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: Deanery
- Specialty or Sub-specialty: Specialty

Date of GMC recent approval: August 2010
Associated Royal College / Faculty: Joint Committee on Surgical Training

Web address
Curriculum and Associated Assessment System

Date programme information last updated August 2011

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

Ayr Hospital
Crosshouse Hospital
Monklands DGH Airdrie
Stirling Royal Infirmary
Inverclyde Royal Hospital Greenock
Southern General Hospital Glasgow
Royal Alexandra Hospital Paisley
Royal Hospital for Sick Children Glasgow
Golden Jubilee National Hospital, Clydebank
Victoria Infirmary Glasgow
Western Infirmary
Glasgow Royal infirmary
Wishaw DGH
Falkirk & District Royal Infirmary
Dumfries & Galloway Royal Infirmary
Hairmyres Hospital East Kilbride

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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?

The orthopaedic training programme in the West of Scotland offers training in the whole breadth of orthopaedic surgery with the exception of spinal deformity surgery. It offers opportunities to gain experience in all subspecialties and in particular the West of Scotland hosts the National spinal injuries service and the National brachial plexus injury service. The Royal Hospital for Sick Children has the largest single group of paediatric orthopaedic surgeons in Scotland offering trainees an excellent experience in this subspecialty. In addition the national waiting times centre at the Golden Jubilee National hospital is situated within the region. This unit carries out somewhere in the region of 2000 joint arthroplasties per year and can therefore offer trainees a unique level of exposure to this type of surgery. In addition, a number of hospitals within the region offer experience in such procedures as hip arthroscopy, and computer navigated surgery and there are also tertiary referral centres for complex elbow trauma, pelvic and acetabular trauma and circular frame surgery. Hospitals within the region also contribute to the Scottish sarcoma managed clinical network.

b. How do trainees access these opportunities?

All trainees will rotate through the Royal Hospital for Sick Children at Yorkhill at some stage during their training. In general this is done close to their specialty examination in order that this important subspecialty is still fresh in a trainee's memory prior to the exam. Thereafter further exposure to paediatric orthopaedic surgery can be arranged by the training programme director. Not every trainee will have the opportunity to be exposed to all of the above opportunities, however the training programme director does his best to accommodate specific requests.

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

Audit and research is actively encouraged throughout the programme. We encourage audit to be trainee driven but all training units are able to offer guidance on what is achievable in that unit. The training programme has forged close links with a number of academic departments throughout the city, including the bioengineering unit of Strathclyde University, the anatomy Dept of Glasgow University, the tissue engineering section of the Dept of engineering at Glasgow University and the Dept of experimental medicine within Glasgow University. These links have greatly strengthened research activity by West of Scotland orthopaedic trainees over the last few years and have significantly increased the number of presentations from local trainees at Scottish and UK national meetings. In particular at ST3 level, trainees are given the specific objective, as part of their educational goals, of undertaking a research project during that year. These collaborations offer opportunities for an MPhil with the option of an MD or Ph.D. thereafter.

The opportunity to teach is variable given the current structure of the undergraduate curriculum in Glasgow. This is under review. All trainees are encouraged to go on a clinical supervisors course towards the end of their training to prepare them for a consultant post.

b. How do trainees access these opportunities?

Currently the entire ST3 year is spent within city hospitals in order to facilitate the start-up of research projects within the linked departments. At the start of the year trainees are e-mailed with the names of the contacts in the various departments and actively encouraged to make contact with these departments. In addition there is a specific research supervisor within each of the 4 city hospitals whose role is to encourage and guide trainees in their research projects.

3 a. How are rotations are hospital sites organised?

In order to meet the specific educational needs of individual trainees all the rotations are individually planned. Currently most ST1 posts are within the city with ST2 posts being in district hospitals. Although rotation to other specialties is an option, in general over the last few years orthopaedic trainees have spent their entire time at ST1 and ST2 within orthopaedics. Between ST3 and ST6 time is split between city and district hospitals offering postings covering the breadth of orthopaedic surgery. There will be an attachment in paediatric orthopaedic surgery around
the time of the specialty examination, and in the last 18 months the rotation is generally planned individually with the training programme director to meet the needs and interests of each trainee. Where appropriate, out of programme experience is encouraged as part of developing a subspeciality interest towards the end of training.

b. Which hospitals are involved?

All of the hospitals listed above take orthopaedic trainees.

c. What degree of choice is there for trainees?

Given the individual nature of each rotation, the training programme director does his best to accommodate all reasonable requests so long as they do not disadvantage others.

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?

There is a core curriculum teaching programme that runs most Friday afternoons throughout the year with the exception of peak holiday periods. This programme is highly rated by the trainees and came 3rd in a national survey of the satisfaction of orthopaedic trainees with their core curriculum teaching. This includes cadaver-based teaching from time to time as well as specific sessions on clinical examination. In addition, to help trainees prepare for the specialty examination, instructional sessions in viva examination technique are also run.

5. What can trainees expect of their trainers in this post?

There has been significant consultant expansion in the West of Scotland over the last few years with the result that many of the trainers in the region are young, energetic, and enthusiastic. There is a close community within orthopaedics in the West of Scotland which leads to excellent communication with and support for the trainees.

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

Trainees within the West of Scotland have an above average pass rate in the intercollegiate specialty examination. The level of operative experience of trainees in the West of Scotland, as recorded in the electronic logbook, is generally above the national average. 2 trainees are currently completing Ph.D.’s and a number of others are working on M.D.’s and M.Phil.’s.

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?

Aside from the fact that Glasgow is simply the best place to live in Scotland, offering the widest possible range of recreational opportunities, the trainees on the West of Scotland programme share a very positive experience of their training. This results in a great team spirit amongst the trainees who share a good social life in Glasgow, with the highlight of the year being the annual trainee’s dinner.
Programme Descriptor submitted in 2009-2010

The West of Scotland Orthopaedic training programme provides training in 16 hospitals across the region and serves half the Scottish population. A consequence of this is that trainees in the West of Scotland programme generally have surgical experience above the national average. As well as providing a volume and breadth of experience the training programme covers all major Orthopaedic subspecialties with the exception of spinal deformity. The region contains the Scottish National brachial plexus injury treatment service, the Scottish National spinal injuries unit and also contributes to the orthopaedic oncology managed clinical network. The Scottish National waiting times centre at the Golden Jubilee hospital is also within the area giving trainees an excellent exposure to arthroplasty surgery. The programme has forged strong links with the bioengineering department of Strathclyde University, and with the division of immunology, infection and inflammation in the University of Glasgow. This means that the programme is able to provide ample opportunities for research, and this is actively encouraged as part of training.

Glasgow is simply the best place to live in Scotland. It has been European city of culture, and the SECC is a regular venue on the international tours of a wide variety of live acts. The surrounding countryside provides excellent recreational opportunities including world-famous golf courses, world-class sailing, and top quality hillwalking. The international airport is a major hub providing ready access to many destinations.

How to apply

http://www.scotmt.scot.nhs.uk/

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Specialty Training Committee

Chair: Mr A Kinninmonth

Quality of Training

GMC Trainee Survey Information (2011) Link