We asked for your views about running Skills courses for Intensivists – SKINT for short. Thirty five ICS members replied. Many thanks for your comments.

Many supported the concept. We asked if courses should be centrally run; 26% said yes. A further 71% said they would prefer them to be run in regional centres, an overwhelming vote for taking SKINT round the country. We asked if we should run a 2 day workshop covering several skills and 74% said yes. I was particularly pleased that just over half of those who replied volunteered to help in teaching these courses.

We also asked what skills should be taught. There were suggestions for 25 topics. More than I had imagined and all of which were important and relevant. The top 6, all getting support from at least 20% of respondents, were in descending order of popularity:

1. ultrasound guided vascular access
2. echocardiography
3. cardiac output measurement
4. percutaneous tracheostomy
5. intracranial pressure monitoring
6. insertion and management of naso-jejunal tubes

Because of your support we intend to go ahead with organising some of these courses. We thought we would start by running some half day courses in the afternoon of the day before our next spring conference being held in Torquay in May 2004.

We have decided to start with the following three skills.

1. ultrasound guided vascular access
2. intracranial pressure monitoring and
3. modes of ventilation

If they are successful we aim to repeat them and add further skills to the programme. Our next task is to harness the enthusiasm and talent of our membership. A lot of work is needed to develop and deliver a successful course. If you have experience and knowledge in teaching any of these skills please let us know. We could use your help.

David Goldhill

Website

After a lot of debate the ICS Website has been relaunched. It remains at www.ics.ac.uk, but has had a lot of work put into a redesigned look and feel. Ultimately things like the manpower census will be on-line but in the short term things like on-line meeting bookings and membership application will be a priority. It will hopefully be easier to use, more up to date and friendly. Please have a look and if you have any ideas, comments or criticisms, do get in touch.

Bob Winter