

# JCST Lay Member role description and person specification

## Summary

---

The Joint Committee on Surgical Training (JCST) is an intercollegiate advisory body which acts on behalf of the four surgical Royal Colleges of the UK and Ireland. It is supported by and responsible for a number of committees and groups, including 10 surgical Specialty Advisory Committees (SACs), the Core Surgical Training Advisory Committee (CSTAC), and the Training Interface Groups (TIGs), and is also the parent body for the Intercollegiate Surgical Curriculum Programme (ISCP). It reports to the Surgical Royal Colleges via the College Presidents at the quarterly Joint Surgical Colleges Meeting.

Main responsibilities and activities include:

- Support and advise surgical trainees from enrolment into training through to certification
- Support and advise surgical trainers
- Curriculum and assessment development
- Development and maintenance of the surgical online training management system, the ISCP
- Support Quality Management and Improvement processes across the UK and Ireland, and provide externality to training programmes
- Review and evaluate applications to the Specialist Register under the GMC's Portfolio<sup>1</sup> route
- Support and develop post certification fellowships in niche and cross specialty areas required by health services
- Management of Committees to support the above

The JCST works with all relevant bodies to ensure that surgical trainees satisfactorily complete a comprehensive, structured and balanced training programme, enabling them to enter the GMC's Specialist Register or the Irish equivalent in their chosen specialty, and to be eligible for senior specialist appointments in the National Health Service (NHS) or Irish health service.

Further details on our core functions, core values and strategic priorities are laid out in our five year strategy (2018-23) [here](#).

## The role of the Lay Member on the JCST

This is an enjoyable, stimulating, and rewarding role which ensures that the patient and lay voice is heard when matters relating to the training of the next generation of the surgical workforce are under consideration and ensuring that patient safety is at the heart of the Committee's

deliberations and decision-making.

The role will enable you to help shape the future of the surgical profession and can support your own personal and professional development.

Through JCST activities, you will meet and work with enthusiastic and knowledgeable surgeons with a passion for education and training from across the UK and Ireland. You will be able to share your views and make a real difference to the future surgical workforce.

## **About you**

We are looking for an individual who has a strong personal commitment to the health service, with the time and enthusiasm to engage with the JCST.

Ideally you will have some background within the NHS and a proven interest in teaching, training and learning, whether within the medical profession or more widely at a post-graduate level.

## **Relationships**

As a JCST member, you will work closely with the chair and chairs of the SACs. You may also advise, collaborate with, support and be supported by others including trainees, trainers, Postgraduate Deans, Heads of Schools of Surgery, Training Programme Directors, Specialty Training Committees, Statutory Education Bodies, and JCST staff. Most interactions will happen through the JCST at JCST committee meetings and through JCST staff.

## **Time and travel commitments**

Appointment as a JCST lay member is usually for five years.

The JCST meets three times a year – these can be half day or full day meetings. JCST activities involve a combination of virtual and in-person meetings to allow all members to contribute alongside their other professional and personal commitments. In-person meetings take place at venues around England and Scotland.

The time commitment also includes time to read the papers for the meetings and potentially respond to email circulations of documents being considered outside the formal meetings and may occasionally include involvement in short-life working groups. The overall time commitment is not expected to exceed one day per month.

Costs of travel or any overnight accommodation to attend formal meetings of the JCST will be paid by the Royal College of Surgeons of England.

## **How to apply**

For more information on the JCST, and surgical training, go to [www.jcst.org](http://www.jcst.org). For details on how to apply, go to [www.rcseng.ac.uk/about-the-rcs/working-at-the-college/current-rcs-vacancies/](http://www.rcseng.ac.uk/about-the-rcs/working-at-the-college/current-rcs-vacancies/)

## Person specification

---

### Expertise and Experience (E = Essential D = Desirable)

Evidence of a strong commitment to the NHS (E)
Demonstrable commitment to equality, diversity, and inclusion (E)
Independence from the surgical profession (E)
Ability to act as a “critical friend” (E)
Highly developed interpersonal and communication skills, with a willingness to participate actively in discussions (E)
Demonstrable capability to read and assimilate large quantities of complex information (E)
Honest and acts with integrity (E)
Knowledge of the current medical training environment (E)
Experience of acting as a lay or patient representative on a national/local body or demonstrable experience of having advocated for patients or patient groups in a formal context. (E)
Experience of working within the health service (D)
Experience of the development and delivery of postgraduate education, preferable related to medical education (D)
Involvement in curriculum development in a postgraduate setting (D)
Experience of developing educational materials (D)
Evidence of team working (E)
IT literacy; competent in Microsoft Word and in communicating using email (E)
Willingness to travel to London and elsewhere and, occasionally, be away from home Overnight (E)