

Report to the NZATS executive committee 10 October 2008

- **Numbers of trainees**

Anaesthesia I	43
Anaesthetic Technology I	43
Anaesthesia II	25
Anaesthetic Technology II	24
Anaesthesia III	27 NB. some trainees are studying the third year papers in their second year of training

- **Block course and feedback**

All block courses ran well and received good feedback, but it is getting more difficult to recruit staff. We are endeavouring to recruit from more hospitals, which will require making contact well in advance. The 2009 schedule of block courses is being published in October on AUTonline and on the NZATS website to assist with planning for staffing and trainees attending block courses.

- **Marking of papers**

Anaesthesia I Tania Kennedy has done a wonderful job since the inception of this paper updating it each year and doing the bulk of the marking and assessment. Tania is having a break next year and we will be looking for someone to step into her shoes. Eddie Griffiths (Timaru) and Shawn McFlinn (Palmerston North) have contributed significantly also.

Anaesthetic Technology I The National Assessors are marking these manuals at the end of the semester. They have been checked twice during the year at block courses, and any noticeable issues were addressed. The only common significant issue was as to who and how they were signing off. It was clarified that if anyone other than the SoT, Educator or Charge Technician signs off a competency or audit, they must have been approved by the SoT or Educator and countersigned on the Signatoree page in the front of the manual.

Anaesthesia II Managed very well by Kaylene Henderson – marking and assessment. If numbers grow next year, assistance will be required as this paper covers a large amount of content.

Anaesthetic Technology II Sian Mitchell has re-designed and re-written the Manual. This has made it much more user friendly and manageable, plus has lifted the expectation regarding the standard of answers. The National Assessors will also be marking these manuals at the end of the semester. They have been checked twice during the year at block courses also, and any noticeable issues were addressed. The observed standard is high and expectations are being met. The expectation is still that a trainee be assessed during a case study, but there is the option to have the case discussed with an assessor at a later date. Also, patient profiles have been drawn up by Sian to cover the situation of a specialty not being offered at a hospital. Some hospitals have arranged for their trainees to visit another hospital in this situation. Well done.

Anaesthesia III Lynne van de Waardt (Palmerston North) has continued to manage this paper, and complete most of the marking. Thankyou to

Lynne! Annie Gordon (ADHB) is again marking the paediatric section. The questions in this paper will need updating in and for 2009

- **National assessors**

National Assessors have attended every block course and Machine Check assessment this year. Feedback on the Machine Check Assessments has been forwarded to all and discussed, which did generate revised guidelines. The time permitted for the assessment is still under discussion, but it is anticipated that there will possibly be an increase in the time allowance from 2009.

- **Autonline**

Continues to be the avenue of communication with trainees and dissemination of course material. This year we have also provided records of receipt of submitted work, and assessment results, which has reduced anxiety as to whether material has reached us or not.

- **Turnitin**

Students are very familiar with the plagiarism detection facility now, and use it for their own feedback. There have not been any issue regarding plagiarism in submitted assignments, and the standard of referencing has improved for most. Links are provided online to information regarding assignment and report writing and referencing.

- **Changes to papers 2009**

Applied Sciences underwent a review of the Bachelor programme of which the Diploma is the first year. As a result, the Anatomy and Physiology papers and Biophysics are undergoing changes, but there will continue to be distance delivery. First year papers are increasing in contact time (due to the reduction in teaching weeks in the semester to 12) up to 60hours, from 48 hours. This will be reflected in the content covered. The Human Anatomy and Physiology papers are undergoing the most significant changes. These have not been finalised yet, but the new papers are:

Human Anatomy and Physiology I: this will cover the complete human body in one semester

Human Anatomy and Physiology II: this will cover selected organ systems, content yet to be confirmed.

The Biophysics paper will essentially be the same with an emphasis on physics applied to the human body and instrumentation, but there will be a section on mechanics and on computers in addition

Anaesthesia II: the value of attending the block course day of lectures had been questioned, and it has been decided to deliver the content via AUTonline, interactively. This will be a more efficient for hospitals and the learning experience will be equivalent. Attendance will be maintained at the AMERAT and Anaesthesia III block courses.

- **MCA s**

The machine check assessments have run at

- Palmerston North
- Christchurch
- Waikato
- Wellington
- And to run at Palmerston North, 15 Nov.

All have been facilitated very well by the hospital hosting the assessment – well done! The number of candidates has to be restricted to 11 per day - the concentration of the examiners/assessors would be challenged with any more in one day! This requires a starting time of 8.15 am and finishing at 4 pm, with two brief breaks.

The guidelines with regards to the time limit on the machine check (currently 20 minutes) is being reviews by the National Assessors who will present any proposed change to NZATS.

- **Pre-requisites**

Entry requirements into first year papers has been removed from all universities. Hence we cannot insist upon the Foundation papers being studied if a student does not have a background in Biology or Physics, but we strongly recommend these papers which are offered in summer school by distance learning. Studying these papers first does significantly improve the pass rate for the majority who do not have the necessary knowledge background.

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AUT
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