

**GP with SPECIALIST INTREST IN Rheumatology**

**ROYAL DEVON UNIVERSITY HEALTHCARE NHS TRUST**

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# INTRODUCTION

Rheumatology at the Royal Devon University Healthcare NHS Trust (RDUH) is ambitious with a clear focus of delivering quality care. We are constantly looking to develop our service and adapt to the evolving challenges of a growing population. We would like to diversify our workforce and see great benefit in the recruitment of General Practitioners to the team to improve the delivery of care and move towards a more integrated care approach.

Patient feedback is extremely high and it is well regarded by clinicians in being able to deliver essential care for patients for our population. SDEC has developed successfully over the last few years receiving regional and national recognition for its high-level performance. It is consultant led and utilises a wide MDT to target the care needed for patients in a timely manner. This service is growing and reflecting the changing need of the population. We recognise having experienced GPs in the team would help to broaden the approach taken to ensure patients receive the best care they can.

Devon is a brilliant place to live. We have two of the most famous national parks on our doorstep and the beautiful Devon coastline. Outdoor activities are a major attraction with good surfing, kite surfing, road and mountain-biking, kayaking and hiking. The city itself has been voted one of the UKs most desirable places to live with a great selection of shops and independent restaurants mixed with the local farming it’s a foodie’s dream

Devon has excellent transport connections to Bristol and London and a local airport serving Europe. The city is very family orientated with great schools and offers a vast number of family-focused activities and events making it an ideal place to bring up children.

# HOSPITALS AND SERVICES

The RDUH is a great place to work. We are a large trust with a full complement of medical specialty departments and have approximately 800 beds over 30 wards. The trust has invested in a state of the art fully electronic patient management system (MY CARE/EPIC) which went live in October 2020.

The RDUH was one of the first UK trusts to gain foundation status. We are consistently ranked amongst the top trusts as a place our staff would recommend to friends and family. Training programmes are highly rated by trainers and junior doctors alike – frequently having been top ranked nationally.

The trust is managed day to day by a Trust Executive which includes a Chief Executive, Medical Director, Chief Nurse and Executive Director of Delivery, Director of Finance, Director of Operations, and (ex officio) the chairman of the Medical Staff Committee. The Medical Staff Committee which provides a forum for the discussion of any matters of interest to consultants. All consultants are encouraged to participate. The Chairman is elected and provides advice to the Trust Executive which is independent of the Associate Medical Directors.

For a full description of the main hospitals and services of the trust see the trust website <http://www.rdehospital.nhs.uk/>.

As part of our engagement in the work of the Devon Sustainability and Transformation Partnership, the trust is working increasingly closely with local provider organisations in a networked approach to clinical service delivery.

# THE WORK OF THE DEPARTMENTS AND DIVISION

In the RDUH the Rheumatology is situated on the main hospital site. Our team

comprises consultants, junior doctors, nurses and the full complement of allied health

professionals providing a wide range of general and subspecialist rheumatology and MSK services to the local population, providing seamless care through multidisciplinary team (MDT) working.

We welcome applications for part-time working.

# THE JOB ITSELF

**TITLE**: General Practitioner with Special Interest in Rheumatology.

* Be able to accurately assess a patient including history taking, examination,

diagnosis, investigation, treatment and where necessary referral onto colleagues

in a timely manner.

* Be able to accurately assess a patient for and if required carry out with a high

level of precision and accuracy, synovial fluid aspiration, an intra-articular or

soft tissue injection where appropriate.

* Employ advanced communication skills to communicate complex, sensitive and

challenging information to patients and families in ways that convey empathy

and facilitate shared clinical decision making.

* Provide professional leadership, expert rheumatology knowledge, education and

clinical advice to MDT members as necessary.

* Maintain accurate clinical records including using the electronic patient record.
* Share experience and knowledge with colleagues across the rheumatology MDT.
* Demonstrate experience of rheumatology teaching at a regional or national setting.

**Education**

* Be responsible for maintaining a personal professional profile and pursuing own professional development as necessary to perform the role.
* Be responsible for training, monitoring and developing Junior Doctor’s while on placement with Rheumatology.
* Be responsible for developing and delivering a comprehensive undergraduate education package for UEMS students including being trained in delivering assessments (CBD & mini CExs)
* Willingness to work towards obtaining a higher qualification in rheumatology or education (if not already achieved).
* Participate in learning opportunities within the service such as Peer review and the rheumatology MDT.
* Participate in audit of own practice and share with Board of Directors.

RDUH provides a substantial amount of teaching to medical students throughout the new curriculum. This teaching commitment is significant.

**General Responsibilities**

* Maintain their GMC registration and license to practice.
* Maintain the highest standards of written and verbal communication with patients and colleagues.
* Maintain accurate and contemporaneous records, both paper and electronic, in line with Pennine MSK Partnership policy

# RELATIONSHIPS:

The employer is the Royal Devon University Healthcare NHS Trust.

# DUTIES OF THE POST

## Clinical Commitments

At present we do not have Rheumatology GPs in post so there is the recognition that there may need to be some reasonable adaptions to working to establish best practice.

## Management

The appointee is expected to be responsible to the Clinical Lead, Clinical Director and Associate Medical Director (AMD) for the effective and efficient use of resources under his/her control, to contribute to the planning and development of the service and to participate in divisional/departmental meetings.

## University of Exeter Medical School

The trust has a great relationship with the University of Exeter. Rheumatology delivers parts of the clinical undergraduate teaching programme. Time for teaching and preparation is arranged by mutual agreement with the AMD within the trust’s annual job planning and appraisal process.

Links to the University bring PA opportunities in every aspect of undergraduate support, clinical and managerial. There are numerous opportunities locally to advance skills and credentials with educational roles in mind.

## Clinical Audit

We have a very successful Quality Improvement “School” engaging and encouraging junior doctors to get involved. This feeds into a local and regional QI conference. Supporting our trainee colleagues in QI and audit is an important senior role.

We participate in national audits such as SAMBA.

The trust wide adoption of EPIC in 2020 will provide great opportunities for audit and QI work.

## Research and Innovation

The appointee will be expected to participate in clinical research and service innovation. The trust hosts the National Institute of Health Research Clinical Research Network (South West Peninsula) and the appointee will be expected to identify suitable patients for clinical trials. There are opportunities for candidates to act as a Principal Investigator for NIHR clinical trials with the support from Research and Development as well as develop their own portfolio of research as a Chief Investigator with support from the Research Design Service.

All research undertaken must comply with trust policy on Research & Development. Trust policy and guidelines are available on the trust’s Intranet site and specify compliance with the Research Governance Framework for Health and Social Care.

The successful candidate will be expected participate, and in some cases lead on, improvement and innovation activity. Where such activity creates potential new intellectual property this must comply with trust policy on Innovation and Intellectual Property.

## Administration

The appointee will undertake administrative duties associated with the running of his/her clinical work.

## Professional Performance

It is a requirement that if the employee has concerns about the professional performance of a member of the medical staff, they have a duty to speak to the person concerned. If the matter is potentially serious, or satisfaction is not obtained with the direct approach, such

concerns should be discussed with the AMD, if satisfaction is again not obtained, concerns should be discussed with the Medical Director.

The appointee will be expected to take part in professional, audit, training and quality assessment activities.

The appointee will have continuing responsibility for the proper function of the service.

## Infection Control

All medical and dental staff have a duty to practice safe medicine in relation to infection control and other issues. Appointees will therefore be expected to attend infection control learning opportunities once per year as a minimum, and also to comply with trust Infection Control policies and guidelines.

## Leave

Annual and study leave will be granted to the maximum extent allowable by the Medical and Dental Terms and Conditions of Employment, but, in accordance with the trust's leave policy.

## Emergency On-call and Cover for Colleagues

Locum cover will not normally be provided.

In addition to providing emergency cover for absent colleagues it is expected that the post holder providing cover will also provide clinical supervision to junior staff caring for inpatients and day cases.

# TIMETABLE

The new appointee will have a job plan developed with the team upon appointed.

## Entry Criteria to the Grade

A doctor appointed to this grade:

* Shall have full registration and a Licence to Practice with the General Medical Council; and
* Shall have completed a minimum of 5 years medical work (either continuous period or in aggregate) since obtaining a primary medical qualification.
* Shall meet the criteria set out in the Specialist grade generic capabilities framework.

# ACADEMIC FACILITIES

The University of Exeter Medical School (formerly part of the Peninsula Medical School) is founded on a unique partnership between the University of Exeter and the NHS in Devon. All teaching is underpinned by a strong research base with research focused in the Institute of Biomedical and Clinical Science, Institute of Health and Social Care and the Institute of Clinical Education.

Years one and two of the Bachelor of Medicine, Bachelor of Surgery degree programme lay the scientific foundations for the future years of the course. Students are introduced to clinical methods and begin acquisition of a range of transferable skills, learning science within a clinical context. The programme reflects the belief that doctors need to adopt a socially accountable approach to their work and to understand the human and societal impact of disease as well as the community-wide context of contemporary health care provision. The curriculum is structured around the human life cycle and the first year student studies human physical and psychological development from birth through to

death. 70% is “core”, providing the knowledge and abilities essential for entry into the Pre- registration House Officer year and 30% is comprised of Special Study Units, which allow students to select areas of interest to study in depth.

In the second year students revisit the human life cycle, this time with an emphasis on disease and the pathological and psychological impact of illness. The Years 3 and 4 programme moves away from the traditional curriculum model to reflect today’s evolving models of care. Known as ‘Pathways of Care’, Years 3 and 4 reflects the patient experience of care in acute, primary and community care settings. Learning is patient centred. In year five students learn the job of medicine and start to develop their understanding of principles of practice in the NHS. Students are involved in a series of apprenticeship attachments; to consultants across the South West and to Principal General Practitioners on a one-to-one basis throughout Devon.

There is great scope for staff in NHS Partner Organisations to become involved in all aspects of the University of Exeter medical school curriculum for undergraduate education; for example, clinicians may be engaged as Clinical Skills Tutors, SSU Providers, and Academic Mentors.

The Institute of Biomedical and Clinical Science has developed several core “platform” technologies, accessed by a range of clinician scientists. These include: molecular genetics; clinical microvascular research; cell and molecular biology laboratories; the peninsula MRI facility on the St Luke’s Campus. Research in the field of diabetes and microvascular science is particularly strong with the University of Exeter being awarded a Queen’s Anniversary Prize for Higher Education in 2005 for the work of Professor Andrew Hattersley and his team entitled “Using genetics to improve clinical care for diabetic patients”. The Institute of Health and Social Care Research possesses core skills in epidemiology (including genetic epidemiology), health technology assessment, concordance, access to services and systematic reviews.

The Research and Development Support Unit (RDSU)

The trust holds a contract from the Department of Health to host a Peninsula wide Research and Development Support Unit to facilitate NHS R&D in the implementation of Evidence Based Practice in the research community of the Health Authority area. This new Peninsula Unit, which has been formed from three highly successful units, will involve networks throughout the Peninsula embracing both Primary and Secondary Care and will support all professional groups.

# FURTHER INFORMATION

The trust welcomes informal enquiries; the relevant people to speak to are as follows:

Acute Medicine/AHAH/ SDEC Clinical Lead: Dr Simon Patten

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