Introduction

The Newcastle fellowship programme commenced in 2013 and has been running successfully since. The 1 year programme is designed for a fully trained, post FRCS and near/post CCT orthopaedic surgeon. The programme welcomes both national as well as international candidates with identical credentials.

To date (01/19) we have successfully trained 6 fellows (4 international), 4 of which are now practicing consultants in this field and 2 still finalising their training.

The Musculoskeletal Services Directorate comprises elective and trauma Orthopaedics, Rheumatology and Metabolic Bone Disease. There are close links with the Musculoskeletal Research Group at Newcastle University and with Paediatric Rheumatology. Elective orthopaedic surgery and Foot and Ankle surgery is based at the Freeman Hospital while the Orthopaedic Trauma Unit, the Spinal Service and Paediatric Orthopaedics are sited at the Royal Victoria Infirmary (RVI). Elective Foot and Ankle outpatient clinics are held in the Musculoskeletal Outpatient Department and inpatient beds are all based at Freeman Hospital.

The Orthopaedic Foot and Ankle Team

- Mr Malik Siddique  Foot and Ankle Surgeon
- Mr Paulo Torres  Foot and Ankle Surgeon  (Programme Director)
- Mr. Simon Chambers  Foot and Ankle Surgeon
- Mr. Sultan Qasim  Foot and Ankle Surgeon
- Mrs Sue Bates  Nurse Practitioner
- Mrs Teri Ruddock  Nurse Practitioner
- Mr Bob Fleck  Specialist in Biomechanics
- Mrs J Ramaskandan  ESP and Research Physiotherapist
- Mrs Kate Barker  ESP and Research Physiotherapist
The Fellowship

The Foot and Ankle Team provides a regional service and is a tertiary referral centre for complex foot and ankle reconstructive surgery for the Northern Region with a catchment population of 2.5 million. The unit has a national reputation for clinical excellence in foot and ankle surgery and high quality research output.

It is highly regarded as a centre of excellence for Total Ankle Arthroplasty, Arthroscopic Regenerative Joint Surgery and Complex Deformity Correction. It has a high exposure to orthopaedic problems related to Diabetes, Rheumatology and Neuromuscular disorders. Training includes the relevant aspects of biomechanics and orthotics.

We have a fully equipped assessment laboratory for Video and Vicon Gait analysis, Electromyography, Pedobarographic Studies, Pain Mapping, PROM’s and Clinical Assessments. Most new patients undergo their initial assessment through this facility with active involvement of the Fellow and Registrars.

Mr Torres is the Current Chairman of NOFAS (Northern Orthopaedic Foot and Ankle Society), and, together with his team, arranges bimonthly regional meetings. These are well attended by Regional Consultants, Registrars, Specialist Nurses, Biomechanists and Physiotherapists.

The post provides comprehensive training in all aspects of foot and ankle surgery and is aimed at someone seeking specialist training prior to taking up a consultant career in foot and ankle surgery.

Duties and Responsibilities:

Clinical:

- Assessment and treatment of foot and ankle patients, formulation of treatment plans and development of decision making skills leading to independent practice.

- To perform surgical procedures, initially under consultant supervision, aiming to develop the skills for independent operating and eventually operating independently.

- Post op care of patients in ward and clinic settings.
Administrative:

- Joint coordination of weekly Foot and Ankle MDT for review of complex cases, topic-based discussions, and presentation of audit and research projects.
- To assist with improvement of data collection for monitoring clinical outcomes to support appraisal and revalidation systems.

Research:

- There are ample opportunities for audit and research activity with objective output.
- There is protected time for the Foot and Ankle Fellow to produce work and allow participation in ongoing research projects.
- There is access to a complete, computerised data base of all ankle replacements since 2006, a Trauma register, including all foot and ankle injuries and pre and post-op PROM’s.
- The Trust has close research links with associated Universities (Newcastle and Northumbria).
- Newcastle University has National and International reputations in research including bone biology, muscle disease, inflammatory arthritis and biomechanics. There is also a strong Clinical Trials Unit and a Clinical Research Facility.
- We are a participating centre in the TARVA trial
- The Fellow will have the opportunity to achieve presentations at national meetings and publications in peer reviewed journals. Recent Fellows have achieved podium presentations at both AOFAS and BOFAS.
- The unit is very active in research, and, on multiple occasions, the research presented has won research awards at international meetings.

Teaching:

- There will be opportunities to engage in teaching of junior medical and allied staff.
- The Foot and Ankle Consultants are actively involved in local and national teaching programmes, including running cadaveric courses in the Newcastle Surgical Training Centre. Involvement and participation with this teaching is encouraged.

Weekly Timetable (Flexible and Variable to maximize learning opportunities)

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No On call commitments attached to this post.