

Message for Haematology participants in the 2020/2021 Parasitology Teaching Scheme

As you will be aware, in their responses to COVID-19, universities closed for face-to-face teaching and moved to on-line systems.

That meant the Parasitology Teaching Scheme, which relied on use of a laboratory to enable hands-on practical learning, could not run in those institutions. Therefore, we had no alternative but to cancel some of our regional teaching.

The need for continuing education and training in Parasitology remains and we are keen to ensure that you do not miss out on this.

Therefore, we would like to share with you our plans for resuming the Teaching Scheme.

Some of our venues are starting to open their teaching labs, with appropriate social distancing. We are working to provide our normal hands-on teaching. Where the need for social distancing necessitates smaller class sizes, we shall run the course twice in the same venue within the same week, to ensure we can still accommodate our usual number of participants. As in previous years, two students will be able to attend lab-based teaching for the price of one.

If it proves impossible to run face-to-face teaching in your particular area due to non-availability of a suitable laboratory, we shall provide you with on-line teaching. This will consist of lectures, morphology demonstrations and the ability to ask questions via the chat room facility in the on-line system. On-line teaching will NOT be limited to two students from each laboratory, so as many staff who wish to take part will be able to do so, subject to their manager's approval, at no extra charge. We shall also continue to provide each laboratory with a bench-side manual and a set of take-home slides, as we currently do for laboratories which send students to the face-to-face teaching.

For year 2021 to 2022, we plan to run our full programme of regional laboratory teaching with the introduction of teaching CDs. In addition, we shall also include on-line learning material routinely as it enables a greater number of staff to access Parasitology teaching.

If you have any queries, Prof Peter Chiodini p.chiodini@nhs.net will be happy to advise.