



Dear Medical Student,

In 2018 there is much to look forward to for Medical Students interested in, or studying, urology.

Urology remains a very busy speciality making up about 25% of all hospital referrals and about 10% of primary care consultations. Although the urology component of medical school curriculums does not reflect the high volume of urology cases seen in the NHS, all do contain a urology component often across many years. A standardised national curriculum is published [here](#) and medical schools aim to cover this.

BAUS, the national urology association, is here to help all medical students, be it to pass exams before starting another speciality or to start in a career in urology itself. BAUS will shortly be setting up a new membership class for medical students and further details (including how to apply) will be available soon. The cost will be £20 per year and will offer discounts on the cost of registration for the BAUS Annual Meeting which is held in June.

The BAUS website [medical student pages and training doctor pages](#) have a wealth of educational material on them (including resources that can be used at careers fairs) and are free to use.

Choosing the right speciality is becoming harder due to less exposure to hospital practice and a wider remit of non-hospital-based specialities during foundation years. During medical school training available time for self-directed exploration of different careers is difficult for many reasons and here BAUS can help as a link between ourselves and appropriate consultants who can offer exposure to Urology either as part of a student selected component, special study module, elective or just a taster day.

We have a network of [medical school urology champions](#) whose aim is to support medical students interested in, or studying, urology and their details can be found on the BAUS website medical student pages.

We are also changing the layout of the annual essay competition in 2018 and adding in a new web-based competition both of which will award financial prizes and certificates to the winning entrants.

The annual essay prize will be a national competition with a £750 prize for the winning applicant and a £500 prize for the runner up. Each medical school will have a local winner who will be awarded a prize certificate. The essay title for 2018 is "How can UK Urologists justify the expense of using the latest technology within a nationally funded health system?" and further details are available on the [BAUS website](#).

New for 2018, will be a national competition to produce a video blog, podcast or media product of no more than 10 minutes on one of the subjects from the medical school guide curriculum that can be found [here](#). Further information will be available shortly on the BAUS website. The competition will run twice in 2018 and the best submission per competition will win a cash prize and all suitable submissions will be published on the BAUS website. There are already some examples published on the website that can be accessed [here](#).

Many medical schools are developing additional hands on surgical workshops either as parts of the medical school programme or as an optional activity and likewise medical school surgical societies

offer additional exposure to surgery and trainers. I am happy to be contacted with regards to support that can be offered in either developing these events and if your medical school doesn't offer any please let me know so I can see what can be achieved locally to you.

Urology remains at the forefront of the use of cutting edge surgical technology and innovation and offers the widest range of career options within a surgical speciality.

Currently the landscape is rapidly changing as to how urology is delivered nationally and there will be many new types of consultant urologists developed. Traditional stereotypes of the surgeon in hospital performing clinics and surgeries will still exist for those who aspire to that role however, new types of consultants who perhaps work in a primary care setting delivering diagnostic work, clinics or minor surgery closer to home are likely. Urologists who only deliver non-on-call scheduled activity are likely to emerge who can balance a rewarding job whilst maintaining other non-hospital-based activities. To balance this, super specialist urology surgeons are already emerging who deliver only a few complex operations but in high volume and at a world leading level. Hospital based surgeons who continue to teach or develop new technology and techniques will still be supported by the NHS and their local infrastructure.

Urology remains a surgical speciality but within it there is a role for all types of doctors and support for their individual career aspirations and potentially for more novel ways of delivering urological care - so please feel free to contact your BAUS medical school representative or myself to see what we can offer to allow you some insight into urology as a speciality for you.

Yours,  
Toby Page  
BAUS Education Lead for Medical Students

[Toby.page@nuth.nhs.uk](mailto:Toby.page@nuth.nhs.uk)