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| Newsletter – Issue 7  August 2023 |  |
| **To Heads of School, Training Programme Directors,**  **Regional Education Advisors and Representatives, College Tutors, Educational and Clinical Supervisors, all Trainers and all Trainee Ophthalmologists** |  |
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**Update from the Curriculum 2024 Project Team**

The Curriculum 2024 Project Board, led by Mr Vikas Chadha, and ePortfolio Steering Group continue to meet regularly and oversee the planning and implementation for Curriculum 2024. As we get nearer to August 2024, expect more communication and information from the Project Team.

**Autumn Webinar Programme**

You are strongly encouraged, whether trainee or trainer, to register for the 6 webinars we have arranged for this autumn. Each session will last for an hour.

**Wednesday 6 September 2023 at 6.30pm: Curriculum 2024 - a refresher** <https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZUtc-uhrD8iH9Urmq8JG8W-iFkMLsBBNb-7>

**Tuesday 26 September 2023 at 6.30pm: Managing the transition** <https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZAsf-GhrT8tGdXgTUufG799A3tBgcL3eh7X>

**Monday 16 October 2023 at 6.30pm: Introducing the New Assessments** [https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZEqce2uqjMuEtICHtF53LwOCKgsdarrUNDO](https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZEqce2uqjMuEtICHtF53LwOCKgsdarrUNDO%20)

**Wednesday 1 November 2023 at 6.30pm: The New ePortfolio** <https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZckc-6sqzssG9YsJzd9uh4q5KU7o3XnACPP>

**Tuesday 21 November 2023 at 6.30pm: Levels 1-4 - practical implications** <https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZUocOmrqTgrG9JysutGLGAKZlLTiVXcHkJX>

**Monday 11 December 2023 at 6.30pm: Trainer-Trainee interactions in C2024** <https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZEpf-msrTsuHtfXALhSx011Y-yYEv0sTomp>

**Congress 2023**

We held two sessions on Curriculum 2024 at the May 2023 Annual Congress. Both were well attended and provided an opportunity for people to ask questions and get more information about the new curriculum. Recordings of both sessions will be made available on the website.

**Assessment Pilot Report**

Those of you who took part in the Assessment Pilot may wish to see the [final report](https://www.rcophth.ac.uk/wp-content/uploads/2023/08/Assessment-Pilot-Report-for-GMC.docx) which was submitted to the GMC along with [a list of the agreed changes to the new assessments](https://www.rcophth.ac.uk/wp-content/uploads/2023/08/List-of-changes-to-forms.docx). Thank you once again for your participation and feedback.

**National Curriculum 2024 Timetable**

In consultation with the TPDs, the [National Curriculum 2024 Timetable](https://www.rcophth.ac.uk/wp-content/uploads/2023/08/Implementation-Note-8-Curriculum-2024-National-Timetable-2.docx) has been published and disseminated via the Regional Curriculum Network. Please take the time to look at this as the first of the important deadlines is coming up shortly - 31 August 2023.

* All trainees must inform HoS/TPD of their intended Level of training in writing by 31 August 2023
* All trainees entering ST6 in August 2024 must inform HoS/TPD in writing by 31 August 2023 if they are intending to remain on the old curriculum from August 2024

**Regional Curriculum Network**

There is now a Regional Curriculum Network, consisting of the TPD and Trainee Curriculum Champion for each UK region, who will work together to ensure the successful implementation of Curriculum 2024. The Network’s remit is:

* To coordinate regional level preparations for the successful transfer of trainees and trainers to Curriculum 2024
* To coordinate regional educational and training events about Curriculum 2024
* To alert the OST Project Board to any challenges, risks or issues
* To act as a conduit for information between the OST Project Board and the trainee/trainer body
* To provide advice to trainees and trainers

The Network had its first Zoom meeting with the Project Team chaired by Mr Vikas Chadha on 31 July 2023. Network members raised questions about transition to the new curriculum, and Level 4.

**Community Ophthalmology**

Community Ophthalmology is a new Special Interest Area (SIA) being introduced into Curriculum 2024. We are delighted to inform you that there is a new training course on this topic in INSPIRE which you are advised to explore.

**GMC**

The Project Team sent a further response to the GMC on 30 June 2023, including a report on the Assessment Pilot. We are awaiting their response in turn. We will not make any changes to the curriculum documentation on the website until we hear back from the GMC, and in any case, it should still be regarded as draft until the final submission to the GMC in June 2024.

**New** **ePortfolio**

We are working closely with the new ePortfolio providers, FourteenFish, to customise their existing ePortfolio platform to our requirements. Finishing touches are being put to both the old and new curricula, and we look forward to our first face-to-face user acceptance testing (UAT) event at the College on 28 September 2023. This is the first of a series of activities, known collectively as the ePortfolio Pilot Programme, to take place over the next year, culminating in the live early adoption of the new ePortfolio by West Midlands Deanery in June 2024.

**Other activities**

The team is also busy behind the scenes on the following:

* building the new Curriculum 2024 microsite which will eventually replace the existing OST microsite. This will be the go-to place for all curriculum information after August 2024.
* developing an Electronic Resources Strategy so that all the resources to support the new curriculum are aligned (microsite, ePortfolio, INSPIRE).
* producing a training package for supervisors which we hope to complete by the end of 2023. The package will be designed to be delivered in deaneries, and will consist of homework and face-to-face activities, including scenarios.
* producing the Assessment Handbook – this will be the definitive document for all assessments.

**How you can get involved**

As we proceed with the ePortfolio Pilot Programme, we will be calling out for volunteers to help test various features, and other non-ePortfolio elements of Curriculum 2024. Thank you to those who have already volunteered. Anyone who participates will get a certificate.

**In the meantime**

In the meantime, please continue to prepare for the change.

* Familiarise yourself with the draft new curriculum through the website <https://www.rcophth.ac.uk/training/ophthalmic-specialist-training/ost-curriculum/curriculum-2024/> .
* All trainees are strongly encouraged to acquire general competences as early as possible in their training (equating to Levels 1-3 of the new curriculum).
* Trainees should make plans to sit the final examinations by the end of ST5 or middle of ST6 year. This will allow a smoother transition to the new curriculum in 2024.
* Please sign up to the Autumn Webinar Programme and locally organised sessions by your TPD/Head of School/College Tutors.
* Take part in future pilot exercises when invited to do so.

Should you require further information, please send your query to [curriculum2024@rcophth.ac.uk](mailto:curriculum2024@rcophth.ac.uk) .

**Dr Vikas Chadha FRCOphth** 

*Chair – Curriculum Sub-Committee*

**Ms Sarah Maling FRCOphth**

*Chair – Training Committee*

**Mr Adonis El-Salloukh**

*Chair – Ophthalmologists in Training Group (OTG)*