

**National School of
Healthcare Science**
St Chads Court
213 Hagley Road
Birmingham
B16 9RG



30 November 2020

Dear Colleagues,

RE: SCIENTIST TRAINING PROGRAMME (STP) 2020 GRADUATES

The impact of responding to the COVID-19 pandemic has been vast on training and education throughout Health Education England (HEE) training programmes for Medical and Dental, Nurses, Pharmacists, Allied Health Professionals (AHP) and others. Healthcare Scientists training is no exception to this disruption, and many aspects of healthcare science training have been impacted by this novel coronavirus.

The National School of Healthcare Science had to adapt and create a new approach to assess final year trainees completing the programme in 2020, an alternative assessment to the OSFA exit assessment, which we called the Independent Assessment of Clinical Competence (IACC). Reflective analysis on self regulation in learning practice is advancing in Medical and Health Education.

As the Head of the National School of Healthcare Science, I would like to assure you that the IACC assessment has been developed and aligned with other Health Education England (HEE) training programmes. Prior to use, the IACC was approved by the Academy for Healthcare Science (AHCS), Health Education England (HEE) and the Health and Care Professions Council (HCPC). The IACC was the finest available option that is a fair and defensible independent assessment, where assessors can evaluate trainees' readiness to practise as a safe and competent clinical scientist.

As part of the National School assessment evaluation process, the IACC results and the IACC resit results have been evaluated, and the outcome has been very comparable to the outcome of the previous exit exam, the OSFA. Assessors and trainees' feedback have also been collected, and the overall opinion has indicated confident and positive feedback. The results will be published on our website imminently.

I would like to offer my congratulations to all the newly qualified scientists completing the STP programme in this challenging year. Finally, I would like to thank you for your support for the Healthcare Science profession and look forward to working with you to meet future workforce needs.

Thank you for your ongoing support.

With best wishes,



Professor Berne Ferry
Head of the National School of Healthcare Science