



SPRING IS HERE

I hope everyone is enjoying the lighter days. We have had a good range of regional teaching days so far this year and they have received lots of positive feedback so thank you to everyone for engaging in the teaching this year.

In the coming months I will be looking ahead to the next training year and so would welcome feedback and thoughts about teaching for the next year. I will arrange a few drop in Teams meetings and send out a survey so look out for those in the next couple of months.

Best wishes,
Claire
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2025-2026 TEACHING DATES

Regional Teaching Dates:

- **Tues 31st March** - ST6-7 Ninewells
- **Thu 7th May** - ST1-5 Royal Infirmary Edinburgh

TBC - BGH ST 1-5 and Ninewells ST1-5

National Teaching Dates:

- **Wednesday 20th May**



SPOTLIGHT ON.... DR CLAIRE ALEXANDER APGD

What does an APGD do?

There are many types of APGD within NES with a wide range of duties but mainly in my case as an APGD for a specialty my remit is to support the training programme in O&G and in Paediatrics across South East Scotland. I work very closely with the TPDs who are each experts in running their programmes and delivering the curriculum. I work with the 2 other regional APGDs in Scotland for O&G and Paeds to ensure consistent practice and high quality training programmes across the medical education landscape and together support RDIT with challenges in training. We are also involved in chairing and advising ARCP Panels, in the recruitment processes, deputising for Lead Dean when required and supporting the wider work of NES. I've had a steep learning curve to understand paediatric training programmes!

I have always been involved in medical education and became college tutor at RIE quite soon after becoming a consultant and was later the TPD for 10 years. Now within NES I am one of the Associate Postgraduate Deans (APGD) for the specialty which I very much enjoy as it lets me keep in touch with what is happening in the programme and to continue to support training

In addition I am Chair for the OGP Specialty Training Board (STB)- a group which all STCs feed into and includes TPDs, resident doctors, DME rep, colleagues from the Quality workstream, lay reps, TPM colleagues, Lead Dean and others. We ensure consistent practice in medical education across Scotland in O&G, Paediatrics, Paediatric cardiology and CSRH, discuss and assist with recruitment and with workforce planning, support the work of the quality team, engage with other specialties and support NES priorities.

Royal colleges feed into each STB and since they design and write the curriculum which the Deanery then delivers that link is important. Through the STB Chair role I am the Head of School and so represent the Scotland Deanery at the RCOG. That has been extremely rewarding and has enabled me to meet and work with other HOS, share challenges and good practice. I am frequently an external rep on ARCP panels in other regions of the UK.

Finally I have a 3rd role in NES- APGD for Professional Development - which mostly relates to helping to train Clinical and Educational Supervisors and to support the Recognition of Trainer Process within NES and across Health Boards.

I'd encourage you to get involved; become an Educational Supervisor and keep medical education and training at the heart of your work once have completed your ST training and have a CCT. You can in fact train as an ES/ CS before CCT via the NES Pre CCT Trainer Workshop - link on Scotland Deanery website. Once a consultant you can think about other roles and develop your skills further.