

Facilities for assessment and education: update on our new home RCP at The Spine

For this update we bring you more information about how we will be using the space in our new building, RCP at The Spine in Liverpool. You can read more on our new website section dedicated to The Spine – www.rcplondon.ac.uk/rcpthespine – which will be the place to go for updated information about the vision for The Spine, progress of the building, the project team and timeline, including new images for all the floors we will occupy.

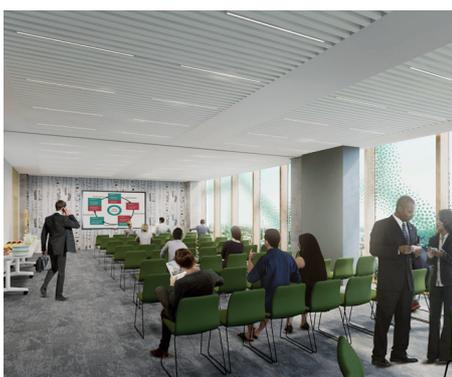
Assessment

One of the floors at The Spine is being designed specifically to host exams and assessment, particularly for PACES and the Physician Associates National Certification and Recertification exams. Hosting these exams in our existing RCP North building in Liverpool over the last year has enabled the assessment team to learn from that experience and incorporate new design features that will support the efficient hosting of different exams and assessments.

The new assessment floor will feature two identical sets of rooms set either side of the lifts, with a dedicated reception area to welcome patients, candidates and examiners. In addition to the small rooms set aside for examining candidates, the floor will include an examiners' briefing room and a patient waiting room.

To increase usability, the assessment suites will have adjustable walls to vary the size of the rooms to accommodate different exams,

An artist's impression of one of the new education rooms



and some rooms will be able to host two patients instead of one, while maintaining confidentiality with the use of screens. This will support the introduction of the new PACES exam, PACES 2020.

New features at The Spine include flexible CCTV capability to enable filming practice scenarios and to support teaching and education, and timing systems will also be installed with a tannoy to help exams run to time, and to reach specific examiners or candidates. The design of The Spine will support a better flow of patients, candidates and examiners, who will have their own entry and exit to the building on the opposite side to the main entrance. In keeping with the healthy principles behind RCP at The Spine, the assessment rooms will benefit from natural light due to the full height windows, providing a calm environment for what can be a stressful experience for candidates.

Education

Our purpose-built education floor will include two key unique features – the WOW wall and the Harvard Lecture Theatre.

The WOW wall is a bank of interactive screens that enables anyone from anywhere in the world to be connected to the room and to be seen individually. This feature supports an audience or teaching session with one person or several, and will be the only one of its kind in the north of England – and one of only a few in the whole country.

The Harvard Lecture Theatre was as the name suggests, developed by Harvard Business School in the USA. The horseshoe shape encourages interaction between lecturers and the audience, and has banks of swivelling



The Harvard Lecture Theatre

chairs, enabling those attending to turn and form small working groups without needing to move to a different room or breakout space. Stepped rows give everyone a great view of the lecturer and slide presentations.

These facilities will be complemented by a wide variety of flexible teaching spaces holding anything up to 120 people, with accompanying smaller rooms for breakout sessions and coaching. Like the assessment floor, most of the rooms will also have full height windows letting in natural light, providing an enhanced learning environment in keeping with the building's healthy principles.

In addition to being used by the RCP for its own highly regarded and popular courses, the spaces will be available for other organisations to hire for their own educational activities, from major multi-day clinical meetings to an intimate workshop in a single room. All will be supported by state-of-the-art audiovisual facilities, and will have access to the spectacular doubleheight breakout and networking spaces, with sympathetic planting and great views of the surrounding area. As a key part of the growing Paddington Village and Knowledge Quarter, including being next door to the new Royal Liverpool University Hospitals Trust, we will be able to offer our tailor-made education courses and workshops to local health bodies wanting to focus on areas such as educational supervision or communications skills. We will not only be part of the new health hub, we will be instrumental in creating it. ■