

TAB 08/09 Report to CMGS AGM March 09

Communication

- Both the ECT and TAB are continue to be linked by Sarah Warburton and Gavin Cuthbert National Pre-Registration Training Officer in Clinical Cytogenetics sitting on both committees. This has facilitated combined development of many training initiatives.
- The SCOBEC laboratory group meeting with the Department of Health Genetics Team in July 08 gave an opportunity to present the work of the regional and national trainers and thank the DH for the White paper investment in genetics training, and highlight future needs including bioinformatics.
- National and Regional trainers have been supporting a network of Careers Fayres/University events and have a poster presentation at CMGS 2009. A stall was taken at National Science week at the University of Derby on 14/03/2009. Sarah Warburton and Nicola Wolstenholme were present to promote careers in Clinical Molecular Genetics.
- The training section of the CMGS website has been updated by Nicola Wolstenholme including moving sensitive information under restricted access area, organizing presentations in the 'downloads' page into categories such as Clinical, Scientific, Technical etc, and adding/updating web pages on CPD and CS Registration
- Maggie Williams is due to stand down as TAB chair on 31st March 09. The position will be very ably filled until March 2011 by Dr David Bourn (Newcastle).

New Initiatives

- 3 TAB members are currently actively involved with the DH MSC genetics pilot working group, to help support the development and implementation of this project. A representative from the MSC pilot group has also attended a TAB meeting to inform the group and share discussion on the project.
- The TAB workforce group led by Dr Steve Abbs has revised the format for workforce data collection in conjunction with the DH workforce review team, to provide more robust and informative data for future workforce planning. The first data set is due to be released shortly

Trainers and Training Centres

- Gemma Monaghan and Nicola Wolstenholme were appointed to regional trainer posts in May/June 08 and are supporting the London and Northern labs respectively, in addition to furthering various national initiatives including:
 - Developing the training section of the CMGS website
 - Registration workshops
 - FRCPath workshops
 - Bioinformatics competencies in conjunction with NGRL Manchester
 - CPD workshops
 - Training support for Quality Management –day meeting and an e-group
- A national meeting of laboratory training officers was held on 24th September 2008 and was attended by 24 training officers. Key issues included the launch the New Genetic Technologists Training Programme, an update on Modernizing Healthcare Science Careers, Bioinformatics training available from the European Bioinformatics Institute, CPD audit by the HPC, crossover disciplines and audit training.
- A Training for Trainers course was held in June 2008 for 16 molecular geneticists. A joint CMGS/ACC course was held in February 2009 and this was attended by 8 cytogeneticists and 7 molecular geneticists. A further joint course will be held this Autumn.

Pre-registration Training.

- 14 new clinical scientist trainees started in the clinical molecular genetics modality in October 08.
- A 2 day course for new trainee scientists was held in Birmingham on 3th and 4th November attended by all 14 trainees with good feedback.
- 19 trainees have been awarded the Certificate of Attainment
- 51 assessments undertaken, and the TAB would like to thank Sarah Warburton for her considerable work in this area and for providing such a timely assessment documentation process.
- The following courses. Training days were run in 08/09;
 - Basic Risk Calculation on 8th April with 21 attendees
 - Advanced Risk Calculation on 18th June with 31 attendees
 - A network of regional training days/workshops have been organised by the regional trainers on various topics throughout the year as requested.

Post registration Training

- An FRCPATH Part 1 preparation Course was held on one day per month from September 2008 – February 2009 and was attended by 18 participants. Many thanks to all who gave up their time to facilitate these sessions.
- A joint ACC/CMGS self help course for preparation for the FRCPATH part 2 viva in Spring 2009 was held in Birmingham (3 sessions from December 08 to February 09). The course was attended by 10 candidates; 4 cytogeneticists and 6 molecular geneticists. Each session was facilitated by a College examiner. A further session is planned for summer 09.
- The RCPATH are actively developing a cross discipline case based e-learning initiative anything more on this
- A joint CMGS/ACC Quality Managers training day was held on 23rd January and included representation from CPA and assessors. There were 50 attendees
- **Genetic Technologist Training**
 - A joint draft National training programme for molecular genetics technologists has been developed by the ETC and the TAB and was launched in Jan 09 to provide a support framework for GT training during this interim period prior to MSC. It is acknowledged that this is only a framework that is flexible for local implementation due to the wide scope of practice of molecular laboratories and acknowledging that GT training usually has no supernumerary component. Applications for laboratory accreditation for GT training are currently being processed. All labs are encouraged to submit local training programmes for assessment against the National framework of competencies.
 - A National Training day for Genetic Technologists was held on 2nd June 2008. 43 GTs attended, with presentations on a wide range of topics including the new training manual, registration, rotation and automation, high throughput sequencing, microarrays, pyrosequencing, MRD detection, mutation surveyor, Wave and Uveal melanomas.
 - **X Molecular Genetic technologists registered to date.**
 - It is recognised that we are in a state of flux pending Modernising Healthcare Science developments. The TAB requests that the CMGS membership adds its support wherever possible to promoting and supporting voluntary registration of GT staff in CMGS laboratories.

Dates for 2008/9 TAB meetings

4th June 2008

3rd Sept 2008

3rd Dec 2008

3rd Mar 2009