Introduction to School
Core Training in Surgery is conducted under the auspices of the Deanery School of Surgery in Oxford. There are 19 Core Trainees recruited each year, together with up to 3 Academic Trainees. The Oxford Deanery encompasses the counties of Oxfordshire, Buckinghamshire and Berkshire. The major hospital sites where surgical training is undertaken are:
1. In Oxfordshire, the Oxford Radcliffe Hospitals Trust: the John Radcliffe and the Churchill in Oxford; the Horton Hospital in Banbury; and the Nuffield Orthopaedic Centre in Oxford.
2. In Berkshire, the Royal Berkshire Hospital in Reading; Heatherwood and Wexham Park Hospitals in Ascot and Slough.
3. In Buckinghamshire, the Buckinghamshire Hospitals in High Wycombe and Stoke Mandeville.

Training Opportunities within the School
The Core Training Programme consists of 44 trainees in years 1 and 2 who are following programmes in surgery in general. This equips them to apply for Specialist Training in their chosen field, or if that is not possible being guided to another satisfying career pathway. The majority reach their goal at the end of two years, but there is scope for trainees to undertake a third year if necessary, to enable them to fulfil particular specialty requirements. Not everyone passes their MRCS at the first attempt, but everyone has by the end of their Core Training Programme.

There is an opportunity for all Core Trainees to participate in the Undergraduate Anatomy Teaching Programme and in return get the basic science teaching they need for their MRCS. We are initiating a Teacher’s Development Programme for trainees in the next academic year.

There are regular Deanery Core Training teaching sessions leading to the MRCS and beyond. We have many trainees taking advantage of being associated with a premier research university in order to engage in research, frequently for a DPhil, the Oxford PhD.

Facts about the School
The School’s core belief is that by recruiting individuals with diverse goals and an enthusiastic temperament our trainees can achieve surgical excellence & offer unrivalled patient care. They are encouraged and nurtured to fulfil all the compulsory facets of the surgical curriculum whilst developing skills in research, leadership and education.

Trainees are recruited from all over the world and are chosen entirely on merit based upon wide ranging criteria and surgical potential. A recent survey of current trainees showed that most trainees have multiple academic publications as well as a wide range of participation in high level extra-curricular activities including international representation in sport & music.

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