

Undergraduate teaching in general practice

SAPC HoTs (Heads of Undergraduate GP Teaching) update June 2024

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

1. Undergraduate teaching finance

A new “harmonised” tariff for all English medical schools has now been in operation since 1 September 2022, introducing for the first time consistent national resourcing of medical student clinical teaching in England regardless of setting.

Publication of the updated 2024/25 healthcare education tariff (England) has been delayed pending the general election, as has the deadline for submitting accountability report for primary education funding for 2023-24.

2. Teaching capacity in general practices.

There is no doubt that improved in funding has helped with recruitment and retention of practices to host undergraduate GP placements. However, placement capacity remains a challenge in many areas often related to limited space and competing demands from other learners eg F2s, more GP trainees, Physician Associates, pharmacists, nurses. Near Peer teaching whereby postgraduate GP trainees are engaged in undergraduate teaching has been a very positive development in some areas. The HoTs group is hosting an on-line symposium on 12 June aiming to share current and potential future approaches to finding new or even radical solutions to address challenges around undergraduate teaching capacity in primary care.

3. National curriculum guide for undergraduate general practice

We continue to have positive feedback on the joint SAPC/RCGP curriculum guide Teaching General Practice (TGP) and its associated student learning resource Learning General Practice (LGP). Both documents are hosted on the RCGP website at:

<https://www.rcgp.org.uk/your-career/undergraduate-general-practice>

4. Virtual Primary Care

This library of 150 consultation videos made available in partnership between SAPC, Medical Schools Council (MSC) and Channel 5 TV series “GPs: Behind Closed Doors” has now had over 2 million minutes of use by medical students and is currently being piloted for postgraduate trainees in England and Scotland. Initial feedback from PG trainees is positive and we hope that the resource may be made available to all UK GP trainees and trainers during 2023. Particular potential has been identified for International Medical Graduates with little previous experience of NHS primary care. See:

<https://vpc.medicalschoolsouncil.org.uk/>

5. Introduction of national Medical Licensing Assessment (MLA)

Starting in academic year 2024-25 all UK medical students in order to graduate will be required to pass a national [MLA](#) as part of their medical school degree, before they can join the medical register. We have met with MSC and GMC to try and ensure that GP is appropriately represented in the question bank.

6. Promoting general practice as a positive career choice for medical students.

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. (Ref: Wass Report: [By Choice not by chance.](#))

7. New Medical Schools

Five new English medical schools are now offering student places ie Sunderland, Edge Hill, Anglia Ruskin, Lincoln and Kent. Further new schools are in the pipeline or proposed (some still subject to GMC approval) at Ulster University, Brunel University, Bangor University, University of Bradford, University of Surrey, University of Chester, University of Worcester (Three Counties Medical School) and University of Cumbria (at Carlisle). Proposals are also proceeding to introduce a new range of medical degrees by apprenticeship. SACP and RCGP have both contributed to consultations on this with essentially the same view that whilst we support the underlying principles of expanding medical workforce and widening participation we do have significant concerns regarding capacity for increased demand on clinical placements in and potential risks of “two tier” medical degrees.

8. Promoting options for academic experience within GP training programmes.

We continue to work with HEE (now NHS WET) 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.

9. Promoting educational research in primary care

Working in partnership the SACP Educational Research Special Interest Group (led by Sophie Park and Hugh Alberti) the HoTs group provides an informal network in order to develop research questions and collect data related to undergraduate primary care education. Enquiries are welcome from any colleagues interested in developing research ideas.

10. Retired clinicians and undergraduate teaching

Many GPs may wish to continue contributing to undergraduate teaching during career breaks, or after retirement from clinical practice. The HoTs supports this, recognising the benefits of being able to retain experienced clinicians and teachers in teaching and assessing students. In collaboration with the RCGP Later Career and Retired Members Group (LCARM) we have produced a short document (attached) aiming to support

individual medical schools in developing a clear but flexible policy based on common experiences and expert views.

11. Enhancing recognition for undergraduate GP Educators

Reward and career development opportunities for university based primary care educators remains a priority matter for the HoTs group.

And finally.....

Having co-founded the GP HoTs group in 2009 with Bob McKinley, and subsequently co-chaired with Bob, Sandra Nicholson, Alex Harding and currently Jo Protheroe, Joe Rosenthal will be standing down as HoTs Co-Chair following this year's AGM. An election is currently taking place for his successor to join Jo Protheroe. We have two excellent candidates.

On behalf of the HoTs, Jo Protheroe would like to express sincere gratitude for the enormous contribution Joe R has made to Undergrad Medical Education in Primary care. Joe will thankfully remain on the HoTs Exec committee for a further 12 months to support the new Co-Chair

Joe Rosenthal, Joanne Protheroe

Co-Chairs SAPC Heads of Undergraduate GP Teaching Group (HoTs)

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SAPC

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- Be heard through a collective voice