

# Virtual rotations

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NES Healthcare Science Trainees and Supervisors Event 2021

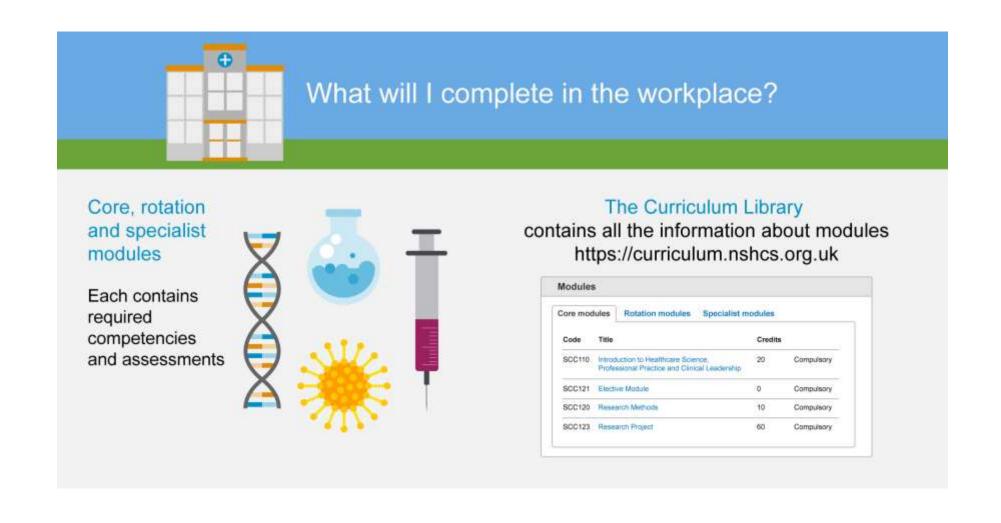
## Background

- COVID-19 constraints have resulted in a continually changing situation
- Had significant impact on training including disruption to rotations
- STPs embedded in departments and are NHS Health Board employees
- Expected to continue in their workplace
- Training opportunities maintained
- Adapt quickly to mitigate against any negative impact on progression

#### Rotations

- Advice from the NSHCS was that rotations were still required
- Important element of the STP
- Many benefits:
- An understanding of the work of other specialties
- Experience in working in another department (or Health Board)
- Develop new skills and different ways of working
- Expand professional networks
- Understand the whole patient pathway

### Compulsory rotations and specialist modules



# Clinical biochemistry STPs

• During 2019 -2020 academic year, GGC had ...

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• 3<sup>rd</sup> year STP x 1
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- 2<sup>nd</sup> year STPs x 2
- 1<sup>st</sup> years STPs x 3

• Process of (virtually) recruiting another 2 to start Sept 2020

### Clinical biochemistry STPs

• During 2020 academic year, GGC had ...

• 3<sup>rd</sup> year STP x 1

all rotations completed

• 2<sup>nd</sup> year STPs x 2

one specialist module deferred

• 1st years STPs x 3

one rotation deferred

- Deferred rotations put added pressure on subsequent years
- How will they fit in the extra work?

#### Organising virtual rotations

- Contacted trainers in the rotational departments BIG ask
- Ensure core requirements still included
- Virtual meetings/teaching/clinical sessions (with flexibility)
- Alternative ways of carrying out assessments e.g. DOPS
- Assessors to change their approach when reading competencies
- Especially those requiring trainee to 'observe' or 'perform' a task
- ?could departments accommodate biochemistry twice in one year
- All while dealing with the added pressures of a global pandemic

#### Organising virtual rotations

- Training plans
- Regular meetings to review/amend plans and discuss concerns
- Contingency plans for last minute changes
- Self-directed learning to cover the learning outcomes/competencies
- Set deadlines for assessments to prevent the burden of a backlog
- NES Annual review of competence progression (ARCP)
- Valuable tool to recognise if trainees struggling with challenges faced

#### Conclusion

- Every challenge is an opportunity
- Moving forward, a mixture of virtual and work-based learning ideal
- Important for trainees to spend *some* time in rotational department
- Complete competencies/assessments that cannot be fulfilled online
- What do the STPs think?
- Manchester university teaching

#### Thanks

- Massive thanks to my colleagues in rotational departments:
- Time and effort
- Flexible
- Patience and co-operation
- Excellent communication

Thanks to my STPs