The postgraduate Clinical Scientist training scheme in Haemato-oncology at the Royal Infirmary of Edinburgh (RIE) offers opportunities for specialist training in the fields of haematology, oncology, and clinical science. The scheme is designed to provide comprehensive training and education for clinical scientists who wish to work in the field of haematology.

**Background**

I am currently in the second part of my training, now based in the Haemato-oncology laboratory. During this period I have been given appropriate specialist training in the areas of tumour immunology and cell signaling. After my PhD I gained employment as a Post-doctoral research assistant at the Boston Institute for Cancer Research, enhancing my research skills and working as a member of a large team of highly specialist medical and scientific staff. During my time there I developed a keen interest in delivering important laboratory results that directly influence patient treatment and prognosis as well as ongoing to service the tumour by conducting important work in the laboratory.

**Examples of common training activities**

- Attending and organisation of meetings related to research projects
- Assisting in statistical analysis and interpretation of data
- Feedback sessions and completion of reflection on training courses
- Compiling training resource documents for flow cytometry, MLPA and selected genetic analyses
- Performing routine testing for both leukemia and lymphoma
- Developing new techniques for specific mutations
- Writing grant applications for research funding
- Developing new requests for specific tests
- Assisting in the design of new drug trials
- Providing feedback on patient care and treatment

**ENTRY INTO POSTGRADUATE TRAINING SCHEME – 3 YEARS TO GO**

Candidates are recruited into the postgraduate training scheme through application for supernumerary trainees posts and employment into the NHS, or through application and alternative selection for funding from the existing Biomedical Scientist cohort to achieve dual registration.

**SHARED TRAINING ACTIVITIES**

- Multi-disciplinary team meetings where patient care and appropriate specialist investigations are discussed
- Attendance at weekly educational morbidity meetings
- Attendance at organisation and delivery of presentations at weekly haematology meetings
- Attendance at practical laboratory sessions for 3rd year university students
- Feedback sessions and completion of reflection on learning following attendance at training courses
- Compiling training resource documents for flow cytometry, MLPA and selected genetic analyses
- Performing routine testing for both leukemia and lymphoma
- Developing new techniques for specific mutations
- Writing grant applications for research funding
- Developing new requests for specific tests
- Assisting in the design of new drug trials
- Providing feedback on patient care and treatment

**GILLIAN McGAFFIN, PRE-REGISTRATION CLINICAL SCIENTIST – TIME’S UP!!!!**

**Background**

I am currently in the second part of year 1 of my training, now based in the Haemato-oncology laboratory. During this period I have been given appropriate specialist training. 

**Examples of common training activities**

- Performing routine testing for both leukemia and lymphoma
- Developing new techniques for specific mutations
- Writing grant applications for research funding
- Developing new requests for specific tests
- Assisting in the design of new drug trials
- Providing feedback on patient care and treatment