**ASP / STP Further Information**

GI Physiology is a highly specialised area of Healthcare Science. GI Physiology includes, but not is not limited to, manometry (oesophageal, antroduodenal, colonic and anorectal); 24hr pH +/- impedance; endoanal ultrasound and breath testing. In order for competency to be demonstrated and recognised, training must be undertaken. The Association of GI Physiology (AGIP) has approved two routes for this: Scientist Training Practitioner (STP) and Accredited Scientific Practitioner (ASP) training. Both routes are via the National School of Healthcare Science, Newcastle University and AGIP (ASP). Both training routes are also approved for accreditation as an independent practitioner status via AGIP. Both routes require a BSc 2:1 or above in an appropriate subject as at M level (level 7). So, what are these routes?

**Scientist Training Practitioner**

This is a 3-year training programme which is currently funded by HEE if a direct entry (i.e. not already a member of the team). It provides specialist underpinning training academically as well as in the workplace, but also a broad base training which includes areas outside of GI Physiology such as endoscopy, pathology, radiology, surgery and respiratory to name but a few. Urodynamics is also part of the training in the first year. There are competencies, assignments and an end point assessment, this is currently an IACC. At the end of the training successful trainees can apply to HCPC for regulation as a Clinical Scientist and also accreditation as an independent practitioner via AGIP.

**Accredited Scientific Practitioner**

This is a shortened version of the above and is applicable in certain situations such as when your department only undertakes one particular aspect of GI Physiology or you may have a nurse for example that is extending their scope of practice into oesophageal manometry and pH studies. ASP may also be used for those in private practice as currently HEE doesn’t support STP trainees in this area. An ASP would have an appropriate training officer, which ideally would be someone who has AGIP accreditation, however if this is not the case we can put you in touch with an accredited person who would be able to advise and act as a mentor during the training period. As with STP there are competencies, assignments and an end point assessment such as Professional Discussions. How many professional discussions an ASP completes is dependent on the programme they have undertaken. An ASP, regardless of the modules that they undertake, will start the course in the September with the end point assessment the following summer, usually June, with completion of competencies 1 month later.

[**Click here**](https://www.bsg.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2023/12/ASP-STP-training-flow-chart.docx)**for an example flow chart of the ASP/STP routes and associated costs.**

**Further information can be found at:**

[NSHCS](http://www.nshcs.hee.nhs.uk/)

[HEE](https://hee.nhs.uk/hee-your-area)

**Useful contacts**

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