

## ANNUAL REPORT - 2006/7

### Introduction

In 2007 the two south Thames foundation schools merged, and we have therefore elected to pull information from both schools together in this report.

The new STFS is a large school, with over 1500 trainees predominately in 32 trusts within south London and Kent, Surrey and Sussex. It has developed as a collaboration between London and KSS deaneries and the three medical schools of Brighton and Sussex (BSMS), King's College London (KCL), and St George's (SGUL).

The new structure reflects this, with an office based within each medical school for managerial and administrative staff, led by a director / associate director.

### August 2007 Recruitment (see Appendix for statistical summary)

Nationally recruitment to foundation programmes went well, with 95% of applicants achieving a place in their first choice foundation school.

On the 19<sup>th</sup> February 2007 a programme fair was held for those entering STFS, so that they had the opportunity to discuss their training with trust and school representatives. The day was a success, with over 500 students attending and 26 trusts being represented, and will now be held annually.

In 2006 the decision was taken to link F1 and F2 programmes within STFS, and those entering STFS in 2007 were allocated to 2 year programmes. This ensures that programmes are educationally balanced, enables trainees to plan ahead, and eliminates the scoring and other workload previously associated with the F1 to F2 allocation process.

### Academic Programmes

There are currently two year academic foundation programmes based at each of the three linked medical schools (9 at BSMS, 15 at KCL and 15 at SGUL). The programmes vary slightly in structure between the schools, but all include an F2 year containing a 4/12 academic attachment.

The programmes are advertised jointly but appointed separately and in advance of the main recruitment round, to meet the needs of the individual medical school. In 2006/7 allocations were made without interview for all academic programmes, but in the recent allocation process for 2008 interviews were held at BSMS and SGUL.

## Trainee Support & Guidance

### Trainees in Difficulty

Some trainees encounter difficulties during their medical training, for example educational or medical. Many of these are managed locally, within their trusts, but in about 5% of cases the foundation school needs to become involved, for example to arrange further or remedial training.

All trainees in difficulty are kept under review and, where necessary, discussed at a monthly meeting with the Dean Director.

### Transfer of Information

All STFS trainees are required to complete a Transfer of Information questionnaire at the beginning of both their F1 and F2 years. This is a wholly supportive process designed to allow trainees to highlight to their future Training Programme Director (TPD) issues that might be relevant to their training, such as previous academic, health, social or psychological difficulties.

## Trainee Assessment

STFS continues to use Healthcare Assessment and Training (HcAT), and plans to do so until moving to the e-portfolio / assessment package (planned for 2008). There have been some issues with service delivery, which staff at HcAT have been working with Trust and Deanery staff to improve.

## Overseas F2 placements

In 2006 4 trainees arranged to carry out their F2 programmes overseas. This requires a significant amount of work on behalf of both trainees and trainers to ensure that the training provided is equivalent to that which would be received in the UK. All of these trainees completed their overseas training successfully and achieved their Foundation Achievement of Competency Document.

Nine trainees have had their applications for overseas F2 programmes starting in 2007 approved, and we are setting up placements in Australia and New Zealand prospectively for 2009.

## Communication

All trainees are required to maintain an e mail account with Doctors.net so that they can receive regular bulletins from STFS, thereby minimising problems such as e mails being blocked by firewalls.

As part of the development of the merged school, a new website was constructed on [www.stfs.org.uk](http://www.stfs.org.uk). The website includes the STFS policies and other information and guidance, as well as links to national websites and those of affiliated trusts.

The first STFS Stakeholder Briefing took place on 18 October 2007. It is intended that this will become an annual event at which the Foundation School can update interested parties about relevant information, processes and issues and provide a forum for discussion.

## Careers

STFS has two senior careers advisors, one full-time (Joan Reid) and one part-time (Caroline Elton) who provide careers advice to trusts, groups of trainees and individuals as appropriate. Recent developments have included a website (<http://careers.kssdeanery.org>) and a book, called *Roads to Success*.

## Quality Assurance

Trusts within both KSS and London have been visited by staff from the respective Deaneries to review Foundation Programmes and the quality of training posts. Quality management processes are currently being reviewed in preparation for the PMETB / GMC visit to the Thames Foundation Schools in 2008 (Quality Assurance of the Foundation Programme: QAFP).

# APPENDIX 1

## SUMMARY STATISTICS 2006/7

Numbers of Trainees	SETFS	SWTFS	STFS Total
No of F1 Trainees 2006/7	427	284	711
- UK Graduates	374	266	640
- Non-UK Graduates	53	18	71
- No Applying for F2 within STFS	409	263	672
- No of withdrawals during/at end of F1	7	2	9
No of F2 Trainees 2006/7	478	293	771
- UK Graduates	379	232	611
- Non-UK Graduates	99	61	160
- No of withdrawals during/at end of F2	11	2	13
No of Less Than Full Time Trainees	2	6	8
No of Overseas F2 2006/7	3	1	4
- Australia	2		2
- New Zealand		1	1
- UK (See note 1)	1		1
<b>Recruitment for August 2007</b>			
Total No of F1 Progs Available	494	296	790
No of Standard F1 Progs	470	281	751
No of Academic Progs	24	15	39
No of F1 Trainees Appointed via MTAS	467	269	736
No of Appointees Who Failed Finals	23	17	40
No of F1 Progs Recruited To By Trusts	30	31	61
Total No of F2 Progs Available	480	278	758
No of Academic Progs	24	15	39
No of F2 Trainees Appointed	398	280	678
No of Unallocated F2 Programmes	82	13	95
No of Inter-Deanery Transfers IN	13	5	18
No of Inter-Deanery Transfers OUT	4	7	11
No of Approved Overseas F2 Applications	9	0	9
No of F2 Deferrals Until Aug 2008	2	0	2

### Notes

1. Trainee received special permission to arrange an F2 in the UK using the same criteria as trainees completing an F2 programme abroad
2. An additional 3 F1 programmes were removed from MTAS and held for trainees required to repeat F1
3. 13 trainees are included within the 398 figure of No of F2 Trainees Appointed