12th November 2016

Dear ASiT member,

The past year has been a turbulent time for surgical trainees and surgical training. The Association of Surgeons in Training (ASiT) wishes to reassure members that ASiT is a steadfast and vocal supporter of surgical trainees by highlighting some of the ways that ASiT currently represents you.

ASiT is a professional body and registered charity (No. 274841). ASiT is entirely independent from the surgical Royal Colleges and other organisations. This independence grants ASiT the unique opportunity to be a true voice for surgical trainees and to speak freely in promoting the interests of surgical trainees. ASiT was established in 1976 and has since grown to be the largest organisation representing surgical trainees of all grades across all surgical specialties, with orthopaedic registrars also represented by our colleagues in the British Orthopaedic Trainees’ Association (BOTA). The ASiT Council is comprised of Regional Representatives from every training region in the UK and Ireland, and Specialty Representatives from each surgical specialty.

ASiT represents trainees on over 50 different committees, councils and meetings, including the RCS England Council, the Academy of Medical Royal Colleges Trainee Doctors Group (AoMRC ATDG), the Intercollegiate Surgical Curriculum Project (ISCP), the Joint Committee on Surgical Training (JCST), the BMA and many more. This wide breadth of representation puts ASiT in a very strong position to consistently represent the interests of trainees, independent to the groups on which we sit on your behalf. All ASiT Council members who represent trainees at meetings and associated specialty associations, provide ASiT with a written report of the meeting. These reports are discussed in six face-to-face ASiT Council meetings per year, in addition to frequent electronic correspondence. This allows those attending meetings to be thoroughly briefed and debriefed. As a result, ASiT can be confident both of its quality assurance
and that the representation we provide on your behalf is reflective of the views of the ASiT Council, informed by surgical trainees on the ground across the country and, crucially, that it is in the best interests of surgical trainees.

Selection onto the ASiT Council occurs in a transparent and fair process, with elections for Regional Representatives on a two-yearly basis. Regional Representative positions are advertised and applications invited according to a standardised format. Applications are independently reviewed by a minimum of three markers from the ASiT Council and triple-scored using a pre-defined marking scheme. The three highest scoring applications are then reviewed by the full ASiT Council and the Regional Representative is elected by the ASiT Council with the winner elected by the most number of votes. Specialty Representatives are determined by the relevant trainee specialty organisation. ASiT Executive Committee members are elected by the ASiT Council at the annual ASiT Conference, and ratified at the annual AGM to which all members are invited. See council rules and regulations (www.asit.org/council) and the ASiT constitution (www.asit.org/history) for further details.

We continually strive to improve ASiT as your representative voice and would be delighted to hear from you with suggestions or ideas for how we can continue to improve. Please visit the ASiT website www.asit.org for further details on your Regional Representative, election processes and the committees on which ASiT has representation. Please do contact your regional representative or email President@asit.org with any queries or suggestions.

ASiT exists for its members and we thank you for the humbling privilege to serve you on ASiT Council. We wish to reassure you that the Council will continue to work tirelessly on your behalf as we continue to navigate troubled waters in surgical training. We look forward to seeing many of you at our 2017 conference from 31st March to 2nd April 2017 in Bournemouth!

Yours Sincerely,

Adam Williams

Helen Mohan

President and Vice-President of ASiT On Behalf of ASiT Council