

**JOB DESCRIPTION
&
PROSPECTUS**

Advanced training in Neuroanaesthesia
Nuffield Department of Anaesthetics
John Radcliffe Hospitals NHS Trust

October 2006

INTRODUCTION

The Oxford Neuroscience Unit at the Radcliffe Infirmary is one of the busiest regional neurosurgical units in the country with an international reputation for the quality of its services. It is involved in many aspects of pioneering work including functional neurosurgery and radiological interventional techniques. The busy unit will provide trainees with unrivalled exposure to all aspects of neurosurgical work.

The Oxford Neurosciences Unit is moving to a new purpose-built modern facility in the West Wing of the John Radcliffe Hospital in January 2007.

The breadth of Neuroanaesthetic practice makes it possible to offer six-months blocks of Advanced Training in Neuroanaesthesia, fulfilling all the criteria of Advanced Training as laid down in the Training Documents of the Royal College of Anaesthetists, and preparing the trainee for a career post in Neuroanaesthesia.

The Oxford Neuroscience Unit has two full time operating theatres. The eight Neurosurgeons specialise in various aspects of modern neurosurgery, including:-

- Cerebral tumour and vascular work
- Skull base surgery
- Spinal surgery
- Functional neurosurgery for movement disorders
- Paediatric neurosurgery.

In addition there is a team of plastic and neurosurgeons involved in re-constructive craniofacial surgery.

There is a very active Neuroradiology Service, which requires anaesthesia for Interventional Neuroradiology and MRI scanning.

The Neurosciences Intensive Care Unit provides level 2 and level 3 specialist critical care to both neurosurgical and neurological patients from the region.

The Unit currently contains 8 level 3 critical care beds, with planned expansion over the next few years to a 17 bed unit. Training is provided in the management of the full range of neurosurgical and neurological pathologies, with particular emphasis on the management of traumatic brain injury and subarachnoid haemorrhage.

There are ten Consultant Anaesthetists in the department with neurosurgical and neuro ITU sessions (six of whom provide day-time ITU cover) who also provide the on-call emergency cover for all West Wing surgical services. The Advanced Trainee will be part of the Senior SpR on-call group covering West Wing surgical services.

TRAINING PROGRAMME

This sub-specialty training programme will normally be for a period of six months but may be tailored to suit the needs of individuals to accommodate periods of up to one year. One day per week will be set aside for study or research and study leave can be granted to attend

relevant meetings or present papers, etc. The Advanced trainee will also be expected to assist the Consultant staff in training the other SpR's on their neuroanaesthesia attachments.

At the end of the programme, trainees should expect to have achieved a level of knowledge and skill required for the competent independent management of most routine neurosurgical cases without direct supervision and be able to perform complex procedures appropriate for those applying for a Consultant post in neuroanaesthesia.

SPECIAL INTERESTS AND EXPERIENCE

The Advanced trainee will gain experience of the following aspects of neuroanaesthesia:

Neurosurgical Theatres

Anaesthesia for: cerebral aneurysm clipping
tumour surgery including control of ICP
post fossa surgery, including the sitting position and air embolism
skull base surgery
awake stereotactic pallidotomy
cervical spine surgery, including awake fiberoptic intubation
thymectomy in myasthenia gravis
paediatric neurosurgery
craniofacial reconstruction
spinal cord stimulator insertion for chronic pain

Neuro Intensive Care Unit

Care of: head injured patients
cerebral haemorrhage and vasospasm
cerebral space occupying lesions, tumours and abscess
brain death and organ donation
neurological respiratory failure (myasthenia gravis, Guillain Barre etc)
inter-hospital transfer

Neuroradiology

Anaesthesia for: vascular embolisation
CT and MRI imaging in children

Management The Advanced trainee will be attached to the Clinical Director for Theatres for management experience and attend departmental managerial committees including Theatre and ICU Users Meetings.

Audit The Advanced trainee will attend audit meetings and will be expected to become involved with on-going audit projects and initiate his/her own studies.

Research One day per week will be available to pursue a supervised research project or directed personal study.

Teaching The Advanced trainee will be expected to play a full part in the teaching and training of junior trainees, nurses, medical students and ancillaries. Help will be available in the preparation of lectures and tutorials and in the use of educational aids.

Experience in other Centres

Arrangements can be made for interested trainees to visit another UK Neuroscience Centre during their attachment. In addition, particular help and expertise in planning for a Specialist Consultant Post is provided.

TRAINING PLAN AND TRAINING AGREEMENT

The trainee will meet with the educational supervisor to agree the individual training plan following the period of induction; this will be tailored to suit the individual needs of the trainee. It will take account of clinical, interpersonal and management skills and knowledge. Trainees will be required to give their agreement to the training programme and confirm their commitment to participate fully in the training and appraisal process.

TRAINING FACILITIES AND RESOURCES

The Advanced Trainee in Neuroanaesthesia will be provided with appropriate office accommodation, computer access and library facilities. The Neuroanaesthetic group have a library of appropriate texts, and The Cairns Library at the John Radcliffe Hospital is a multi-disciplinary library and has a section specialising in the neurosciences with a comprehensive range of current journals. The Nuffield Department of Anaesthetics library is also available to trainees and has a full range of anaesthetic textbooks and journals.