

**The Royal College of Surgeons of England
35-43 Lincoln's Inn Fields
London
WC2A 3PE**

28 February 2011

Dear Professor Williams,

Further to our email communication on this topic, we write on behalf of ASiT to offer our provisional support for the RCSEng proposal your working group are currently writing entitled "Establishing a National Surgical Fellowship Scheme".

As you will be aware, this is an area that ASiT has long taken a keen interest in since the original introduction of the Post-CCT Fellowship as part of Modernising Medical Careers. At that time we were unable to support those posts for well publicised reasons previously outlined.

The current proposal, however, offers an opportunity to bring quality assurance and recognition to the currently unregulated area of surgical 'fellowship' posts as a whole. We feel this would be beneficial for both the surgical workforce and surgical training in general.

ASiT strongly supports the Surgical Fellowship Scheme's efforts to define, improve, centralise and accredit Surgical Fellowships in the manner outlined. We would welcome the Royal College/Specialty Associations' involvement in developing national guidelines for this.

Nonetheless, ASiT would wish to see trainees kept fully involved in developing and informing this accreditation and quality assurance process as it evolves. We also wish to emphasise that the creation and regulation of such posts should not lead to a dilution of the CCT, nor prove a barrier to Consultant post applications or sub-specialty practice. It is important that the vast majority of training remains within the CCT in order that trainees gain full experience of the breadth of surgical practice, whilst developing their own sub-specialty interests.

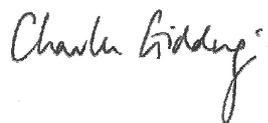
Vocal College support for proleptic appointments must also go hand-in-hand with this initiative, in order that 'accredited' fellowships match the needs of the future NHS workforce.

We wish you success in taking your proposal to the RCSEng Council and look forward to further discussions surrounding this.

Yours sincerely,



Ed Fitzgerald
Past-President, ASiT



Charlie Giddings
ASiT President