

# **SURVEY OF PAEDIATRIC SURGICAL TRAINEES**

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## **Aim/Methods**

A survey of trainees was conducted from December 2006 to March 2007 to ascertain the number of trainees, their likely year of CCT and current main interests.

## **Results**

84 NTNs were identified in UK and Northern Ireland. There were an additional 10 LATs. The current year of training for NTNs and LATs are shown (Table 1).

Year of Training	Number of NTNs or LATs
Year 1	18
Year 2	10
Year 3	21
Year 4	16
Year 5	9
Year 6	13
Unrecorded	7
Total	94

Table 1: Current year of training for NTNs and LATs

The main interests of NTN and LATs were recorded for 21/37 Year 3 and 4 and trainees and 10/22 Year 5 and 6 trainees. Some trainees expressed an interest in more than one subspecialty. Results are shown in Tables 2a and 2b.

Subspecialty	Number of NTN or LATs
Colorectal	13
UGI	3
Oncology	4
Hepatobiliary	1
Trauma	3
Thoracic	3
Urology	5
Laparoscopy	7
Unrecorded	16

Table 2 a: Main Interests of Year 3-4 Trainees

Subspecialty	Number of NTN or LATs
Colorectal	1
UGI	2
Oncology	2
Hepatobiliary	0
Trauma	0
Thoracic	3
Urology	6
Laparoscopy	1
Unrecorded	12

Table 2 b: Main Interests of Year 4-5 Trainees

## Discussion

The SAC conducted a survey of the total number of NTN in June 2006 and identified 82. This is in keeping with our total of 84. No current register of year of training of numbered trainees or their main interest currently exists. Such information would be useful to trainees, training bodies and employing trusts to facilitate planning.

In the current survey, there was a 92% response rate for year of training. At least 22 trainees are due to obtain their CCT in the next 2 years with a further 37 people (currently year 3 and 4) due to complete training in the subsequent 2 years. The total number of available consultant posts due to become available during this period is not known making the likelihood, or extent, of post-CCT unemployment difficult to predict.

Those eligible to apply for consultant posts also include accredited surgeons from the EU and trainees applying for the CCT equivalent through the through Article 14 route. As of April 2007, there have been 9 applications through the Article 14 route, with a further 8 awaiting processing (personal communication Professor Thomas, Chair SAC). These two groups represent a potentially significant increase in numbers of people eligible to seek consultant posts.

The response rate for the main interest of Year 3-6 trainees was 53%. Nevertheless, it was apparent that only 1 respondent in any year of training expressed an interest in Hepatobiliary Surgery. Competition in Colorectal surgery is likely to be high in the future. The number of trainees expressing an interest in Urology seems stable.

During the collection period of the current survey, there would have been some movement between centres. Attempts were made to prevent "double counting" but it is possible that this may have occurred. Were this survey to be repeated, it may be preferable to set a specific date to record data.

Data return for non-NTN trainees was incomplete. Accurate numbers of Paediatric Surgical trainees currently without a number hoping to complete training in the specialty

may be of interest in the future.

## **Summary**

No current list exists detailing year of training and main interests of trainees. Maintenance of an accurate list would assist both trainees and employers in workforce planning. In this survey we have identified a large number of trainees due to acquire CCT in 2-4 years from now, with an additional number becoming eligible to apply for consultant posts through other routes. Currently, a low number of trainees consider Hepatobiliary Surgery to be a main interest.

Jonathan Sutcliffe

National Trainees' Representative

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