

Items:

This edition contains details of: our trainees and supervisors February online event; the recent conclusion of consultant/higher specialist scientist trainee selection; the preparations for clinical scientist pre-registration intake 2021; progress with renewal of training centre recognition as part of our quality monitoring role; and an update on progression of training returns

Trainees & supervisors event Feb 2021 now virtual

Registration for our online event is now available:

<https://events.nes.scot.nhs.uk/healthcare-science-trainees-and-supervisors-event-2-feb-2020-1/>

Over the week of 1st Feb to 5th Feb 2021 the event comprises morning and afternoon one-hour plenary sessions via MS Teams that are repeated twice to maximise the opportunity for colleagues to participate. There is a poster prize opportunity and the final session on Friday morning is on the theme "Lockdown Stories". We hope will be both informative and more inclusive for participants.

Consultant/Higher Specialist Scientist trainees

In 2020 we awarded 21 individuals support as our first cohort of higher specialist scientist trainees. Applicants had submitted a costed training plan that aligns with the domains of HSST curriculum. We are exploring the possibility of a 2021 cohort. Details of the new scheme are posted, for interest, at <http://www.knowledge.scot.nhs.uk/hcstrainees/higher-training.aspx>

Clinical Scientist Pre-registration intake 2021: Expressions of Interest

We expect to support 22 preregistration clinical scientist trainees following the expressions of interest from service in late 2020. Support for on-line recruitment interviews will be offered to the various training schemes/departments for this intake. Recruitment will be Spring 2021 onwards. Online support will be via our *i-Link-HCS* initiative (below)

i-Link-HCS Support for interviews using *Go-to-Meeting*

We have styled our virtual meetings support to Healthcare Science Service as *i-Link-HCS*; using our *Go-to-meeting* platform we may be able to assist with networking, interviews and other small meetings for healthcare science staff. Please contact HCS@nes.scot.nhs.uk
Log in to TURAS Learn for details which are also at

<https://learn.nes.nhs.scot/28481/healthcare-science-e-learning/i-link-hcs>

Status of NES Offices and class based CPD for trainers

NES offices are largely closed at this time, with no class-based contact. Our specific offer to the Healthcare science community centres on support for trainers and leadership preparation. For now, both programmes are suspended.

The Leadership programmes (Early Career and Refreshing Leadership) were being reframed as a multi-disciplinary offer prior to the pandemic lockdown taking effect. It is unlikely that the programmes cancelled will resume in their original form. We will be in contact with affected delegates as soon as the NES Leadership steering group is able to reconvene.

Our two trainers' courses (Train-the-Trainer and Trainees-in-Difficulty) are being reframed as a blend of e-learning and online workshops via MS-Teams. Thanks are extended to colleagues who assisted with a pilot of some ideas in Dec 2020. We hope to recommence although increasingly there is a trend to online delivery. . We anticipate the first course to be available in Spring 2021

We hope that the attraction of this delivery stems both from the inclusion of participants previously unable to attend in person, a more efficient use of attendees' time and the prospect that – as services remobilises – so the backlog of work may prevent some from sacrificing a full day to attend in person.

TURAS Learn, Healthcare Science e-learning: co-creating ideas.

TURAS Learn: <https://learn.nes.nhs.scot/> is a multi-profession repository for learning material. It is free to use, and a nationally accessible learning management system. There is a sizeable amount of Covid-19 resources that are publicly available:

<https://learn.nes.nhs.scot/27993/coronavirus-covid-19>

We have established a service whereby we can organise the publication of your learning material to any TURAS Learn user. A short resource on how to go about this is at [TURAS-HCS](#) We are starting to develop specialty specific content with colleagues that addresses “*point-of-need-learning*”. We are interested in developing the offer for a wider range of specialties and welcome your suggestions for content. If you have potential learning materials from your specialty – perhaps in the form of a PowerPoint slide show – let us know. Contact us at HCS@nes.scot.nhs.uk

Our assurance programme – how to obtain a National Training Number for Healthcare Science staff in training.

We would like to invite practitioners and postgraduate healthcare science staff in training to join the community of HCS National Training Number holders and to participate in our assurance programme. There are staff in Healthcare Science undergoing professional qualifications with their representative professional body who are not known to NES. These staff become an important part of the workforce with additional knowledge and skills essential to the scientific service. We wish to include these individuals in the trainee count. Some of their peers may already possess a National Training Number. Examples of training could be specialist, and higher specialist portfolio undertaken with a professional body; an MSc or PhD through an independent route or an unregistered employee who is working towards some sort of equivalence portfolio to become registered.

Why this matters...

In Scotland we have sought to preserve a wide definition of the scientist in NHS Scotland. Building a community of scientists whose training is covered by the same generic assurance standards enhances our group's identity and avoids duplication of "assurance" for different types of Practitioners and Post-graduate Healthcare Scientist - sometimes co-located in the same unit.

Our assurance programme is light-touch and is irrespective of profession or group. It is designed to:

- assure that that public funds are wisely spent;
- assure that training is safe and effective for trainees, trainers and users/patients; and
- assure regulators and NHS Scotland, as our employer, that the training of us as scientists is subject to uniform national oversight.

NES is taking an increased role in workforce data analytics. Knowledge of who is in training and under what specialty will help us refine the picture we have of the workforce for NHS Scotland.

What does this mean for the trainee?

In issuing a National training Number we will ask for a broad estimate of a trainee's training timescale, any key NHS supervisor and – within the training period - an annual confirmation that your training is proceeding to plan. Our Principal Leads will help with this, but the information is minimal. It is held on the [TURAS](#) Training Programme Management (TPM) system.

Our assurance programme is described at the Knowledge Network community:

<http://www.knowledge.scot.nhs.uk/hcstrainees.aspx>

There is a [Handbook](#) for all trainees.

Obtaining a National Training Number

Assurance of the training of our NHS scientists benefits everyone. As a trainer or trainee, the process involves our (minimal) annual monitoring and survey. The MS Form for this is at:

<https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=veDvEDCgykuAnLXmdF5JmmYytvAiRIBNoOhYwctxQAJUQjBJUE1ROUc4UUQ0VzNYTVVLSUcyNVhERCQIQCN0PWcu>

Contact HCS@nes.scot.nhs.uk for further information.

2020-1 Training Centre monitoring

We are midway through a process of inviting training centres to return their training quality self-assessment declaration. The four-yearly cycle is an important element in our assurance of training. Following the 2016 cycle, a less intensive recognition process has been implemented given that our key assurance tools of ARCP and training plan audit seem to be well supported by colleagues. Monitoring is being led by the HCS Core Team.

Summary information about Training Centre Recognition is at

<http://www.knowledge.scot.nhs.uk/hcstrainees/supervisors.aspx>

If training centres have not already participated and distributed their returns we encourage them to do so and add the link for the MS Forms to complete. The MS Form is at:

<https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=veDvEDCgykuAnLXmdF5JmmYytvAiRIBNoOhYwctxQAJUNDNTS1IYSUFYWDhRS1BRMjJLQU5QQkgwTSQIQCN0PWcu>

2020-21: Annual Review of Competence Progression and Training Plans

Your trainee(s) may need to complete an Annual Review of Competency Progression (ARCP) form and/ or submit a Training Plan. All trainees who will not complete their training within the next eight months are invited to complete a training plan. All trainees who have been in post for one year or longer are invited to submit an Annual Review of Competency Progression. If you have trainees that fit these criteria, and have not already done so, please supply an ARCP and/or training plan before 31st January. We will shortly send an email reminder to eligible trainees and supervisors.

More information on the ARCP process and requirements can be found [here](#).

The ARCP form can be found using [this link](#).

More information on the Training Plan process and requirements can be found [here](#).
If required, please schedule time with your trainee(s) in order to plan the year ahead. You must then complete the Training Plan template and return it to the HCS Team using this email address: HCS@nes.scot.nhs.uk.
The template for the Training Plan can be found by using [this link](#).

Surveys 2020

In late 2020 we ran our annual surveys of trainees and supervisors, in addition to two specific surveys relating to training impact of the pandemic. Results from these are available for our Knowledge Network site at <http://www.knowledge.scot.nhs.uk/hcstrainees/trainees.aspx>

NES Healthcare Science Core Team

The NES Healthcare Science core team is:

[Dr Robert Farley](#) - Healthcare Science Programme Director

[Claire Cameron](#) - Principal Lead

[Lorna Crawford](#) - Principal Lead

[Owen Mills](#) - Principal Lead

[Dr James Logie](#) - Principal Lead

[Andrew Dunne](#) – Principal Lead

[Bianca Brownlee](#) - Principal Lead

[Simon Petrie](#) - Business support

[Charlie Brownlee](#) - Management Accountant

[Leanne Neil](#) - Finance analyst

Join our mailing list

Following the GDPR implementation, we would encourage recent trainees and NHS recruits in healthcare science to join our *Mail Chimp* mailing list. Please email HCS@nes.scot.nhs.uk to be included or for comments on what you have read here. Our list is used occasionally for NES Healthcare Science alerts like this *HCS Notice Board*; it is not shared with third parties.