

**TP8.2.15****Higher General Surgical Trainee preferences for Annual Review of Competency Progression during COVID-19 Pandemic**

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**Aims:** The COVID-19 pandemic has caused significant disruption in surgical training. We aim to explore the preferences of higher general surgical trainees for Annual Review of Competency Progression (ARCP) also compare the responses across different training grades.

**Methods:** All higher general surgical trainee in a single deanery were invited to participate in an online voluntary anonymous survey. The respondents were divided in two groups: junior (ST3-ST5) and senior higher surgical trainees (ST6-ST8) and responses compared.

**Results:** Sixty-four of 88 trainees responded. Thirty-three (51.6%) were ST3-ST5, 24 (37.5%) were ST6-ST8 and 7 (10.9%) were out-of-training. More trainees in ST3-ST5 group preferred to defer the next rotation for 12 months (18.2% vs 0%,  $p=0.034$ ), repeat current sub-specialty (33.3% vs 4.2%,  $p=0.009$ ), or add 12 months to training and delay predicted CCT date by 12 months (18.2% vs 0%,  $p=0.034$ ). Most trainees in both groups preferred the option of prolonging training should be offered to all trainees with an option to decline extension if ARCP competencies met (66.7% vs 50.0%,  $p=0.276$ ).

**Conclusions:** The preference for ARCP and length of training was different between two training groups, hence the need of trainees should be considered by training committees when addressing the impact of COVID-19.