I agree with Dr Devonald's comment that most GPs will only fit Mirenas. In my opinion, this is contrary to patient choice and good practice. In the area where I work, women are directly asking for a non-hormonal LARC, or after discussions find irregular bleeding patterns or amenorrhea with Mirena unacceptable. Also, an IUD may be needed for emergency contraception purposes. Therefore, I believe that the copper IUD is a very useful method in good hands and there is enough evidence around to prove this.

In the light of the above comments, I would therefore argue that there is no need to consider changing the criteria for the Letter of Competence in Intrauterine Techniques (LoC IUT) training. However, more importantly, our efforts should focus on improving timely access to high-quality training for LoC IUT and Letter of Competence in Subdermal Contraceptive Implant Techniques (LoC SDI). I have been made aware by current trainees that there are some real issues with arranging suitable practical training sessions. There can be a wait for up to a year in some areas for training. Some GP registrars are no longer planning to undertake LoCs as they feel that there is a lot to do during their training year and they cannot spare the time, particularly if the training clinic is located miles away. Some of the trainees are also unable to obtain study leave or find locums if they wish to undertake LoCs. This is more worrying for the speciality as a whole and obviously limits patients' choice in the long term. I wonder, therefore, whether there is any possibility of including DFSRH (formerly DFFP) and LoC training as it relates to IUDs/implants as a core skill during the obstetrics and gynaecology placement?

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FACULTY AWARDS

The Faculty of Sexual and Reproductive Healthcare has available a number of annual awards for which applications are invited from Faculty members and non-members as listed below. Details of the individual awards, together with an application form and/or guidelines on how to apply and any eligibility criteria, may be found on the Faculty website at www.fsrh.org.

Margaret Jackson Prize Essay

Award: Three prizes awarded annually for the best essays on a topic related to contraceptive and sexual health care. The first prize is £300, with £100 each for the two runners-up.

Eligibility: Individuals (undergraduate medical students)

Closing date: 24 March annually

The David Bromham Annual Memorial Award

Award: Prize awarded for a piece of work which through inspiration, innovation or energy has furthered the practice of sexual and reproductive health care in any way and any setting.

Eligibility: Individuals (Faculty members) or teams

Closing date: 7 April annually

International Travelling Scholarship of the Faculty

Award: Scholarship up to the value of £2000 to fund travel abroad to visit international colleagues, services, research or educational establishments to learn about some aspect of sexual or reproductive health care.

Eligibility: Individuals (Faculty members)

Closing date: 7 April annually

The 4-0-8 Sheffield Fund

Award: Approximately £1000 will be allocated every 3 months, either as a single award or divided between the successful applicants, for the purpose of funding training for health care professionals who have limited funding for attending training meetings.

Eligibility: Individuals (Faculty members/non-members)

Closing date: See website for details
Missed opportunities in discussing LARC

Jagruti S Doshi, Rebecca S French and Christopher L Wilkinson

*J Fam Plann Reprod Health Care* 2008 34: 68
doi: 10.1783/jfp.34.1.68

Updated information and services can be found at:
http://jfprhc.bmj.com/content/34/1/68.citation

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