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This edition contains details of: the call for clinical scientist pre-registration intake 2021 *expressions of interest*; the outturn of the 2020 recruitment process; renewal of training centre recognition as part of our quality monitoring role; our plans for on-line trainer support; NES multi-disciplinary trainee survey July 2020 in response to Covid-19.

Clinical Scientist Pre-registration intake 2020: Outturn

The 2020 pre-registration clinical scientist interviews are complete as this edition goes to press. Of 120 interviews conducted, we supported 83 via our video *i-Link-HCS* facility over 16 days. In 2020 there were nearly 1700 applicants for 21 postgraduate training places compared with around 720 applications for 20 places in 2019. The increase in the number of applicants is a sure reflection of how challenging graduate employment is becoming.

Clinical Scientist Pre-registration intake 2021: Expressions of Interest

Expressions of interest are invited from training schemes and service for the 2021 intake supernumerary clinical scientist trainees. Expressions of interest should be via the template spreadsheet at <http://www.knowledge.scot.nhs.uk/hcstrainees/supervisors.aspx>

Contribution from service towards STP costs is required where this is the preferred pathway. Stage 1 deadline 28th August 2020; Stage 2 deadline 22nd September 2020.

Trainees & supervisors event Feb 2021 now virtual

Previously, we have run a one-day event at COSLA for trainees and supervisors. This was to have taken place on Friday 5th Feb 2021. However, the uncertainties of organising and hosting a face-to-face conference have prompted a rethink on how we support the day. Instead, we are considering a series of on-line activities spread over the week of 1st Feb to 5th Feb 2021 that we hope will be both informative and more inclusive for participants. We would welcome colleagues' thoughts on what would be useful themes and subjects for the event

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
Details are also at <https://learn.nes.nhs.scot/28481/healthcare-science-e-learning/i-link->

[hcs](#)

The impact on training progression of Covid-19

NES will be issued a wider trainee survey for all professions in July 2020 that includes an enquiry about well-being. The response rate from the healthcare science trainee community currently stands at 62% of 176 invitees to the survey which closes mid-August.. We expect an analysis of responses later in August. In the interim, trainees are welcome to contact the core team at HCS@nes.scot.nhs.uk

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) we hope to recommence although increasingly there is a trend to online delivery. We are developing a revised offer that involves running elements of the face-to-face courses as a webinar or MS Teams type class combined with some e-learning that can be completed pre-course. We hope to trial this approach later in the year. The attraction of doing so 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 and 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/postgraduates.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. Contact HCS@nes.scot.nhs.uk for further information.

2020 Training Centre monitoring

We expect to contact eligible training centres later in August / September 2020 to invite a self-assessment as part of our training centre recognition process. Four years ago, we ran a major exercise to “accredit” or recognise training centres hosting trainees with National Training Numbers. The exercise involved panels and representatives from various specialties and professions to help give us a basic assurance that the centres were aware of our standards and capable of supporting training. We ran this with The National School for Healthcare science, specialty and lay observers on the panels; it was a key component of NHS Scotland’s ability to host STP trainees, though in Scotland the process is to support a wider range of healthcare science trainees.

We anticipate a less intensive recognition process given that our key assurance tools of ARCP and training plan audit seem to be well supported by colleagues.

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.