ROLE DESCRIPTION AND PERSON SPECIFICATION

First FRCR Specialist Examiner

Title: First FRCR Examiner (Specialist)
Responsible to: First FRCR Examination Board
Term of office: The term of office for examiners is normally five years and examiners are expected to remain in employment for the duration of their term of office.

The acquisition of the FRCR examination is a requirement for all clinical oncology trainees to gain the award of a certificate of specialist training in clinical oncology. The First FRCR examination assesses the knowledge essential to clinical oncology practice and must be completed during Core Clinical Oncology Training (ST3 and ST4).

The First FRCR Examination Board is responsible for ensuring, on behalf of the Fellowship Examination Board, that the examination provides an appropriate assessment of the knowledge of the sciences that underpin clinical oncology practice (physics, medical statistics, clinical pharmacology, cancer biology and radiobiology) as defined in the syllabus section of the Specialty Training Curriculum for Clinical Oncology. The Board ensures that the examination meets the GMC’s ‘Standards for curricula and assessment systems.’

The First FRCR Examination Board reports to the Clinical Oncology Fellowship Examination Board and will have tasks delegated to it by that Board.

Working Practices

The Board meets twice a year, in late March or early April and in late September for a full day combining examination board business in the morning and exam paper review, question review and writing in the afternoon. Examiners are expected to write new questions, relevant to the curriculum in preparation for this meeting. All members of the examination board are expected to attend these two meetings.

Specialist examiners will be the ‘designated’ examiner at every second or third sitting of the exam. This involves reviewing the preliminary selection of questions from the designated clinical oncology examiner, ensuring they are correct and relevant to the curriculum. They are expected to attend the relevant part of the question finalisation meeting which normally takes place in late May and late November.

Role Tasks

- Reviewing the performance of individual examinations to ensure that they meet the standards expected, identifying any shortcomings and writing a report for candidates which is published on the RCR website.
- Reviewing the performance of examinations over time to ensure standards are maintained and identifying areas for improvement
- Writing, reviewing and editing questions, ensuring that they are based on the approved curriculum
• Reviewing the selection of questions for each examination paper, ensuring that they provide a representative sample of the relevant sections of the syllabus and are factually correct

PERSON SPECIFICATION

Knowledge and qualifications

Members of the First FRCR Examination Board must be:

• Able to demonstrate that they have undergone appropriate equality and diversity training and are willing to abide by good practice in these areas

Experience

• Applicants must be able to demonstrate a sound knowledge in their specialist area. Previous involvement in teaching and training, and, if possible, assessment is desirable.

Personal qualities

• Commitment to the aims and charitable objectives of the College

• Commitment to equality and valuing diversity and understanding of how this applies to delivery of own area of work

• Able to devote time to material preparation, question writing and exam setting and attending meetings of the Committee

• Prepared to undertake training in the examination procedures of the RCR

Applications

• Must be supported preferably by a senior colleague (if appropriate), or other colleague

• The College strives for membership of the Board to be as representative as possible of site specialised interests, clinical practice backgrounds and the distribution of UK training schemes