

## **CLINICAL PAEDIATRIC ORTHOPAEDIC FELLOWSHIP**

**January 2010 – July 2011**

### **Introduction**

The Fellowship in Paediatric Orthopaedics at The Royal Children's Hospital, Melbourne, was established in 1978 and has continued uninterrupted since that year. The Fellowship is available to suitable Australian and overseas candidates with appropriate qualifications.

The Fellowship is designed to provide occupational training for those orthopaedic surgeons who have carried out their preliminary training and obtained a Fellowship of a Royal College or equivalent overseas Postgraduate Diploma, and who wish to specialise in paediatric orthopaedic surgery. The post is recognised by ACORE (Advisory Council for Orthopaedic Resident Education) and AOA (Australian Orthopaedic Association).

The training will enhance the trainee's qualification and ability in his home country. In most countries all specialists are encouraged to do a recognised Fellowship and appointment to consultant's posts are dependent on the candidate having performed such a Fellowship. The Orthopaedic Department at The Royal Children's Hospital, Melbourne, is a major paediatric orthopaedic department of world standing. The Fellowship is recognised as a leading post for occupational training in this speciality, annually attracting up to twenty applicants for this position.

The Fellow will be working with the staff of the Orthopaedic Department, all of whom are appointed as Teachers of the Department of Paediatrics of the University of Melbourne, and who possess appropriate postgraduate qualifications.

The Royal Children's Hospital itself is a specialist paediatric hospital and provides a full range of clinical services, tertiary care and health promotion prevention programs for children and adolescents. The hospital is the major specialist paediatric hospital in Victoria and also cares for children from Tasmania and Southern NSW servicing in total approximately a population of 6 million. Referrals also come from other states around Australia and overseas.

As the major paediatric hospital in Victoria, The Royal Children's Hospital provides clinical, academic and advocacy services for children and young people throughout the state. It is internationally recognised as a leading centre for research and education.

The hospital was established in 1870 and has been located on its present site at Parkville in Melbourne since 1963. It has 250 beds, and treats approximately 32,000 in-patients per year with a total of 280,000 children seen in the hospital annually.

The orthopaedic department is a stand alone facility consisting of administrative support, outpatient facilities and the Gait Laboratory in close proximity to the orthopaedic research laboratories that specialise in molecular biology of bone and cartilage growth and development.

## **Outline of Training Program**

The Orthopaedic Unit as outlined covers general paediatric orthopaedic with specific clinics for cerebral palsy, limb reconstructive surgery and spinal disorders. During the Fellows training he/she will rotate through these units with slightly different commitments in each rotation.

In general paediatric orthopaedics the Fellow will attend Outpatient Clinics supervised by a consultant orthopaedic surgeon and Fracture Clinics and in these clinics the Fellow consult on patients and liaise with his/her consultant surgeon in regard to formulating an appropriate management plan. Some of these patients will be scheduled for surgical procedures. For those particular patients the Fellow will be obliged to work out to make a surgical plan which will involve the surgical procedure itself, the provision of specific implant needs and the ordering of investigations deemed appropriate. In the post-operative phase the Fellow is the person responsible for conducting Ward Rounds on the patients with the Registrar and Junior Medical Staff. It is the Fellow's responsibility to identify issues on those post-operative patients and communicate those issues to his consultant surgeon.

In the cerebral palsy service the Fellow will see patients in the Outpatient setting. Some of those patients will have further investigation through the Gait Laboratory service. The Fellow will attend the reporting of patients in the Gait Laboratory and following those reporting sessions the Fellow will consult with his surgeon in formulating an appropriate surgical plan for the patient who is then booked for surgery. The Fellow is then responsible for assisting certain surgical procedures and conducting some the surgical procedures with or without supervision where deemed appropriate. For post-operative course is outlined above.

In the limb reconstruction and spinal services the Fellow would attend the respective specialised clinics which act as tertiary referral base. The Fellow will consult and examine patients in that setting and following appropriate investigations and assessment of the deformities involved formulate a plan for management which will be discussed with the consultant orthopaedic surgeon. Once again some of these patients will require surgical intervention and thus require appropriate work-up and coordination with the nurse co-ordinator for those respective sub-speciality areas. The patients will then be booked for surgery and it is the Fellows responsibility to ensure that appropriate surgical plan is made and that plan is discussed with the consultant surgeon. Part of the responsibility lies in making sure that the appropriate theatre facilities are organised with implants and radiographic services as needed. Once again the follow-up care in the Ward comes under the Fellows responsibility.

## **Specific Training Objectives**

The trainee will receive training in the conservative and operative management of the following disorders:

- **Congenital Disorders**

Club foot, congenital hip dysplasia, limb deficiency, a wide variety of other congenital anomalies of the upper and lower limbs.

- **Spinal Surgery**  
Spinal surgery for scoliosis, kyphosis and lordosis. Also spinal surgery involved in the management of tumours and infections of the spine and other mechanical disorders including spondylolisthesis and disc protrusions in adolescents.
- **Abnormalities of Gait in Children and Adolescents**  
The recognition of those abnormalities requiring parental reassurance and those requiring treatment and the more precise nature of management to be carried out for such postural abnormalities.
- **Neurological Disorders**  
Cerebral palsy, myelomeningocele, Erb-Duchenne dystrophy and a variety of related disorders
- **Metabolic Disorders**  
A range of metabolic diseases including those related to vitamin D metabolism and storage problems.
- **Osteochondritis – juvenile and related disorders**  
This includes Perthes disease and a wide variety of similar disorders.
- **Slipped Upper Femoral Epiphysis**
- **Fracture Management in Children**  
The appropriate non-operative and operative management of the full range of childhood fractures.
- **Limb Reconstruction Deficiencies**  
Comprehensive expose to all the facets of congenital and acquired limb deformities and deficiencies including ablated and reconstructive options

### **Designated Supervisor of Training**

Supervision of training is undertaken by Professor and the Director of Orthopaedics. Professor Kerr Graham, Professor of Orthopaedics in the University of Melbourne, is also the head of the Gait Laboratory at The Royal Children's Hospital, Melbourne. Clinical A/Professor Leo Donnan is the Director of Orthopaedics and Head of the Limb Reconstruction Service whilst Mr Ian Torode is Deputy Director and Head of Spinal Services.

### **Counselling and Guidance to be provided by the Designated Supervisor**

The designated Supervisor will provide counselling and guidance on all aspects of the trainee's fulfilment of the training objectives (as stated above). This will include rostering of clinical work, of research periods, of training periods and of teaching periods and ensuring that the rostered duties are carried out.

It will also include the provision of adequate faculties (office and secretarial staff) for research projects to be carried out and the designation of the nature of these projects and the colleagues and assistants who will be working with the trainee in carrying out such research projects.

## Assessment of Trainees

Formal assessment of the Fellow undertaken on a continual basis and in the following areas:

- **Outpatient Attendances**  
The trainee will attend general outpatient clinics and sub-speciality clinics (Cerebral Palsy, Limb Deficiency, Limb Reconstruction and Spine).
- **Ward Rounds**  
The trainee will carry out daily ward rounds and these ward rounds will, at least twice a week, be carried out as a formal teaching ward round supervised by a member of the consultant staff.
- **Operations and Investigative Procedures**  
The trainee will, under supervision, operate upon the various conditions already listed and assisted at operations on these conditions. He or she will also carry out, under supervision as necessary, investigative procedures of these conditions. He or she will be involved in theatre work for a minimum of two half days per week.
- **Audits**  
Regular auditing of results is carried out in the Department during weekly ward rounds and during the weekly Case Conference. Regular reviews of the results of our treatment are carried out by various members of the Department with the assistance of Fellows, and these are frequently published.
- **Continuing Medical Education**  
The weekly Case Conference includes the presentation of difficult problem cases and the discussion of management by members of the Consultant Staff. Trainees are freely involved in the discussion of the management of these patients and given guidance. There is a weekly X-Ray session carried out by a Radiologist at the Hospital which is purely of a teaching nature. Teaching ward rounds occur at least twice a week and the attention is given to discussion of management of patients during these ward rounds.  
  
The trainee attends all orthopaedic meetings carried out in the City of Melbourne and attends at least one national meeting of the Australian Orthopaedic Association during his appointment. The department is visited by overseas Orthopaedic Surgeons who give teaching lectures to trainees.
- **Teaching**  
The trainee will be involved in the teaching of Residents and Registrars. The teaching will be carried out both formally and informally; formal teaching sessions of medical students by Fellows takes place on a regular basis whilst the students are within the Hospital. More informal teaching of undergraduates is carried out by the Fellow to individual students attached to the Orthopaedic Department. The Fellow is also involved in the teaching of Residents and Registrars when he or she is carrying out procedures in the Emergency Department such as the reduction of fractures under anaesthesia, and elsewhere in the Hospital.
- **Research**  
The Fellow will carry out several research projects during his or her 12 months in the Department. These projects are decided upon by discussion between the Fellow and members of the Department. Research is supervised by the designated supervisor of training

who ensures that the work is carried out adequately and arranges for its ultimate publication. The research is generally clinical research, though facilities are available for laboratory research. The Orthopaedic Research Unit is geographically close to the Orthopaedic Department, within the Hospital, and we work in close association with the Orthopaedic Research Unit.

## Contact

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[http://www.rch.org.au/ortho/edu.cfm?doc\\_id=8366](http://www.rch.org.au/ortho/edu.cfm?doc_id=8366)