



### THE FACULTY OF CLINICAL ONCOLOGY

**TO: TRAINING PROGRAMME DIRECTORS  
REGIONAL POST-GRADUATE EDUCATION ADVISERS**

**COLLEGE TUTORS**

**EXAMINATION CANDIDATES**

### **FIRST EXAMINATION FOR THE FELLOWSHIP IN CLINICAL ONCOLOGY SPRING 2022**

The Examining Board has prepared the following report on the SPRING 2022 sitting of the First Examination for the Fellowship in Clinical Oncology. It is the intention of the Specialty Training Board that the information contained in this report should benefit candidates at future sittings of the examinations and help those who train them. This information should be made available as widely as possible.

**Dr Rachel Cooper**  
Medical Director, Education and Training

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### **FIRST EXAMINATION FOR THE FELLOWSHIP IN CLINICAL ONCOLOGY EXAMINERS' REPORT – SPRING 2022**

The pass rates achieved at the SPRING 2022 sitting of the First Examination for the Fellowship in Clinical Oncology are summarised below.

	<b>All Candidates</b>		<b>UK-trained Candidates</b>	
<b>Cancer Biology &amp; Radiobiology</b>	65/105	62%	23/37	62%
<b>Clinical Pharmacology</b>	81/102	79%	31/35	89%
<b>Medical Statistics</b>	86/122	71%	36/42	86%
<b>Physics</b>	92/128	72%	34/42	81%

This examiners' report does not provide an in-depth breakdown of performance on individual questions but is intended to guide trainers and candidates by highlighting particular areas of concern. Candidates are reminded that it is recommended that all modules are attempted at the first sitting, to maximise chances of success over the total of six permitted attempts.

## **Cancer Biology and Radiobiology**

Candidates generally performed well in most areas, and results were consistent with previous years. Improvements in knowledge and understanding are required in the following:

- Common or recognised familial cancer syndromes
- RBE relationships for different types of radiation
- Relationships between dose and DNA damage yields
- Assessment of therapeutic ratio

Candidates are reminded to read the questions and answers carefully and provide their single best answer.

## **Clinical Pharmacology**

Overall, candidates performed well on the examination demonstrating good knowledge on drug interactions and supportive care medications.

## **Medical Statistics**

Candidates performed well in this sitting in comparison to Autumn 2021. There were concerns that performance at the previous sitting may have been negatively related to the longer question format (stem and branch), however examiners are reassured by the Spring 2022 performance. Candidates are advised to pay attention to interpretation of coefficients from regression models.

## **Physics**

Examiners were pleased to see a significant increase in the pass rate at this sitting, which reflects the quality of the teaching courses and good preparation by trainees, covering the breadth of the syllabus. Trainees should focus on the requirement for clear understanding of radiation protection regulations and reporting requirements. Trainees also need to have an understanding of photon attenuation and filtration. It is essential that they are familiar with prescription recommendations as per ICRU 83. Finally, familiarity with routine quality assurance checks, verification and action levels is also important.