



The ROYAL COLLEGE of
OPHTHALMOLOGISTS

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This letter has been circulated to OST Trainees starting in August 2020

Dear Trainee,

Re: 2-day Introduction to Phacoemulsification course – Autumn 2020

The College is holding the Introduction to Phacoemulsification courses this month for all ST1s. We have made changes to the courses in order to make them as safe as we can for you. We have reduced the number of participants on each course and are using an additional room to ensure social distancing. As both the Stemi microscopes you will be using on the first day, and the phacoemulsification stations for the second day, are all connected and viewable remotely this should allow the faculty to give feedback and support on your surgery but still maintain their distance.

Attending for the simulation course is considered to be essential education and therefore necessary for the NHS, just as examinations are, and that travel for this purpose is allowed.

If you do have concerns about your safety in travelling to and attending the College, then please discuss this with your Head of School or Training Programme Director and then contact the Education and Training department at the College. It will be possible for trainees with serious concerns, or who consider themselves at significant risk, to delay the start of their surgical training. The College is currently not able to say when we will be able to reschedule courses or to predict when, or if, the risk of attending the course will be significantly lower but will monitor the situation.

Yours sincerely,

Mr John Ferris
Skills Faculty Lead

Miss Fiona Spencer
Chair – Training Committee