

## Introduction from Mark Coleman - National Clinical Lead

I have been in post as National Clinical Lead since October 2008, and the programme has continued to develop and secure its success across a broad spectrum of activity to date. This provides an ideal juncture to review the progress made with the programme which has now recorded over 1,600 Global Assessment Score (GAS) forms for Lapco trainees since the web site went live in April 2009. In addition, over the last year we have developed a dedicated Fellow Section of the web site with over 500 GAS forms recorded, and an SPR Section with 200 GAS forms.

It is been very encouraging to see the HES data continue to show continued rises in the percentage of elective colorectal resections which are being undertaken laparoscopically in England. This has increased from below 5% in 2006/2007 to 36% from latest available HES data (April to September 2011). I have presented extensively on the programme nationally, and internationally in Europe, Asia and Australia. Whilst it is not possible to accurately compare and benchmark international data, it is certainly clear that England are now one of the world leaders with these figures which is quite an achievement.

Over the last 12 months we have been working with our trainees to ensure that DVDs are submitted for the sign off assessment, and where we required we have increased the number of appointed NTP Trainers to assist the delivery of training required for our trainees. We now have 65 trainers appointed, who are located at 35 separate Trusts in England.

We have reached a stage now in the programme where 23% (32 Consultant trainees) are now signed off, 28% (39 Consultant trainees) have been invited to sign off. The remaining 49% (68 Consultant trainees) are in training, and will be seeking to progress towards submitting their DVDs for sign off by the end of October 2012 to allow time for the assessment process before the Lapco programme end. If all our trainees progress through the sign off process we will have trained 139 Consultants, and along side our 65 appointed trainers this totals 204 Consultants who will have been actively involved with Lapco since clinical training began in April 2009. Overall the Lapco trainee and trainer coverage is represented in 89 out of 149 (60%) Colorectal MDTs in England.



Mark Coleman - National Clinical Lead

We have continued to hold NTP Education Live Theatre Masterclasses, with two further courses planned in October in Basingstoke, and March in Portsmouth 2013. We have been able to fund support Lapco delegates at our 3 day NTP Immersion Courses at Bradford, along with the 2 day Lapco TT (Train the Trainer) Courses which have been hosted throughout the Country.



NTP Trainers Mark Gudgeon and Prof Tim Rockall at Lapco TT Course, Basingstoke

The Education Team at Imperial College have been an important part of the programme, they have produced some very interesting data on the benefit of the programme through economic analysis. The newsletter provides more detail on the background and components to this research, but in summary £18,237,904 has been saved through the NTP evidenced through the overall reduction in average length of stay and reduction in complications when comparing NTP trainee outcomes with self taught surgeons.

We are delighted that Lapco will be funded by Department of Health National Cancer Action Team up to March 2013, this will provide additional time for our registered trainees to complete their training.

Mark Coleman MD FRCS, National Clinical Lead. Email: mcoleman1@nhs.net Mobile: 07789873190



### NTP Courses

#### NTP Education Day Colorectal Masterclasses

Lead by NTP Trainers, a 1 day event including a Lapco update from National Clinical Lead Mark Coleman, technical presentations and live link theatre procedures. Suitable for Consultants, Fellows, SpRs, Junior Doctors and Theatre Staff, these events are supported by industry there is no charge for attendance. The next dates are:

- **Friday 19th October 2012**  
Pelican Centre, The Arc, Basingstoke
- **Thursday 28th February 2013**  
VIMAS Centre, St Marys Hospital, Portsmouth

- **Lapco TT (Train the Trainer) Courses**  
Dates for the next 2 day courses are:
- **30th/31st May 2012 – Bradford**
- **3rd/4th October 2012 – Colchester**
- **4th/5th February 2013 - Manchester**  
*Suitable for Colorectal Consultants who are providing laparoscopic training*



- **Lapco Immersion Courses**  
Dates for the next 3 day courses are:
- **21st-23rd March 2012 – Bradford**
- **26-28th September 2012 – Bradford**  
*Lapco funded places are available for NTP registered trainees*

To register for these courses contact:  
NTP Programme Manager  
laura.langsford@nhs.net  
01752 439845

## Featured articles

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## NTP Education Colorectal Masterclass

On Tuesday 21st February 2012 a 1 day event was held at The Christie Hospital, Manchester. A total of over 130 delegates attended this event which was registered for 6 CPD points. The attendees were welcomed by Caroline Shaw, Chief Executive of the Trust who presented on their "2020 Vision", with Faculty presentations from NTP Trainees and Trainers from the North West region led by NTP Trainer Mr Selva Sekar. A live laparoscopic anterior resection theatre case was performed in the afternoon session chaired by Mr David Watson and Mr Andrew Renehan. This event was supported by EES.



Chief Executive, Carole Shaw, Christie Hospital Manchester

Live theatre at Christie Masterclass

## Steering Group

The NTP Steering Group consisting of training centre clinical leads and stakeholders continue to meet quarterly to review programme activity and governance issues associated with laparoscopic colorectal surgery.



Steering Group attendees at Portsmouth meeting

In May 2011, Melanie Feldman a South West NTP Trainee was appointed as the "Trainee Representative" to the Steering Group. This has been a useful appointment providing an agenda discussion opportunity to obtain the trainee perspective on the programme. The next Steering Group meeting will be held on 2nd July 2012 in Dublin, in conjunction with the Annual Conference for Association of Coloproctology Great Britain and Ireland (ACPGBI).

## Lapco TT Educational Assessment



A total of 9 Lapco two day TT Courses are scheduled to have taken place across the country since the pilot course was run at Plymouth in March 2010. The next course is at Bradford in May, Colchester in October with the last NCAT funded course proposed in Manchester in February 2013. A total of 46 out of the 65 NTP Trainers have now attended a course as either delegate or attendee. We are now able to open the course up to Consultants who are not appointed as NTP Trainers. Each course is designed for a total of 6 delegates, and there are currently a few places still available on our February 2013 course.

The Educational Team at Imperial College have been carrying out analysis of the Lapco TT course on teaching behaviour, which will be obtained from a total of 3 courses. Each delegate who has participated in the educational assessment has taken part in a 7 minute simulated teaching episode of a laparoscopic appendicectomy, which is repeated at the end of course to compare and assess their training technique. The scenarios are analysed via the Structured Training Trainer Assessment Report (STTAR) form developed within Lapco for training assessment and behavioural analysis. Trainees are also interviewed on their attitudes to training pre and post course, to allow qualitative evaluation of their attitude towards education. Preliminary

analysis shows significant post course improvements to all scenarios. It is anticipated that the work on the behavioural and qualitative interview analysis will be completed by June 2012.



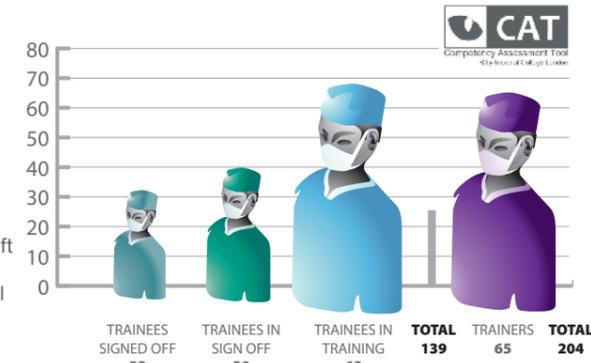
Educational Simulated Assessment with NTP Trainer Steve Arnold, and High Makenzie, Imperial College



Structured Training Trainer Assessment Report (STTAR) Form

## Sign Offs

Trainees are recommended by their trainers when they have reached the level of competency required by the programme. Two DVDs of recent cases (left and right) are selected, and submitted to Imperial College along with the pathology report, and a manually completed GAS form. The DVDs are anonymised and sent to NTP trainers for assessment using the L-CAT (Laparoscopic Colorectal Assessment Tool) which was designed by Imperial College for assessment purposes. It breaks the case down into tasks which are exposure, pedicle control, mobilisation, and resection/anastomosis which are cross referenced and scored against instrument use, tissue handling, errors and end product.



A total of 4 assessments are produced, and successful trainees are required to have 3 out of the 4 assessments recorded as a "Safe Performance Demonstrated" as a pass. In some cases, we have had to appoint a third assessor to ensure that there is a clear assessment outcome. If required, trainees may be required to resubmit one case, or where applicable further training may be required before DVDs are resubmitted for both cases. There is a clear correlation between the volume of training sessions recorded and the success rate at sign off, although no correlation between successful sign offs and lower grading of case difficulty.

## NTP Trainers

At the start of the programme we had 25 NTP Trainers, which has now risen to a total of 65 trainers who are appointed throughout England. Approximately two thirds of our training sessions are delivered on an in reach basis (at the trainers hospital), and one third on an out reach basis (trainer travels to the trainees hospital). In the last few months we have made 3 new trainer appointments from signed off NTP Trainees who include Arif Khan to the North West, Jon Hanson at Newcastle, and Stefan Korsgen based in the West Midlands to support the training delivery with Oxford. Other recent NTP Trainer appointments include Reza Kalbassi who is assisting Newcastle training centre with in reach training at his hospital base.

During the Lapco programme NTP Trainer Amjad Parvaiz at Portsmouth has been appointed as Professor, and he has recorded



NTP Trainers left to right, Arif Khan, Stefan Korsgen and Reza Kalbassi

over 250 GAS forms which is an extremely high volume of training activity by any one individual trainer. He has trained 6 trainees at Portsmouth who have been signed off the programme, with further 6 surgeons now invited to sign off, and 8 surgeons remaining in training with his training centre.

Three NTP Trainers have now recorded nearly 100 training cases which include John Griffith at Bradford, Tony Dixon at Bristol, and more recently appointed trainer Selva Sekar at The Christie, Manchester.

## Immersion Courses

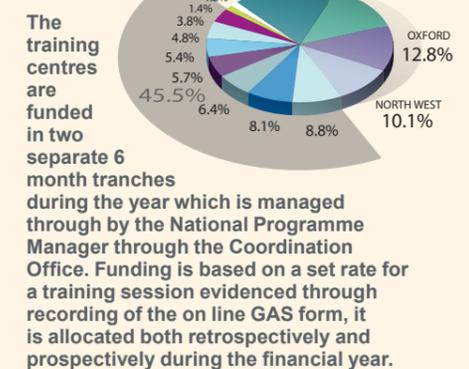
The NTP have run 4 day Immersion Courses at Basingstoke, along with more recent 3 day Immersion Courses at Bradford led by NTP Trainer John Griffith. These courses provide an intensity of training which are particularly suitable for trainees starting out at the commencement of training, or advancing towards sign off at the end of their training period. Each delegate gets the opportunity to operate on suitable lap colorectal cases, which are backed up by short lecture sessions to each and reinforce the techniques required in this surgery. The course accepts one key

## Programme Update



NTP Trainer James Pitt (middle) being trained by NTP Trainer Greg Wynn (right) Colchester,

The trainees within the Lapco programme are trained through one of our 11 training centres, which is comprised of trainers from that subject hospital trust, and other additional local trusts. We have a total of 65 trainers providing training sessions from 35 separate trusts, to date the largest element of the Lapco training has been provided by Portsmouth (18.3%), South West (13.3%), Oxford (12.8%) and North West (10.1%) with the remaining 45.5% from the other 7 training centres.



The training centres are funded in two separate 6 month tranches during the year which is managed through by the National Programme Manager through the Coordination Office. Funding is based on a set rate for a training session evidenced through recording of the on line GAS form, it is allocated both retrospectively and prospectively during the financial year.

theatre nurse/sister from the surgeons team, and one anaesthetist. The next course is on 26th-28th September 2012.



NTP Trainer John Griffith - Bradford

## Economic Analysis

Working with the Coordination Office and Andy McMeeking at the National Cancer Action Team, the educational team at Imperial College performed a preliminary financial analysis of Lapco.

This was achieved by first identifying a control group, consisting of a group of self-taught surgeons who learnt laparoscopic colorectal surgery on their own. Comparing data directly obtained from the self-taught surgeons and Lapco data from the GAS forms showed Lapco delegates have shorter learning curves (mean=30 vs 150 cases), fewer conversions (relative risk reduction =71.6%), fewer complications (RRR = 21.6%) and shorter hospital stay (median = 5 vs 7 days) during their training [1]. Assuming Lapco delegates retain their performance level after training, this means that overall; an average Lapco delegate would have 11.05 fewer conversions, 4.81 fewer complications and 300 fewer hospital days than an average self-taught surgeon over the first 150 cases.



The financial benefit therefore amounts to £18,237,904, based on reduced complication during training alone (£26,331 per complication [2]) and a total number of 144 Lapco delegates. This exceeds the total investment in Lapco (part of which was in training infrastructure) projected up till March 2013, when the programme is due to end.

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### References

[1] Miskovic D, Wyles SM, Ni M, Darzi AW, Hanna GB. Systematic review on mentoring and simulation in laparoscopic colorectal surgery. *Ann Surg.* 2010 Dec; 252:943-951.

[2] Vonlanthen R et al., The impact of complications on costs of major surgical procedures: a cost analysis of 1200 patients. *Ann Surg.* 2011 Dec;254(6):907-13.

### National Training Programme 11 Training Centres:

- Newcastle (Gateshead)
- Bradford
- Hull
- Nottingham
- Oxford
- St Marks/Colchester/  
Guildford
- King's Guys' St Thomas'
- Portsmouth
- Basingstoke/  
Frimley Park
- South West (Plymouth/  
Bristol/Yeovil)
- North West (Christie/  
Salford)
- Imperial College  
London (Education)

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## LAPCO Representation



Mark Coleman, National Clinical Lead has recently been appointed to Chair of the External Affairs Board of Association of Coloproctology. He has undertaken a number of presentations locally, regionally, nationally and internationally on Lapco within various forums which recently include the following:

- November 2012 – Argentinean Colorectal Meeting, Buenos Aires
- October 2012 – Hungarian Colorectal Association Meeting, Budapest
- May 2012 – Scandinavian Laparoscopic Colorectal Meeting, Gothenburg
- February 2012 – NTP Christie Masterclass, Manchester
- November 2011 – 66th Annual Meeting of Japan Society of Coloproctology, Tokyo
- November 2011 – ALSGBI Conference, Cardiff
- November 2011 – European Colorectal Surgery Meeting, Switzerland
- September 2011 – International Society of LCS Surgeons, Colchester



Mark Coleman presenting on Lapco at  
ALS Conference at Cardiff