

## **JOB DESCRIPTION**

### **Clinical Fellow/TSC in Vitreoretinal surgery**

#### **1. THE HOSPITAL**

##### **WEST OF ENGLAND EYE UNIT, ROYAL DEVON & EXETER HOSPITAL**

The West of England Eye Unit within the Royal Devon & Exeter Hospital, forms one of the 2 teaching hospitals of the Southern Rotation, along with the Royal Eye Infirmary in Plymouth. The Hospital is associated with the University of Exeter Medical School.

The hospital has in-patient beds on Otter Ward, along with paediatric beds on Bramble Ward, which are immediately adjacent to the ophthalmology theatres. The Department moved to the main Royal Devon & Exeter Hospital site in 1993, having previously been housed in the West of England Eye Infirmary, the second established Eye Infirmary in England after Moorfields Eye Hospital. The Unit remains self-contained with an out-patients department, day case/cataract unit, 2 dedicated eye theatres, injection clean room, ophthalmic photography including fluorescein angiography and ICG with the Heidelberg HRA and Optos systems, Pascal, SLT and YAG lasers, electrodiagnostic studies (to ISCEV standards), library and offices all incorporated within the Unit. The Eye Unit is well integrated into the rest of the Hospital with ready access to radiology, paediatric department and accident and emergency facilities.

The Unit provides ophthalmic service to Exeter, Mid Devon and East Devon, primarily covering a population of 400,000. The Unit has a satellite service at Axminster Hospital where day case cataract surgery and other ophthalmic procedures are performed. Peripheral clinics are also run in the outlying areas. The West of England Eye Unit has close links with colleagues in other hospitals throughout the peninsula. The total out-patient attendances at the West of England Eye Unit and the clinics that we run is 80,000 per year and the total number of operations we do at the West of England Eye Unit is 5000-6000, with 1000 being done at Axminster. The library has computers with internet links, projection facilities and an iMac computer for video editing.

#### **2. THE WORK OF THE DEPARTMENT**

Training is given in all branches of ophthalmology. This includes routine out-patient work, special clinics and in-patient management. The Department has an active teaching programme including a regular Friday afternoon teaching programme either at the West of England Eye Unit or in neighbouring units within the South West. There is a weekly fluorescein angiography meeting. Special clinics are held in glaucoma, surgical retina, medical retina, uveitis, paediatric ophthalmology, ocular motility, retinopathy of prematurity, diabetic retinopathy, oculoplastic, neuro-ophthalmology, cornea and botulinum toxin clinics. Electro-diagnostic studies are performed and reported within the department, using ISCEV standards.

### 3. **THE JOB ITSELF**

#### Title

Ophthalmology Fellow/TSC Vitreoretinal surgery  
RCOphth approved TSC

Supervising Consultants: Mr Conor Ramsden, Mr Peter Simcock, Mr Roland Ling

#### Training Objectives:

The aim of this fellowship is to prepare the Fellow for Consultant practice as a general Ophthalmologist with a special interest in vitreoretinal surgery.

We would aim to train the Fellow to be proficient in techniques of vitreoretinal surgery including retinal detachment repair, vitrectomy, ILM peeling, retinal laser with both indirect laser and further fellowship training objectives.

1. Competency in assessment and management of elective and emergency surgical retinal conditions.
2. Competency in vitrectomy and scleral buckling for retinal detachment repair.
3. Competency in vitrectomy for vitreomacular interface conditions (Macular hole, epiretinal membrane).
4. Competency in all retinal laser procedures.
5. Understanding of evidence based surgical retinal management

#### **Vitreo-retinal Fellow timetable**

	<b><u>AM</u></b>	<b><u>PM</u></b>
<b>MONDAY</b>	Flashers & Floaters - CR	Vitreoretinal Theatre - CR
<b>TUESDAY</b>	Retinal Laser Clinic	Admin
<b>WEDNESDAY</b>	Retina clinic - RHL	ED
<b>THURSDAY</b>	Vitreoretinal theatre - RHL	Vitreoretinal theatre - RHL
<b>FRIDAY</b>	Vitreoretinal Theatre - CR	TEACHING

a) Relationships

Consultants

Mr R Munneke	Primary care Ophthalmology (Lead Clinician)
Mr J Benzimra	Neuro-ophthalmology, Paediatric Ophthalmology, Strabismus, Dystonia
Mr D Byles	Glaucoma, Electrodiagnosis
Miss F Irvine	Oculoplastics
Mr N Knox-Cartwright	Cornea and External Disease
Mr H Roberts	Cornea and External Disease
Mr Conor Ramsden	Surgical Retina
Mr R Ling	Medical and Surgical retina
Mr P Simcock	Medical and Surgical retina
Mr M Smith	Glaucoma
Miss H Von Lany	Medical and Surgical Retina
Mr N Bowley	Medical Retina Lead
Mr A Cowdray	Glaucoma
Miss I Pereni	Oculoplastics
Mrs E Wilkinson	Consultant Medical Ophthalmologist/Clinical Director Transformation

Titles of Other Grades of Medical Staff

4 x	Deanery Specialist Registrars
6 x	Fellows (including this post)

Ophthalmology is part of the Surgery Directorate

4. **FACILITIES**

a) Theatre Facilities

The twin operating theatres are located within the Eye Unit and both have ceiling mounted Leica operating microscopes equipped with CCTV and monitors in the theatre and in 2 adjacent rooms for teaching purposes. There are iMac computers in both theatres for recording microsurgery and editing video. Each theatre has facilities for phaco-emulsification. One theatre is fully equipped for vitreo-retinal surgery. The theatre laser is used for both endo-laser and indirect laser. There is excellent support from the Department of Anaesthesia, with anaesthetists present for all lists except local anaesthetic eyelid anaesthesia. There is also a 'clean room' for intravitreal injections and a recovery room in theatre. There is also a theatre equipped with microscope and phacoemulsification at RD&E Axminster site. Some oculoplastic surgery also takes place at RD&E Sidmouth site.

Over 95% of patients are operated on as day cases. The Glaucoma Service is equipped with a diode laser in theatre for endo-laser and external/indirect laser. There is also day-case unit adjacent to theatres, which allows rapid turnaround of cataract patients into and out of the theatre complex. The Day Case Unit is equipped with its own examination rooms for pre and post operative cataract consultations and for biometry,

mainly using the IOL master 700. There is a continuous audit of cataract surgery complications within the Department.

b) Out-Patients

The Out-patient Department has been equipped to a very high standard with fully equipped consulting rooms adjacent to Pascal laser and YAG/SLT laser suites and a minor operating theatre/clean room for intravitreal injections. There are 2 photographers based within the Unit and the Department has digital HRA and Optos FFA and ICG facilities. Two Zeiss cirrus OCT scanners and one Cirrus Photo OCT are present for imaging in the medical and macula clinics. There is a modern, diagnostic ultrasound scanner with video capture and UBM (anterior segment imaging) capability. A Pentacam HR corneal topographer and anterior segment analyser is also available. The Department has excellent electrodiagnostic studies instruments and this service is run in conjunction with the Department of Neurophysiology. The Glaucoma Unit is equipped with 3 networked Humphrey field analyser II machines, and also has OCT for optic nerve topography. The Orthoptic Department like all other departments is within the Unit, and comprises of 7 orthoptists (equivalent to 4.5 full-time). There are 2 full-time senior optometrists and 2 part time optometrists in the Optometry Department, providing a contact lens service and low vision aid as well as performing refractions. In addition, there are a number of visiting optometrists who come to the Department to perform follow-up vision screening as part of the vision screening service for children. A Community based diabetic retinal screening programme is in place using mobile digital cameras and there is an outreach glaucoma screening service. Community out-patient departments at Axminster, Sidmouth and Tiverton are also equipped with HFA and OCT.

5. **TEACHING/RESEARCH AND LIBRARY FACILITIES**

Fluorescein angiogram reporting session	-	Monday 9.00 – 9.45am
Journal Club	-	Friday Lunchtime

Every Friday afternoon during term time is devoted to teaching. This involves teaching sessions within the Unit and with adjacent units on a combined basis approximately once a month. In addition, there are sub-regional and regional meetings within the South West. The teaching programme involves invited speakers, Consultant Ophthalmologists and trainees along with regular audit meetings.

With the University of Exeter Medical School, the Royal Devon and Exeter Hospital has become a teaching hospital. Undergraduate facilities are on site, as well as on the St Luke's campus near by. The RILD (Research, innovation, learning and development) building opened in 2014, and connects to the medical School building. The Medical Library is housed within the Medical School building, but the West of England Eye Unit has its own library which has on line access to all the major ophthalmic journals. The Research and Development Support Unit provides statistical and study help. Research by the Specialist Registrars is encouraged at all stages. The West of England Eye Unit has a strong record of published research.

The library has a collection of textbooks, CD's and journals and is linked to on-line research facilities. Specialist Registrars will be encouraged to become involved in their own research projects. The Royal Devon & Exeter Hospital has a well-established audit department and Specialist Registrars are expected to undertake audit projects periodically.

6. **DUTIES OF THE POST**

The Ophthalmology Fellow will be employed by the Royal Devon and Exeter Foundation trust for a period of 6-12 months, renewable by mutual agreement. Ophthalmic Fellows employed by the Trust take part in the on -all rota to make it EWTD compliant.

**MAIN TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF SERVICE**

All appointments are subject to full registration with the General Medical Council.

Appointment is also subject to a satisfactory health check and co-operation with the Occupational Health Departments is requested.

The applicant is entitled to a total of 27 days Annual leave and up to 23 days paid Study leave.

7. **Exeter as a place to live:**

Exeter is a city of 130,000 people, currently the fastest growing city in the UK, located on Exe river and near to the sea (Exmouth is 8km away). The Exeter and local 'Heart of Devon' area has a population of over 400,000. The beautiful Exe estuary starts in the Exeter suburb of Topsham, which like Exeter is an ancient port. Exeter is a very pleasant place to live, with one of the finest cathedrals in England, excellent shopping facilities, good rail and bus services, excellent road links and an expanding airport. There are daily flights all over the UK and Ireland, with many wider European services including daily flights to London, Paris and Amsterdam. Dartmoor and Exmoor national parks are very close, as are the beaches of Devon and Cornwall. There are many cycling paths within and around the city, including the Topsham to Exmouth cycleway, along the Exe estuary.