**How much do trainers know about the CSA exam?**

Thank you to Tessa Hicks and Jon Elliman for their letter in the August edition of the BJGP. I would like to respond to it and to flag up how the RCGP can help trainers become more familiar with the nuts and bolts of the CSA so that they can help their registrars prepare for the exam.

We offer a range of resources to suit most learning styles:

* There is more information than you might think on the RCGP website and in particular useful information about the areas that the survey indicated that Educational Supervisors were least confident about eg the marking domains and the methods of marking. There are also documents describing the attributes of passing and falling candidates in the three domains.
* The RCGP runs a one day course lead by Dr MeiLIng Denney, specifically designed for trainers to help registrars get through the MRCGP and covers both the CSA and the AKT. The course aims to answer the following frequently asked questions:

What will my registrar go through?

What does the new assessment centre look like?

What are the examiners really looking for?

What should I be doing the best prepare my trainee?

Who is likely to struggle with the exam, and how can they be helped?

The course runs throughout the year and further details can be found at:

<http://www.rcgp.org.uk/courses-and-events/business-development/mrcgp-for-trainers/mrcgp-for-trainers-16-january-2014.aspx>

* There is a wide range of written material and DVDs to support both trainers and trainees available from: www.rcgp.org.uk/shop/books/mrcgp-study-aids.aspx
* All deaneries have CSA examiners working within them, many of whom are happy to come to talk to trainers groups about the exam, equally should you want some external input write to the RCGP and we will try to arrange for a senior examiner to come to meet your educators. The best way to contact us for advice about this is through exams@rcgp.org.uk.

I hope that you will find something here that appeals but if not please contact me with ideas for other resources that you think would be useful.

Sue Rendel

Chief Examiner RCGP