



DISTANCE LEARNING COURSE **Information for** **UK Educational Supervisors**

One of the key requirements for students to begin the BPNA distance learning course is regular contact with an Educational Supervisor. The Supervisor fulfils an important role as he/she provides ongoing support for the student as they work their way through the course.

WHO CAN BE A SUPERVISOR?

Any Consultant Paediatric Neurologist who is willing to attend (or has previously attended) the training for distance learning Educational Supervisors.

WHAT AM I EXPECTED TO DO?

1. Meet with your student(s) about once a month to:
 - a) Discuss the Unit they are working on and their progress.
 - b) Some of the activities they are asked to undertake specifically tell them to discuss aspects of cases etc with their Supervisor.
2. Facilitate your student completing each Unit. A 'Resource Listing' for is available for each, which lists all the resources that your student(s) will require access to in order to complete the Unit. These may include:
 - text books
 - videos
 - case notes (eg, Case notes of a child with an epileptic encephalopathy – Unit 6, Section 9)
 - clinics to attend (eg, Attend at least one genetics clinic with a paediatric or neurological focus (possibly a neurogenetics clinic) – Unit 1, Section 6).

Check the 'Resource Listing' to make sure you know where they can go for access to the resources.

3. When they complete a Unit, sign their appraisal form to confirm that they have completed it satisfactorily.

IS THERE ANY TRAINING FOR EDUCATIONAL SUPERVISORS?

There is a short web based course for new Supervisors. This will introduce you to the educational methods behind the distance learning course and aims to help you be a better Supervisor through the course. Access to this can be requested at anytime by emailing diane@bpna.org.uk

HOW MUCH TIME WILL THIS TAKE?

Experienced supervisors tell us that the monthly (or thereabouts) meeting, takes about an hour. This allows students to talk about what they are finding good about the course, what they are finding not so good and of course what they are finding difficult and need specific help with. It is time well spent. It can also usefully double up as an opportunity to talk about training issues and appraisal in general. Even the best run departments – because of day to day pressures – may find scheduling of this type of time difficult in the general run of things.

Educational supervisors are not required to know the course backwards, only to act as a resource to help students through the course. It must also be said that educational supervisors have been known to dip into long sections of the course when no one else is looking and to enjoy themselves whilst doing it!

CAN I SUPERVISOR MORE THAN ONE STUDENT AT A TIME?

Yes. Supervisors who are supervising more than one student at a time meet with them together in a group, thereby not taking up much more time than having just one student. In fact by discussing activities and difficult concepts in a group it can make it easier for the Supervisor as everyone benefits from the exchange in ideas. Students report that they like group meetings as they provide mutual support.

WILL I GAIN ANYTHING FROM IT?

Supervisors have reported that they have learned a great deal from going through the course material with their student(s).

WHAT ARE THE KEY REQUIREMENTS FOR STUDENTS APPLYING FOR THE COURSE?

1. **Regular access to paediatric neurology clinics.** The distance learning course is designed as a teaching package to complement the clinical training. The course relies on students seeing adequate clinical material, indeed many of the activities students are asked to complete involve reflecting and reviewing cases they have seen and using experience gained in clinics. For most students this would mean being an SpR on a neurology service.
2. **Have an Educational Supervisor.** It is up to applicants to identify a local Supervisor before making their application.
3. **Be able to Fund the course.**
4. **Attend initial residential course** the morning of Wednesday 26 January 2011 in Edinburgh. The cost of this is included in their course fees.

FURTHER INFORMATION

If you have any questions, please contact Philippa Rodie at info@bpna.org.uk or by telephone on (+44) 1204 492888.