



## **The Irish Fellowship Examination and a CCT – Update April 2010**

Following review of the new curriculum for 2010 PMETB has advised the College that the Fellowship Examinations of the College of Anaesthetists of Ireland would no longer be acceptable as tests of knowledge for a CCT in Anaesthetics in the UK from August 2010. Trainees in possession of the Irish Fellowship examinations appointed to programmes from August 2010 will be eligible entry to the Specialist Register through the CESR (CP) route. What appears as a change in policy by PMETB is in fact the regulator enforcing their legal obligations as defined in the PMETB Order. On 1 April 2010, PMETB merged with the GMC and these same legal obligations have been incorporated into the Medical Act 1983.

This change affects those trainees who will be appointed to a programme using the new curriculum from August this year - not those trainees who are already in a programme using the 2007 curriculum who will get a CCT when they successfully complete the programme.

Since being made aware of the PMETB position on the Irish examinations, the College has been working through the issues, particularly the impact on UK trainees and the maintenance of the relationship with the Irish College.

On 1 April 2010, the GMC agreed transitional arrangements for the transfer of trainees from the 2007 to the 2010 curriculum. Those trainees who have obtained passes in the complete Irish Primary and/or Final examinations on transfer to the 2010 curriculum will be eligible for a CCT on successful completion of the GMC approved programme. If an Irish examination is completed after the transfer, the trainee will no longer be eligible for a CCT but will be eligible for the CESR[CP]. [See the Training Programme Update for more information]

Discussions with the Irish College and the GMC are ongoing in order to find a long term solution. We will consider further action on completion of these discussions.

The RCoA has had a long and fruitful relationship with our colleagues in the Irish College, a relationship we wish to continue.

*Training Department – 12th April 2010*