

VOX - The Newsletter from
AHCS

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VOX

THANKS FOR READING

May 2020

The newsletter from the Academy for Healthcare Science, including news
from across the Healthcare Science profession



AHCS successfully completes HCPC Annual Monitoring Audit

The HCPC has confirmed that the Academy has successfully completed its Annual Monitoring Audit for the STP Certificate of Attainment and STP Certificate of Equivalence. Our ongoing approval for the both programmes has been confirmed. This was a significant piece of work requiring submission of the Academy's Annual Quality Review Reports including demonstrating that both programmes map to the HCPC Standards of Education and Training. A substantial amount of evidence was also submitted to support the Academy's claims. The Academy would like to thank all those involved in achieving this positive outcome.

Blog by Richard Hagen, British Society for Clinical Electrophysiology of Vision (BriSCEV)

The British Society of Clinical Electrophysiology of vision
promotes and extends knowledge of clinical

electrophysiology of vision and acts as a professional body in Ophthalmic and Vision Sciences. Members deliver highly specialised electrodiagnostic testing to support clinical decisions in ophthalmology and neurology.

As one might expect during the COVID-19 crisis, routine ophthalmic and electrodiagnostic appointments have been cancelled and only the most urgent cases are being seen. This has meant that most centres continue to deliver a skeleton service, often manned by more experienced staff who can triage, perform, interpret and report test results independently. Patients who might be seen have possible neoplastic disorders such as cancer-associated retinopathy, possible compressive lesions of their visual pathway, traumatic ocular injuries, signs and symptom of raised intra-cranial pressure or unexplained, sudden-onset visual loss. A rapid diagnosis for these patients will immediately affect their care and management.

Whilst the home guard maintain visual electrodiagnostic services for these urgent patients, other staff members are working on the frontlines at some of the NHS Nightingale Hospitals. Others have volunteered for redeployment to use their patient-facing skills to offer care and support on wards of their local hospitals, or becoming PPE champions, or moving beds, or helping at the mortuary -- doing whatever is needed. BriSCEV's members come from richly diverse scientific backgrounds, and those with polymerase chain reaction (PCR) testing experience have volunteered in clinical laboratories. Those with engineering backgrounds have helped medical equipment departments, unpacking and inspecting equipment, safety testing and converting anaesthetic machines into ventilators. Some have worked on innovative mask solutions like the PerSo project in Southampton or are quality-assuring donated, non-CE marked visors. Others have increased their responsibilities by stepping in for senior colleagues who are co-ordinating efforts at NHS Nightingale Hospitals.

Our work practices have also changed: we now use Microsoft Teams as routinely as Word or Excel. The crisis has offered the opportunity to get on with tasks which previously competed with patient testing, such as quality assurance and writing SOPs. IQIPs in particular is being addressed: the Ophthalmic and Vision Science community is the eighth physiological science services to

engage with the accreditation process and units are now starting the process by expressing interest to UKAS (see BriSCEV website).

COVID-19 is terrible and will probably change how we do things for many years or even permanently. Up and down the country we hear stories of ordinary people doing extraordinary things, the willingness to upskill, downskill, muck in and just help is marvellous and should be celebrated. For some people, direct support of COVID-19 management or delivery of urgent services is not possible, and we also celebrate their contribution – staying home and digitally running clinical services, research, teaching and learning and professional matters. However changed, the day job will still be here after the crisis. While the clamour of routine care has lulled, we are using the opportunity to consolidate the future of safe, assured and excellent visual electrodiagnostics.

Consultation on Simplified EQA System for Apprenticeships

Are you involved with Apprenticeships?

IfATE are undertaking a consultation of the current External Quality Assurance (EQA) system. Feedback is being requested to help identify how the system could be improved in the future. An extension to the original deadline has been made, due to the current climate. The consultation was launched on 27th February 2020 and now closes **on 21st May 2020**.

For more information please click [here](#).

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GET INVOLVED WITH VOX

We are always looking for items to include in VOX.

If you have any articles of interest, please forward them to

admin@ahcs.ac.uk



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