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Professor David Black

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30 March 2017

Dear David

I am most grateful to you and your colleagues for arranging and attending the meeting of the UKSTSG panel and representatives from the four specialty groups of medical oncology, neurology, palliative medicine and dermatology. On behalf of the UKSTSG I also wish to extend our thanks to the specialty representatives for preparing presentations and for their engagement in this exercise.

You will recall that the reason for conducting the meeting was to discuss whether these doctors in the future would be expected to have the skills to contribute to the "unselected take" in the same way as the doctors in Group one of your proposal. This was in response to the recommendation outlined in the Shape of Training review that in the future most doctors should be equipped with the skills to contribute to the appropriate unselected take and to provide continuity of clinical care thereafter.

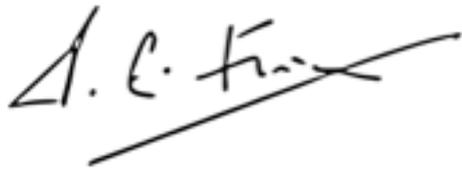
The UKSTSG discussed this as an item on the agenda at their meeting 22/02/2017. I have been asked by the Group to convey to you the outcome of that discussion.

It was accepted that it was reasonable that doctors in dermatology should not be expected to routinely contribute to the unselected general medical take in the future. The argument that dermatologists require a particularly focused curriculum with medical and surgical components was persuasive. In accepting this however, the UKSTSG also believes that it is unnecessary to provide broad training in general medicine for two years and that one year would suffice since these doctors will not contribute to the generality of medical care thereafter. It is recommended therefore that the training pathway should be amended from 2 plus 4 to 1 plus 4.

Turning to the remaining specialties of palliative medicine, neurology and medical oncology. The UKSTSG were not persuaded that those three specialties were significantly different from those in Group 1 who had accepted that they should have the skills to contribute to the acute unselected take. Consequently we recommend that these specialities are dealt with in the same or a similar way to those in group one.

If you require any further clarification please do not hesitate to get in touch.

Kind regards,
Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'I. G. Finlay', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Professor Ian G Finlay

Chair of UK Shape of Training Steering Group