

- 5 Registrar posts within England and Wales**
- 5.1 If the SAC proposals are accepted—as they have been in principle by the Joint Committee for Higher Medical Training—then protection of posts for specialty training 1 is implied and indeed becomes mandatory because the two 3 year specialty training periods must be closely linked.
- 5.2 The numbers should be the same as the numbers in specialty training 2 (senior registrars) plus an allowance for wastage. Some individuals will spend only two years in specialty training 2 but others wishing to pursue a career as interventionalists may spend four years. For planning purposes we believe that three years can be taken as the norm.
- 5.3 Specialties vary in their opinions on wastage at registrar level. We have seen estimates ranging from 0% to 25%. We have no hard data for cardiology. We are aware that training in cardiology is perceived as being valuable for trainees in the pharmaceutical industry, and another source of wastage comes from the many who find the specialty too demanding. We believe our figure for wastage should be set at 15%, with acknowledgement this is only a “best guess”.
- 5.4 The numbers of protected posts for specialty training 1 should therefore be:
- $$56 \times 115/100 = 64$$
- 5.5 The posts in specialty training 1 (“registrar”) should be inspected by the SAC to ensure that the structure of the training meets the demands that will be expected both in the United Kingdom and in Europe.
- 5.6 Our last survey of registrars (cardiology, cardiology plus general medicine, general medicine plus cardiology, research orientated towards cardiology) was carried out in 1987. The total numbers identified were 212 but the numbers were not verified.
- 5.7 Two points must be emphasised, however, Firstly, many of these individuals were not expecting to make a career in cardiology, and some who did had no realistic prospects of doing so. Secondly, the structure of grades identified in this survey bears little relation to the grade we have called specialty training 1 which will be part of a structured professional training programme.

1 Chamberlain D, Bailey L, Sowton E, Ballantyne D, Boyle D McC, Oliver M. Staffing in cardiology in the United Kingdom 1988: fifth biennial survey. *Br Heart J* 1989; 62:482-7.

2 Provision of services for the diagnosis and treatment of heart disease in England and Wales. Third Report of a Joint Cardiology Committee. Royal College of Physicians of London and The Royal College of Surgeons of England. *Br Heart J* 1985;53:477-82.

3 Cardiology in the district hospital. Report of a working group of the British Cardiac Society. *Br Heart J* 1987; 58:537-46.

NOTICES

British Cardiac Society

The Annual General Meeting will take place at the English Riviera Centre, Torquay on 22 to 25 May 1990. The closing date for receipt of abstracts was 19 January 1990.

Cardiac ultrasound

The Fifth Bristol Cardiac Ultrasound Course will be held at the Bristol General Hospital on 17 and 18 July 1990 (cardiac imaging—M mode and 2D) and 19 and 20 July 1990 (Doppler echocardiography—including colour flow). Further details from Dr Peter Wilde, Department of Radiodiagnosis, Bristol Royal Infirmary, Bristol BS2 8HW. Telephone (0272) 230000, Ext 2690.

Computers in cardiology

The Seventeenth International Conference on Computers in Cardiology will take place in Chicago on 23 to 26 September 1990. Inquiries to Dr Robert Arzbaecher, Computers in Cardiology, 10 West 32nd Street, Chicago, IL 60616-3793, USA.

Multiple risk factors in cardiovascular disease

An International Symposium on Multiple Risk Factors in Cardiovascular Disease will take place in Washington, DC on 10 to 12 December 1990. Further information from the Organising Secretariat: c/o Dr Marjorie G Horning, Baylor College of Medicine, One Baylor Plaza, Houston, Texas 77030, USA, or, for Europe, Fondazione Giovanni Lorenzini, Via Monte Napoleone, 23-20121 Milan, Italy.

Journées Européennes de Cardiologie

Premières Journées Européennes de la Société Française de Cardiologie dans Paris sur 18 et 19 Janvier 1991. Information: Société Française de Cardiologie, 15 rue de Madrid, 75008 Paris, France. Registration: Albine Conseil, 16 boulevard du Parc, 92200 Neuilly sur Seine, France.