Dear Colleagues,

Firstly we would like to wish you all a very happy and healthy New Year! We would like to update you on a few changes to the STIF Portfolio that may be of relevance to you.

**STIF Competency Train the Trainer**

In 2015 we held two Train the Trainer events (one in London, one in Birmingham) both of which were very well attended. The next event will be taking place on the morning of 18 March at the Kings Fund, Cavendish Square, London. Registration is online here: [http://www.stif.org.uk/STIF/Home/STIF_Competency_Trainers/STIF_Train_the_Trainer_Workshop/STIF/STIF_Competency_Train_the_Trainer_Workshop.aspx?hkey=d8f00c76-0a08-487e-a953-ae46d943bb23](http://www.stif.org.uk/STIF/Home/STIF_Competency_Trainers/STIF_Train_the_Trainer_Workshop/STIF/STIF_Competency_Train_the_Trainer_Workshop.aspx?hkey=d8f00c76-0a08-487e-a953-ae46d943bb23)

We also hope to run another ‘out of London’ event in the autumn, location to be confirmed.

**STIF Competency Trainer registration**

It is now mandatory for all Named STIF Competency Clinical Trainers (NCT) for all STIF Competency programmes to attend the ‘Train the Trainer’ prior to undertaking training using these modules. All NCTS for STIF Intermediate and Advanced are required to commence training in the 12 months following their attendance at the workshop (other than in exceptional circumstances) in order for their registration to remain valid.

This is in response to feedback from the University of Greenwich during the re-accreditation process and we believe it helps maintain the quality of the assessments. We will also be routinely reviewing the portfolios of trainees of any new Named Clinical Trainer.

**STIF Intermediate Competency with academic accreditation**

We have renewed accreditation for STIF Intermediate with the University of Greenwich. Completion of the module plus submission of a 2500 word essay can be accredited with 15 transferable university credits towards a Masters Level (level 7) degree. Applicants who wish to obtain this qualification must register their intention to seek accreditation at the time of registering for STIF Intermediate. It is no longer possible to apply for STIF Intermediate academic accreditation as a separate element. Detailed information is on the STIF web site stif.org.uk.

**STIF Intermediate Competency**

Registration fees for STIF Intermediate have increased for the first time since inception in 2010 from £200 to £220 (plus VAT) for BASHH non-members and £170 (plus VAT) for BASHH members. A group booking discount of 10% will continue to apply for more than 5 bookings at the same time.

**STIF Level I Competency – now called STIF Fundamental Competency**

As of January 2016, STIF Level I Competency is called STIF Fundamental Competency. Whilst the format and content of the assessment is unchanged (the focus remaining on asymptomatic STI screening and sexual history taking), the assessment will follow on from the new format STIF Core day which will complement the learning needs of the assessment candidates (see details below).

**STIF FOUNDATION COURSE**

**Changes to the Core Day programme**

A new STIF Core Day programme will be introduced for all STIF Foundation courses from 1st August 2016. The new programme is currently being piloted. Changes are being introduced to align the STIF Foundation Core programme with the Fundamental Competency, providing the necessary theoretical basis for the assessment candidates. This means you will be able to broaden the scope of your course recruitment.

The main changes relate to the STIF Core Day timetable. On the new STIF Core timetable, the morning session will be relevant to all participants but those undertaking STIF Fundamental Competency assessment will be able to attend that session to prepare themselves for the assessment to follow. More detailed information will be provided in the next newsletter and posted on the STIF web site.
Feedback
In order to make the training and assessment robust but as user friendly as possible we will continue to ask for your feedback and the feedback of your trainees. We do adapt the materials and process when appropriate and have an annual review of your feedback. Please contact Sue Bird STIF@suebird.biz to inform us of any problems encountered and we will continue to support you as best we can.

Don’t forget that detailed information for both trainees and trainers about the STIF portfolio is posted up on the STIF web site www.stif.org.uk

Thank you all for your ongoing support with the STIF Theory and Competency programmes.

Dr Ashini Fox
Chair STIF Competency Working Group

Dr Luciana Rubinstein
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