Specialty: Histopathology

GMC: WOS/506

Deanery sponsoring programme: West of Scotland
Postgraduate Dean: Professor Alastair McGowan
Responsible Associate Dean/GP Director: Dr Robin Reid

Programme Type -
- Deanery-based or National: Deanery
- Specialty or Sub-specialty: Specialty

Date of GMC recent approval: August 2010

Associated Royal College / Faculty: Royal College of Pathologists

Web address: Link

Curriculum and Associated Assessment System: Link

Date programme information last updated: August 2010

Recognised Programme Locations and Environments
This programme involves placements in some or all of these Health Boards and hospitals:

West of Scotland – placements in Glasgow hospitals, Greenock, Airdrie, Kilmarnock and Stirling;
Glasgow Royal, Glasgow
Western Infirmary, Glasgow
Southern General, Glasgow
Royal Alexandra Hospital, Paisley
Inverclyde Hospital, Greenock
Inverclyde Hospital, Greenock
Monklands Hospital, Airdrie
Crosshouse Hospital, Kilmarnock
Stirling Royal Infirmary, Stirling
Yorkhill Hospital, Glasgow
Forensic Department, University of Glasgow

Programme Director: Dr Jenny Tolhurst

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Programme Description

1 a. What particular specialty learning opportunities does this program provide e.g. sub-specialty exposure, especially those which are not available elsewhere?

A full range of subspecialty experience is available in neuropathology at the Institute for Neurological Sciences, paediatric and perinatal pathology at The Royal Hospital for Sick Children and forensic pathology at Glasgow University’s department of forensic medicine.

b. How do trainees access these opportunities?

Trainees rotate for a week to neuropathology at ST1 level and to paediatric pathology for a similar period in ST2 year. This is supplemented by a further 4 weeks in both subspecialties later in training. Trainees also have regular week long attachments to the forensic department throughout their training to maintain exposure to post mortem practice.

2 a. What opportunities are there for research, audit and teaching?

Audit projects are actively encouraged in each rotation with opportunity to present findings at local meetings. Many opportunities for participating in teaching from undergraduate PBL teaching to lecturing to a variety of groups including nurses, dentists and science students. Regular participation in weekly postgraduate teaching afternoon is expected.

b. How do trainees access these opportunities?

Via educational supervisors and clinical supervisors.

3 a. How are rotations on hospital sites organised?

Rotations are decided by the educational subcommittee on an individual trainee basis following requests from trainees and taking into account their specific training needs at any given point in their programme.

b. Which hospitals are involved?

All of the hospitals listed above are involved in the rotations.

c. What degree of choice is there for trainees?

Trainees submit a request for their preferred hospital(s) with reasons for this preference. This is then discussed at the educational subcommittee meeting.

4. What teaching (e.g. day-release or exam preparation) or learning opportunities (e.g. e-learning, OOPE), are unique to this post or a key feature in the West?

In the ST1 year trainees are allowed to attend a 2 week introductory course held in the West as well as a 2 week pre ST1 assessment course held elsewhere in Scotland.

During ST1-5 there is a structured local postgraduate teaching programme at which attendance is compulsory. Opportunity to attend pre part 1 preparation courses and residential surgical pathology and cytopathology course in preparation for part 2, all of which are funded.
5. What can trainees expect of their trainers in this post?

There is very close supervision of all aspects of trainees work throughout their training. More senior trainees will often be allowed more scope for independent work following success at postgraduate exams. There is regular feedback at monthly/3monthly and 6 monthly intervals from clinical and educational supervisors.

6. What are key markers of success? (e.g. exam pass rates. MD, PhD, papers)

Excellent pass rates for both FRCPath part 1 and 2. 100% pass rate for part 1 and 70-100% for the part 2 (this is much higher than the UK average). A number of trainees opt to take a Phd/MD during their training, this is encouraged and supported.

7. What additional information would you like to include that may encourage trainees to apply for specialty training in this programme in preference to similar programmes in other parts of the UK?

Histopathology training in the West of Scotland offers the opportunity to experience pathology both within large university teaching departments with subspecialisation and smaller district general hospitals. A full range of subspecialty experience is available in neuropathology at the Institute for Neurological Sciences, paediatric and perinatal pathology at The Royal Hospital for Sick Children and forensic pathology at Glasgow University's department of forensic medicine. Research opportunities also exist at the new Beatson Institute.

Programme Description submitted in 2009-2010

Pathology is the “science” of medicine. The pathologist is an essential member of the multidisciplinary team when it comes to patient management.

The West of Scotland training programme in pathology is an excellent training programme which conforms to all of the formal training guidelines laid out by the Royal College of Pathologists. This programme is unique in Scotland as the various West of Scotland training departments are able to offer a superb mix of specialist and generalist training across the full range of specialties within pathology. This includes Paediatric Pathology, Neuropathology and Forensic Medicine, giving trainees the opportunity to subspecialise if desired. Many of the central hospitals are tertiary referral centres for highly specialised surgery therefore producing a variety of complex resections and interesting pathologies that are not seen elsewhere. Trainees are closely supervised and their training needs are carefully monitored throughout this 5 year programme. The West of Scotland has many training resources locally and the deanery supports training and educational opportunities outwith the deanery when required especially in run up to exams. The West also offers great opportunities for trainees to participate in teaching and research which are available through the university academic department. The West has had an excellent pass rate for both part 1 and 2 exams over recent years. Trainees located in Glasgow can easily commute to rotations beyond the city itself.

The West of Scotland also offers a wide variety of city and country activities that would suit many different lifestyles and cultures. There is a good range of schools and a wide range of housing in this area.

Histopathology is a wide ranging specialty covering Surgical Pathology, Cytopathology and autopsies. The 5 year training programme is relatively short in comparison to other specialties, and has recognised subspecialty training in Paediatric Pathology, Neuropathology and Forensic Medicine if desired.

Providing all the college training guidelines are met, career progression is relatively quick with opportunities to take time out for research if required. Histopathology is non-core and entry is usually at ST1.

How to apply

www.scotmt.scot.nhs.uk/
Specialty: Histopathology

GMC: WOS/506

Deanery Administrative Contacts

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Quality of Training

GMC Trainee Survey Information (2010)  Link