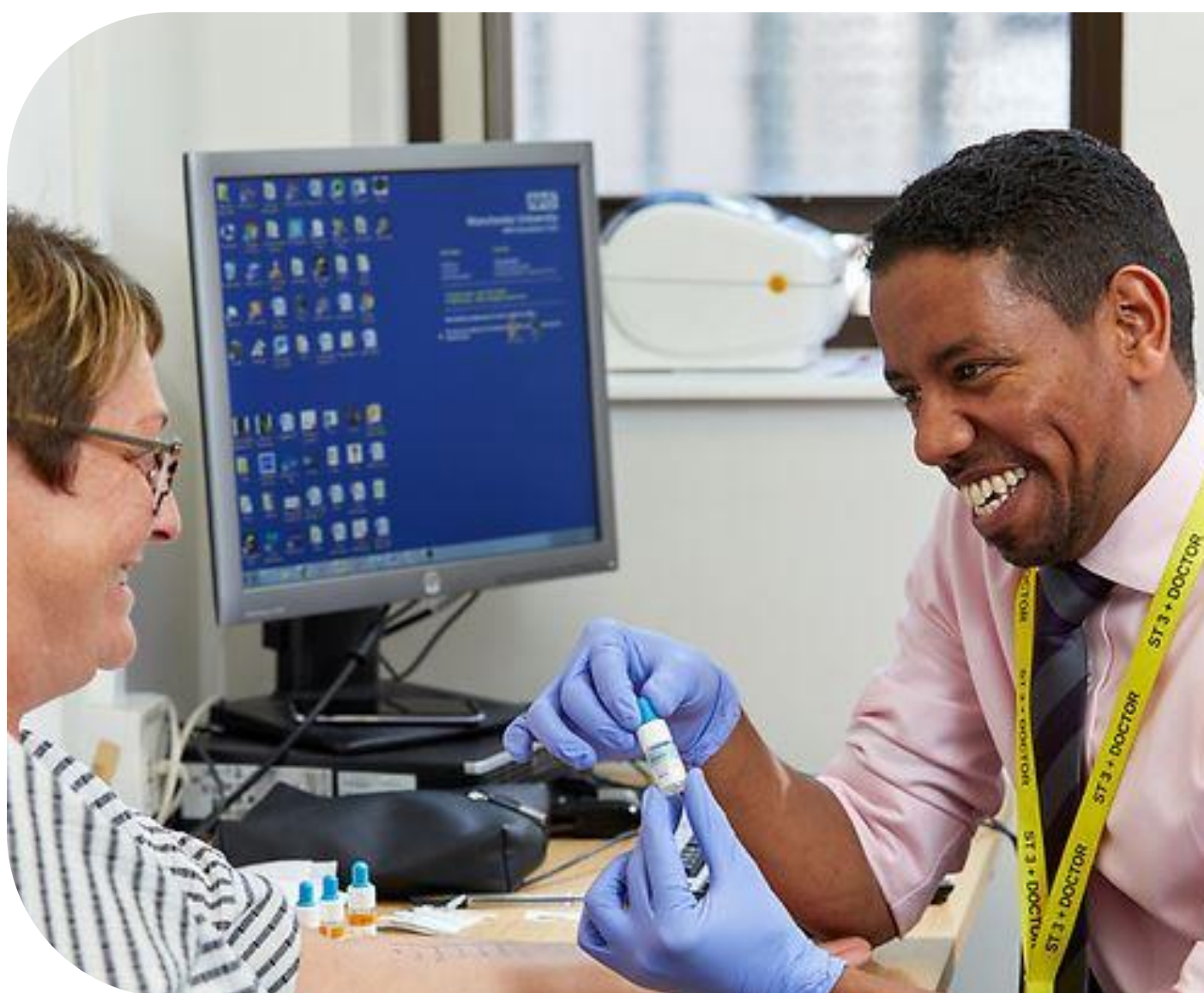


Immunology Specialty Training Programme, School of Medicine

Health Education England, working across the East Midlands and
Yorkshire and the Humber



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1. Introduction

Welcome to your specialist training in Immunology. This leaflet is designed to give you the essential information required to allow you to progress smoothly through your training and get the most out of your time in specialty training.

It is a new leaflet and we would welcome feedback over time as to what else could be included to make it more helpful.

Immunology training comprises of five years whole time (ST3 to ST7). During this time trainees are expected to pass the FRCPath Part 1 and Part 2 Immunology exams, including the submission of a case book.

The current [specialty training curriculum for Immunology](#) is available to view and download.

There are nine national training numbers across the East Midlands and Yorkshire and the Humber. Two are based in Leicester and two in Nottingham; these are part of [Health Education England in the East Midlands](#). Two are based in Sheffield, one in Hull/Scunthorpe and two in Leeds. These are part of [Health Education England in the Yorkshire and the Humber](#).

Health Education England policies (including study leave, time out of programme, less than full time training) can all be found on the Health Education England websites, as can details of any generic courses being run.

2. Training Programme Director

Dr Anna Shrimpton is the Training Programme Director for both regions. She is a Clinical Immunologist based in Sheffield. Anna is happy to be contacted by email or telephone by trainees if there are training issues they wish to discuss.

- Telephone: 0114 2269020 (secretary)
- Email: anna.shrimpton@sth.nhs.uk

Anna will arrange a one to one induction meeting with each new trainee (usually in September following the start of training) – see appendix 1 (induction checklist).

3. ePortfolio

All trainees should have been made aware of the ePortfolio. This should be kept up to date throughout training and will form the basis for assessing progress at ARCP.

The ePortfolio contains:

- A profile area – for recording post and supervisor details, declarations and agreements etc. This includes your educational agreement and health and probity statements which need to be signed off. It also includes a personal library to which you can upload any relevant documents during your training. There is also a section for uploading copies of essential certificates e.g. MRCP and Advanced Life Support. Evidence of this will be checked at your ARCP/PYA.

- A curriculum area, for you to record your progress in gaining knowledge and competences.
- An assessment area, where supervised learning event (SLE) forms (including lab DOPS) should be recorded.
- An area for recording reflections. [Guidance regarding recording of reflections](#) has been issued by the Association of Medical Royal Colleges. This e-learning module also provides [helpful guidance in writing reflections](#).
- An appraisal area which contains personal development plans.
- A progression area which includes supervisor reports and ARCP forms.

4. TRIAC meetings

Trent Regional Immunology and Allergy Consortium is a regional forum for developing common protocols and guidelines, organising regional audit and for sharing knowledge across the region. Trainees in Leicester, Nottingham, Sheffield and Hull/Scunthorpe are expected to attend these quarterly meetings on a regular basis, to present cases and participate in trainee teaching sessions. Trainees from Leeds attend the Northern Immunology and Allergy Network (NIAN). However, they will be expected to attend TRIAC at least once per year to maintain links with other trainees in their region and to provide an opportunity to meet their training programme director. This is best done at the September meeting which is normally held in Hull.



5. ARCP process

Detailed information regarding the purpose and process of the Annual Review of Competence Progression (ARCP) can be found in the [‘Gold Guide’](#). The ‘Gold Guide’ is the reference guide for postgraduate specialty training in the UK.

The ARCP usually occurs in May/June prior to the end of the training year in August. It is a formal process that reviews the evidence collected by the trainee in their ePortfolio, relating to their progress in the training programme. It enables the trainee, the postgraduate dean and employers to document that the competences required are being gained at an appropriate rate and through appropriate experience. It will also inform the responsible officer about revalidation and allow them to make a recommendation to the GMC.

Trainees should use the [immunology decision aid](#) to guide them as to the targets which need to be achieved for a satisfactory outcome at ARCP.

Recently ARCPs have been organised as a supra-regional process including review of Immunology trainees from Health Education England in both the North West and North East, as well as East Midlands and Yorkshire and the Humber. The panel is chaired by one of the training programme directors from these regions. Trainees are not required to attend for face to face feedback on the day of the ARCP. However, trainees who receive non-standard outcomes will receive face to face feedback promptly following the ARCP process.

Trainees' ePortfolios need to be completed two weeks prior to ARCP. The educational supervisor report will also need to be uploaded at least two weeks prior to ARCP. Late submissions will not be considered as part of the evidence. This is now common practice across a number of Health Education England areas.

6. Attachments at other centres

Although you are allocated to one centre for the entirety of your training, it is recognised that trainees will benefit from seeing how Immunology is practiced in other centres. With this in mind, trainees should discuss the possibility of informal attachments at other centres within the Yorkshire and the Humber and East Midlands regions. These attachments can then be tailored to an individual's training needs and could vary between a visit for a couple of days, to visiting one day every week for a number of months to attend a specific clinic or to staying with a department for a number of weeks.

Here is some information detailing what the different Immunology departments can offer above and beyond their standard Clinical Immunology and Allergy workload:

- **Leicester:**
 - Haematological flow cytometry.
 - Paediatric immunology clinics.
- **Nottingham:**
 - Adult autoinflammatory disease clinics.
 - Paediatric autoinflammatory disease clinic (for those with specialist interest only).
 - Ataxia telangiectasia clinic (runs over 2 days, for special interest only).
 - Well established drug allergy and challenge clinics if not available at own centre.
 - Laboratory – autoimmune/myositis blots (single session would suffice).
- **Sheffield:**
 - Dedicated Clinical Immunology and Allergy Unit.
 - National Protein Reference Unit.
 - UKNEQAS for Immunology.
 - Aspirin desensitisation clinics.
 - Joint respiratory and immunology clinics.
 - Mastocytosis MDT.
 - Paediatric transition clinics.

- **Hull:**
 - Immunotherapy (including modified rush protocols) with inhalant allergen and venom extracts.
 - Well established Omalizumab clinics for chronic spontaneous urticaria.
 - Comprehensive drug and food allergy skin test and challenge clinics.
 - Secondary antibody deficiency clinics.
 - Skin patch test clinics.
 - Eosinophilic gastrointestinal disorder MDT.
 - Immunology and respiratory MDT.
 - Vasculitis MDT.
 - General paediatric immunology clinics.

- **Leeds:**
 - ERN-RITA recognised centre.
 - Difficult urticaria clinics.
 - Adult and Paediatric Autoimmunity [autoinflammatory or autoimmunity] disease clinics.
 - Combined (with rheumatology) connective tissue disease clinics.
 - Combined (with consultant anaesthetist) Anaesthetic drug allergy clinics.
 - Genetic testing service for autoinflammatory and PID patients.

7. Laboratory experience

Laboratory Immunology is an important part of Immunology specialist training but previous trainees (both in this region and further afield) have reported that it is difficult to find time to get into their laboratories due to clinical pressures.

The training committee for Yorkshire and the Humber and East Midlands (TRIAEC) has agreed that all trainees should spend a minimum of one week in the first month of training and a minimum of 42 days in the first year of training in the labs. This time should be protected, included in your personal development plan and timetabled appropriately.



If you have any difficulties with arranging this, please discuss with your educational supervisor in the first instance.

8. Association of Clinical Pathologists (ACP) national training days (Hitchhikers)

New trainees will need to sign up to the Immunology 'Hitchhikers' national training day programme which is run by the Association of Clinical Pathologists (ACP). These training days are attended by immunology trainees and trainee clinical scientists from across the country and as such this is an important opportunity to network with your colleagues as well as being a valuable training activity. Training days are held over two days and there are usually 3-4 sessions a year. They are intended to provide formal teaching across most of the curriculum over the course of your training but are of course no substitute for your individual learning. Attendance at these days should be recorded in your ePortfolio and will be reviewed at your ARCP. You should attend at least 75% of available training days. There is an annual subscription for the Hitchhikers group (currently £50) that can be claimed back from your study budget.

It is your responsibility to contact the ACP and sign up to this group. Contact details are as follows:

Paulene Horrocks
Administrator
Association of Clinical Pathologists
189 Dyke Road
Hove
East Sussex
BN3 1TL
Tel: 01273 775700

Email: office@pathologists.org.uk.

Details of up-coming training days are available on the website (login required): www.hitchhikersguide.org.uk.

Please note subscription to the Hitchhikers group does not constitute membership of the ACP itself (see below).

9. Other societies and organisations

British Society for Allergy and Clinical Immunology (BSACI)

A national professional society for allergists and clinical immunologists that focuses on improving management of allergic diseases. It produces important clinical guidelines on the management of a range of allergic conditions that it is important to be familiar with and a journal 'Clinical and Experimental Allergy'. There is also an annual UK meeting that you should aim to attend at some point during your training. BSACI also organise a number of national training days that immunology trainees are welcome to attend. Attendance at these training days is free for members.

www.bsaci.org

Association of Clinical Pathology (ACP)

The ACP is an organisation for clinicians and scientists of all pathology disciplines. As well as being the organising body for the Hitchhikers days, they run an annual management course that senior trainees are encouraged to attend in preparation for becoming a consultant. Membership is not essential but the management course fees are subsidised.

www.pathologists.org.uk

UKPIN

The United Kingdom Primary Immunodeficiency Network is the professional body for United Kingdom Immunologists, Specialist Nurses and Healthcare / Academic Scientists in the UK. It aims to promote best practice in diagnosis and management of primary immune deficiencies through derivation of consensus guidelines and patient registries. They hold a biannual meeting that is well attended by medics, nurses and scientists nationally and from overseas. Many trainees will submit poster abstracts for this conference and attendance is recommended at least once during the course of your training. Members can also access a range of resources (including videos and podcasts of previous meetings) through the website.

www.ukpin.org.uk

ESID

The European Society for Immunodeficiencies is a leading international organisation for advancement of knowledge and best practice in the field of primary immune deficiency. As well as producing guidelines and maintaining patient registries, they host an annual meeting with internationally renowned speakers and winter and summer schools aimed primarily at trainees. Members can access materials from previous meetings through the website. (You are encouraged to attend this meeting at least once during the course of your training). They also provide educational cases online which are useful for exam preparation.

<http://esid.org>

EAACI

The European Academy of Allergy and Clinical Immunology is a European organisation focused on research and management of allergic diseases. They run an annual meeting and host a number of schools and masterclasses. Membership and attendance at this is not mandatory but may be of interest to trainees with a particular interest in allergy.

www.eaaci.org

BSI

The British Society for Immunology's main objective is to promote and support excellence in research, scholarship and clinical practice in immunology.

<https://www.immunology.org/>

10. Learning Resources Quick Guide

Text books

Janeway's Immunobiology (9th edition) by Murphy K – chosen by most trainees as their core text for fundamental immunology. Other textbooks are available and these can be discussed with your educational supervisor.

Case Studies in Immunology by Geha R and Notarangelo L – companion to Janeway with a series of clinical cases in immunology. Another new companion volume Case Studies in Allergic Disorders has also recently become available. Both volumes present a clinical case and series of questions with a commentary and are signposted to in Janeway.

Allergy (4th edition) by Holgate S, Church M, Broid D, Martinez F.

Middleton's Allergy Principles and Practice (8th edition) edited by Adkinson NF, Bochner BS, Burks AW et al.

Oxford Handbook of Clinical Immunology and Allergy Spickett G. An old text, but still a very useful resource for quick reference.

Journals

Immunology is a rapidly evolving specialty. Whilst there are many other textbooks covering clinical and scientific areas of practice, you should be aware that these can quickly become out of date. Reading journal articles is likely to form a key aspect of your learning. Your centre may run a journal club in which key articles can be reviewed. Ability to critically appraise original and review articles is in any case a key skill for all specialty registrars to obtain and forms part of the Physician Academic Checklist curriculum for all trainees. The list below is a select list of journals that are either focused on immunology and allergy or otherwise frequently contain content relevant to practice in this speciality:

Journal of allergy and clinical immunology: www.jacionline.org

Clinical and Experimental Immunology:
[onlinelibrary.wiley.com/journal/10.1111/\(ISSN\)1365-2249](http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/journal/10.1111/(ISSN)1365-2249)

Journal of Experimental Medicine: www.jem.rupress.org

New England Journal of Medicine: www.nejm.org

Blood: www.bloodjournal.org

Nature Immunology: www.nature.com/ni/

Journal of Immunology: www.jimmunol.org

Clinical Immunology: www.journals.elsevier.com/clinical-immunology

Clinical and Experimental Allergy:

[http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/journal/10.1111/\(ISSN\)1365-2222](http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/journal/10.1111/(ISSN)1365-2222)

Allergy: [http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/journal/10.1111/\(ISSN\)1398-9995](http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/journal/10.1111/(ISSN)1398-9995)

Online Resources

UK NEQAS scheme for Immunology, immunochemistry and allergy:

www.immqas.org.uk

IMMQAS online external quality assessment scheme – a set of interactive problem-solving activities focused around how to troubleshoot assays and interpret internal quality control (IQC) and external quality assessment (EQA) data. This is a particularly useful resource to use prior to your FRCPATH Part 2 Practical Exam but getting exposure to these elements of laboratory practice from an early point in your training is strongly recommended.

<https://www.birmingham.ac.uk/facilities/clinical-immunology-services/autoimmunity/index.aspx>

<https://www.birmingham.ac.uk/facilities/clinical-immunology-services/neuroimmunology/index.aspx>

<https://www.anapatterns.org/>

<https://esid.org/Education/ESID-Education-Online>

Appendix 1

HEE YH/EM Immunology TPD Induction Checklist

Trainee name

1. E portfolio
 - a. Educational supervisor allocated?
 - b. Educational Agreement signed?
 - c. Health and probity declarations complete?
 - d. Aware of personal library?
 - e. Aware of curricula:
 - Immunology 2015, generic, physician academic checklist
 - f. Aware of need to document SLEs including lab DOPS?
 - g. Aware of need to record reflections?
 - h. Initial PDP with SMART objectives?
 - i. Current timetable uploaded?
 - j. Educational supervisor induction meeting completed?
 - k. Aware of need for educational supervisor report prior to ARCP?
2. TPD contact details
 - Dr Anna Shrimpton anna.shrimpton@sth.nhs.uk
 - 01142269020 (secretary)
 - 07811182316 (mobile)
3. Local/corporate induction complete?
4. [JRCPTB Immunology decision aid documents](#) requirements for ARCP
5. TRIAC – expected attendance
6. ARCP (supraregional) planned for: insert date
7. Aware of opportunity for rotation between centres
8. Aware how to contact with other trainees in the region?