

Study launch: uroLogical tEAching in bRitishmedical schools Nationally (LEARN)

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Background: Urological conditions account for approximately 25% of acute surgical referrals and 10 to 15% of general practitioner appointments. Urology is also a common rotation for first and second-year doctors, with a consistently competitive entry at specialty-trainee level [1]. The speciality itself offers great breadth of pathology, patient groups and is extremely innovative.

In 2012, the British Association of Urological Surgeons (BAUS) published a national medical student urology curriculum, with a view to improving the understanding and management of urological conditions among medical students [2]. This national curriculum also emphasises the importance of practical skills, including performing procedures like digital rectal examination and catheterisation, as well as observing surgical procedures such as laparotomies and endoscopic surgery. The national curriculum is an important reference for the skills and knowledge expected of new doctors, in addition it is vital to ensure students receive sufficient clinical exposure to allow them to consider it as their chosen career path. However, the extent of its uptake within medical schools is unclear.

Aims of LEARN: To assess the current delivery of urology teaching based on the BAUS recommended syllabus. We will also assess the confidence of students and junior doctors in their ability to perform urological procedures as required by this curriculum and the GMC. Following this, we are interested in evaluating the likelihood of medical students choosing urology as a placement or future career option.

How Will the Study Run? A national cross-sectional questionnaire on the provision of undergraduate teaching in urology will be distributed to students across all UK medical schools, with assistance from appointed medical school student leads and course directors. We aim to present our work at the BAUS Annual Scientific Meeting in 2021, as well as other national and international scientific conferences, related to urology, surgery, and education. We also expect medical students leads to present and disseminate results pertaining to their

own medical school to their course leaders. Local data in this regard will be made freely available to the medical student leads.