



Joint Faculty of Intensive Care Medicine of Ireland

College of Anaesthesiologists of Ireland • Intensive Care Society of Ireland
Royal College of Physicians of Ireland • Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland

25th June 2020

Dear Colleagues / Supervisors of Training,

We would like to update you with regard to progress with the Cardiac Echo and Critical Care Ultrasound proposed training structure for JFICMI trainees (or indeed consultants).

A. Basic Cardiac Echo: (Level 1)

1. BASIC Cardiac Echo Training JFICMI – as per website, including fairly broad mentor and supervisor entry (mentor is one of suitable experience and supervisor has national or international TTE accreditation and/or senior level practice – eg chief cardiac physiologist, local Consultant Cardiologist with reporting sessions). In effect this can be achieved locally in many centres. Committee will seek a list of mentors and supervisors from various ICUs to improve this access pathway. Such a mentor may equally be a FUSIC Heart/FICE mentor on the FUSIC Heart website.
2. FUSIC Heart/FICE – similar to above. Own defined pathway. List of mentors in Ireland established and on the JFICMI website. Good structure. FICE now merges into FUSIC Heart. A level 2 certification is required to become a FUSIC supervisor. This is to ensure that trainees have good basic echo acquisition skills during their triggered assessment. This generally demands a local link with the Dept. of Cardiology (BSE number), however, some newly appointed Irish Intensivists hold ACCE/BSE/EACVI certification and have an echo piece in their job plan.

Both JFICMI Basic Cardiac Echo and FUSIC Heart can act as a stepping stone / entry criteria to EDEC or other higher level accreditation

B. Advanced Cardiac Echo:

1. EDEC – accessed as above and therefore fairly accessible though hard to complete within training. Re mentor and supervisor: A **Mentor** is an individual who may not have the full range of critical care echocardiography skills but is one who can provide useful technical or cognitive training. The **Supervisor** is any practitioner with full TTE or TOE accreditation as awarded by recognised national or international intensive care, cardiology, anaesthesia or emergency medicine body who has been authorized to be an EDEC Supervisor. We therefore need to create a potential list of EDEC mentors per centre, and they can create per centre the appropriate supervisors and then apply to EDEC for the supervisor to be recognised.



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2. FUSIC HEART does not have an advanced level at present. Therefore, Level 2 options include BSE / EACVI / ACCE. Each of these level 2 options allow the holder to become a FUSIC heart supervisor

C. Lung and Abdominal Ultrasound:

1. Needs a structure in Ireland similar to FUSIC Lung; FUSIC Abdomen; FUSIC Vascular (though anaesthesia trainees have mandatory vascular access course). Committee to develop further recommendations.

In order for our trainees to make the most of training opportunities in each Department, we would ask that each Department advises the JFICMI of a mentor (Level 1) and supervisor (Chief Cardiac Physiologist/Consultant Cardiologist with an interest in Imaging or a person with a Level 2 certification as outlined above) for their Department. If it is not possible to advise re a supervisor as per above definitions, please advise re mentor. The Mentor may then work locally to seek a suitable Supervisor. That may be a work in progress.

It would be most helpful to get the mentor programme listed which advises candidates of a go-to person in each department, which at the moment is not always clear.

Many thanks,

Dr Brian Marsh
Chair, Training Committee JFICMI

Dr Catherine Nix
Chair Irish Critical Care Core Training Echocardiography and Ultrasound Committee JFICMI

See attached list of Committee thus far. Specific Expertise will be sought from those in the Cardiac Positions & Centres for advice on Supervisors for Basic Cardiac Training. The committee will meet 4 times per annum.