Specialty: Neurosurgery

GMC: WOS/467

Deanery sponsoring programme: West of Scotland
Postgraduate Dean: Professor Alastair McGowan
Responsible Associate Dean/GP Director: Mr Dominique Byrne

Programme Type -
- Deanery-based or National: National (West and East)
- Specialty or Sub-specialty: Specialty

Date of GMC recent approval: August 2010

Associated Royal College / Faculty Joint Committee on Surgical Training

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:
- Southern General Hospital, Glasgow
- Ninewells Hospital, Dundee

Programme Director William Taylor
Contact Southern General Hospital Tel: 0141 201 1100

Neurosurgery in Scotland is delivered from four regional neuroscience centres located in the vibrant cities of Glasgow, Edinburgh, Dundee and Aberdeen. Training in all aspects of neurosurgery including the sub-specialities of paediatrics, cerebrovascular, functional/epilepsy, skull-base/pituitary and complex spine surgery are provided for all trainees within the training programme and there are ample opportunities for research. Each unit and city has its own individual character and all provide an excellent quality of life with easy access to the Scottish countryside.

Neurosurgical training in Scotland is appointed through the UK national selection process and offers run-through training from ST 1. Training is delivered at all of the four neurosurgical centres in Scotland with trainees based in either the West between Glasgow and Dundee or in the East between Edinburgh and Aberdeen. The programme is administered through a Scottish training committee, which oversees trainee’s progress and their specific training needs. Education is tailored to the ISCP curriculum in neurosurgery and is delivered within individual units. A recent initiative has been a joint anatomy course for Scottish trainees.

All recent CCT holders from this programme have been successfully appointed into UK consultant posts.
Programme Descriptor submitted in 2009-2010

The West of Scotland training programme offers run-through training from ST1-8 with the majority of training in a large neurosurgical unit which supports all the major sub-specialties within neurosurgery.

The programme fulfils the curriculum for basic neuroscience training in years 1-2 with the first year spent in neurosurgery, neurology and neuro-intensive care. The second year is spent in relevant surgical specialities with six months in maxillofacial surgery / ENT in the onsite regional unit with six months in general surgery within the west of Scotland.

During years 3-4 of the programme a year is spent in the Dundee unit which is a smaller unit than Glasgow but provides excellent early years training particularly in spinal surgery.

The remaining years are spent in the Glasgow unit which serves a population of just fewer than 3 million people and provides training in complex spine, functional/epilepsy, paediatric and cranio-facial surgery, vascular, pituitary and skull base surgery.

Research and audit are encouraged and trainees are assessed with the ARCP process.

Both Glasgow and Dundee offer a high quality of living with good transport links and are both within easy reach of the Scottish countryside and the outdoor activities it offers.

Neurosurgery is “uncoupled” from core training and run through training can be entered after foundation training. It can also be entered after or during core surgical training.

How to apply

www.scotmt.scot.nhs.uk/

Deanery Administrative Contacts

Name: Helen Biggins, Team Leader
Address: NES, 2 Central Quay, 89 Hydepark Street, Glasgow, G3 8BW
Tel: 0141 223 1412
Email: Helen.Biggins@nes.scot.nhs.uk

Specialty Training Committee

Chair: Chris Morran

Quality of Training

GMC Trainee Survey Information (2010) Link