



BSoT Newsletter November 2020

Even as we approach the end of a year that has challenged both training and us as individuals so much, we continue to deal with change. With this in mind, we are now bringing back our bulletin e-mails on a regular basis to update you about training issues and events.

FRCS(Urol)

There has been significant upheaval in the delivery of the FRCS(Urol) examinations this year and the pressures of the examination are enough without additional uncertainties that have surrounded the examination in the past weeks and months. As a committee, to every candidate that has persevered through this already trying year and is now sitting Section 2 this week, we wish all the best. Both BSoT and our colleagues in ASiT have represented trainees' views and concerns on this for many months now and we would welcome any additional feedback following the exam so we can better represent your views.

National Selection 2021

Following FRCS(Urol), the next most important dates are for candidates applying ST3 National Selection for 2021 as applications open on the Oriel portal from 26th November 2020. Both BSoT and ASiT raised concerns about the most recent National Selection process where only unvalidated portfolio self-assessments were used. We are pleased to see that provisions for online videocall interviews are being made for 2021 and will continue to scrutinise this process. For more information on the process, please visit this [link](#).

Virtual BAUS 2020

We hope all trainees enjoyed both the wide range of virtual presentations delivered by the various sections and specifically BSoT's programme at BAUS 2020; we covered many different challenges faced in training including the effects of the pandemic, being a parent in urology, the challenges of being a senior trainee transitioning into being a consultant and an excellent session on how to deal with complications.

Based on the feedback we have had we are now looking at developing improved resources, as part of updating our section of the BAUS website, for parents (and prospective parents) in urological training. If anyone is keen in becoming involved in developing this resource, then please let us know.

Our programme for BAUS 2021 is being finalised in the coming weeks, but there is still time to suggest a session topic if there is anything that would be of particular benefit to trainees - please let us know.

Changes in the committee

Since taking over as interim Chair of BSoT at our meeting in Leeds in February, Sot has been a stalwart champion of trainees' needs in such a challenging time. We are grateful for his support and wish him all the best as he starts consultant life at Salford Royal Hospital in the near future. Our Honorary Secretary, Neil Harvey, stood uncontested for the position of Chair and now holds this position. This triggered an election for the position of Honorary Secretary which was last week won by Ben Starmer.

Earlier in the year, Clare Jelley's term as Vice Chair came to an end and we thank her for all her hard work, especially in delivering BSoT 2020 and her contributions to the BAUS Education and Special Advisory Committees, during this time. Paul Sturch from the KSS deanery won the election and has settled into the role well.

We are looking to recruit for both a new medical student and ASiT rep in the near future.

Ongoing projects

We are lucky to have the opportunity to work closely with Professor James Green (Barts Health NHS Trust) on the Education in Quality Improvement Programme (EQUIP), developing a platform to improve trainees understanding of quality improvement and delivery of these projects. The first focus group is expected to run at the end of this month.

Similarly, from our recent Twitter polls, you might have seen we are working with Professor Naeem Soomro (Newcastle upon Tyne Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust) in his role as the Co-Director in Robotic and Digital Surgery at the Royal College of Surgeons of England to ensure that robot assisted laparoscopic training meets the needs of future trainees.

Excellence in Education

We are very keen to celebrate the very best in training year-round. If as a trainee you feel your department exemplifies this, then please send us 100 words so we can raise the awareness of these departments for others to emulate.

Final words

As ever, we want to represent your views as trainees, so if there are any issues that you feel we have not covered then either contact us directly on trainees@baus.org.uk, through our twitter feed [@BSoT_UK](https://twitter.com/BSoT_UK) or through your regional representative.

Best wishes,

The BSoT Executive Committee