

Trainees Corner

The job situation

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Anyone who reads the back pages of the *GP* and *Pulse* magazines or *BMJ careers* will have noticed that the number of jobs being advertised has reduced. Similarly rumours from the locum circuit also mention a drying up of positions being offered.

Unsurprisingly this has led to a rise in stress for some of the trainees coming through the ranks which leads onto the question of what can be done to help the upcoming trainees?

Why is it happening now?

The increase in the number of people entering medical schools let alone VTS schemes was inevitably going to lead to a bottleneck at some point when it came to applying for jobs.

So how can the situation be managed or improved upon?

Well there are predictions that in the near future there will be a shortfall of GPs because of some imminent retirements. That doesn't help the current cohort who may be looking for jobs as I write this. However, plans to lengthen the period of training to five years might

in the short term take some of the stress off the job market, as there will be fewer people competing with each other at the end of their training. Another option could be for trainees to extend training voluntarily. Some already do so, as there are deaneries that offer the opportunity for the registrars to extend their training and sub-specialise, for example, in teaching and training, or in a neglected but important area such as domestic violence. There are even positions for newly qualified GPs, which have just been set up for them to become leaders and managers of the future. There will always be discussion about why more partnerships are not being offered but in the current financial climate and contractual changes, most people need to be realistic and not expect a sea change of adverts looking for partners.

There are no easy answers for the situation that some of the trainees are facing or will be facing but one must remain positive in these difficult times.

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