

**SOCIETY OF CARDIOTHORACIC SURGEONS**  
**OF GREAT BRITAIN AND IRELAND**

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Annual Business Meeting 2008

**STANDING REPORT FROM THE TRAINEE REPRESENTATIVE**

**A. MEETINGS**

MEETING	DATE	MINUTES
SAC	15 <sup>th</sup> June 07 14 <sup>th</sup> Sept 07 14 <sup>th</sup> Dec 07	
SCTS Executive	21 <sup>st</sup> June 07 6 <sup>th</sup> Sept 07 30 <sup>th</sup> Nov 07	
ISB	7 <sup>th</sup> Aug 07 30 <sup>th</sup> Jan 07	

**B. MATTERS OF INFORMATION FOR THE MEMBERSHIP:**

**Employment**

I have continued to highlight the lack of employment opportunities for CCT holders at both the SCTS Executive and the SAC. Many people have been absorbed into clinical fellow/post CCT fellow posts or locum positions and, to date, there are no large numbers of unemployed cardiothoracic surgeons. It must be acknowledged, however, that many of these posts are temporary measures, and the situation is far from resolved. It is important that this topic remains high on the agenda for discussion.

**Trainees Meeting March 2007**

Last year's trainees' meeting was well attended. The format was changed to that of an 'open forum' allowing an hour's question and answer session; this was particularly well received and the format will be retained for this year.

**Intercollegiate Surgical Curriculum Programme**

The Intercollegiate Surgical Curriculum Programme is now up and running on <http://www.iscp.ac.uk>. The website provides information on the syllabus, defines the roles of people involved in teaching and sets out the principles of assessment. Procedure Based Assessment forms for a number of common cardiac and thoracic procedures are available online.

### **National Selection**

National selection is planned for the 5 ST3 posts in Cardiothoracic Surgery for 2008. All deaneries will be involved in the process which will take place over 2 days. The West Midlands Deanery will host the selection process this year.

### **EWTD**

Ensuring EWTD compliant rotas (maximum 48 hour working week by August 2009) is an ongoing process. The SCTS has produced a document called 'Staffing Cardiothoracic Units: Developing a Workforce for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century' and there is an ongoing survey looking at staffing of units which will help inform the process. The balance between service provision and providing training to a high standard in a limited time will be a challenge that needs to be met.

### **FRCS (CTh)**

The 'new style' FRCS(CTh) examination (2 written papers/no basic science viva now) has been running for one year now. Feedback has been sought from trainees who have sat this examination and has generally been positive.

### **SCTS Trainee Representative**

I was recently appointed to the post of Consultant Cardiothoracic Surgeon at Swansea NHS Trust. As such, I have relinquished my position as SCTS Trainee Representative. A call for nominations for my replacement was sent out in September 2007. Four people declared an interest and stood for election. The election ran during November 2007. Sunil Bhudia (West Midlands Deanery) was the successful candidate and is now the SCTS Trainee Representative.

**Farah Bhatti**

**Outgoing SCTS Trainee Representative**