plus Bob McKinley (Keele), Hugh Alberti (Newcastle) Sonia Kumar (Imperial) and Lyndsey Pope (Glasgow). We are also working closely with the HoDs group and hold part of our summer and winter meetings jointly to discuss areas of common concern.

**Joe Rosenthal** July 2019