

**TRUST DOCTOR IN UPPER GI SURGERY  
(EQUIVALENT TO ST3+)**

# ROYAL DEVON UNIVERSITY HEALTHCARE NHS FOUNDATION TRUST

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### 1. INTRODUCTION

The Exeter Upper-Gastrointestinal Surgery department at the Royal Devon University Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust is a dynamic benign UGI unit and offers tertiary benign oesophago-gastric services including advanced physiology services, and is the only provider of POEM in the South West. It has one of the largest cohorts of patients treated with the LINX device in the NHS and as such, it has been at the cutting edge of benign UGI surgery for over a decade now.

This post will allow a senior candidate to support and lead a number of research projects within Benign oesophago-gastric and HPB surgery, whilst maintaining emergency surgical skills on the on call rota.

The trust has recently adopted the EPIC fully electronic patient record which is a powerful tool for data extraction and provides a joint record with North Devon District Hospital, as part of the same trust. There may be opportunities to collaborate across these sites to co-ordinate multi-center studies.

We expect to be able to register the fellow with the University of Exeter and there may be an option to extend the period of study, including working towards a higher degree.

### 2. HOSPITALS AND SERVICES.

The Royal Devon University Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust comprises all acute District General Hospital facilities and is managed day to day by a Trust Executive which includes Clinical Directors (with management contracts), a Chief Executive, a Medical Director and Directors of capital planning, finance and information, human resources, nursing, operations, and, (ex officio) the chairman of the Medical Staff Committee. There is a Medical Staff Committee of which all consultants in the Trust are members. The Committee provides a forum for the discussion of any matters of interest to consultants. The Chairman is elected and provides advice to the Trust Executive which is independent of the clinical directors.

### 3. THE SURGICAL SERVICES DIRECTORATE

The Surgical Services Directorate is based in the Royal Devon University Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust, Wonford. The Acute Surgical Services Cluster within this is composed of 22 surgeons providing the sub-specialities of: Upper GI, Colorectal, Urology and Vascular. These arrangements are set out in the table below.

Named consultants	Surgical Interests	No of STs	No of F2/CTs	No of F1s
Hardy Birchley Welchman Travers Guy McCarthy	Vascular	2	2	3
Chambers Boorman Mansfield Bethune Smart McDermott Keogh Berry Narang Sehgal Schembri Rossi Bullen Rajaretnam	Colorectal	6	2	6
Ferguson Ives Olsen Tillett Knight	Breast / Upper GI	1	1	1
Wajed Manzelli Di Mauro Reece-Smith Lunt Jones	Upper GI	4	3	3
Waine McGrath Stott Crundwell Walton Waine Cottrell Goldstraw Dutton Parsons Campaign Donaldson	Urology	4	2	3

## The UGI Team

The Exeter UGI Unit provides a full range of benign Upper GI services. The following subspecialties are therefore covered:

- Laparoscopic Cholecystectomy, including intraoperative ultrasound and laparoscopic bile duct exploration
- Laparoscopic hiatal surgery including, anti-reflux surgery using traditional fundoplication or LINX device, giant paraoesophageal hernia surgery.
- Laparoscopic Hellers cardiomyotomy and POEM
- Laparoscopic and Open hernia surgery
- Upper GI Endoscopy and Bravo probe insertion

## Emergency General/ GI Surgery

The Emergency General Surgery service has recently been substantially modernised and will now comprise exclusively of GI surgeons, with a dedicated Surgical Triage and Assessment Unit (STAU). On-call weekdays are fixed for consultants, with rotation through weekends. There is a dedicated CEPOD theatre, with evening and morning lists for Acute General/GI surgery. Junior doctors work in a full shift rota system and all members of the acute on-call team (F1, CT/F2, ST/CF, Consultant) of the day are exempt from routine clinical commitments.

## Theatres

There are ten general and specialist operating theatres on the main Wonford site and an endoscopy unit with 4 suites in close proximity to the surgical wards. There are three further theatres in the Children and Women's Health unit (on site) and further ophthalmic and orthopaedic theatres in the Princess Elizabeth Orthopaedic Centre (home of the Exeter Hip).

The Upper GI team perform day case surgery in Heavitree and Tiverton hospitals and various other community hospitals also provide some day case facilities for minor surgery with other teams.

## Wards

Current configuration of the wards are:

Mere	Upper GI/Emergency
Exe	Vascular/Emergency
Dart	Urology
Lyme	Colorectal
Knapp	Elective admissions/Daycase
Abbey	Surgical Triage and Assessment Unit

## **Clinical supporting services**

The supporting services include a 14 bedded Intensive Care Unit/ High Dependency Unit and a Renal Dialysis Unit. High resolution catheter manometry tests are available in Clinical Measurements for pH, impedance and pressure manometry, and the team place wireless pH manometry probes in endoscopy with the support of the physiology team. The Directorate of Diagnostic Imaging is equipped with MRI, CT, ultrasound, general and interventional radiology and facilities for Nuclear Medicine studies, as well as a common range of laboratory services. The Accident and Emergency and trauma units receive emergencies by road and air and there is a sub-regional Plastic Surgery service.

There are 12 consultant gastroenterologists providing a full range of endoscopy services and both hepatology and luminal gastroenterology specialist services daily as well as a dedicated Nutrition Service.

Several Acute surgeons have commitments in the community with out-patient or operating sessions at community hospitals or GP surgeries in Okehampton, Tiverton, Axminster, Honiton, Exmouth and Sidmouth.

## ***Continuing Education and Audit***

There is a rolling programme of monthly half-day audit and educational meetings. Sub-specialities are encouraged to develop their own audit programmes and report their activities to the Department of Clinical Audit. The Department participates in the National Enquiry into Perioperative Deaths (NCEPOD).

## **4. THE JOB ITSELF**

**TITLE:** Trust Doctor in Upper GI Surgery (equivalent to ST3+)

### **RELATIONSHIPS:**

The Fellow will join the UGI team at the ST3+ (registrar) level for on call commitments. The post-holder will be expected to take on duties and commitments at the level of a ST3+ registrar, and higher levels of responsibility may be offered by mutual agreement.

The employer is the Royal Devon University Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust.

The post is based on a whole time appointment starting October 2025 until October 2026. The postholder will take a full slot on the 1:12 on-call General Surgery rota.

### **DUTIES OF THE POST**

#### **Clinical Commitments**

The post holder will have a full slot on the 1:12 on-call registrar rota but will be free of other service commitments to create time for research activities, except in exceptional circumstances.

## **Education and Training**

The appointee will be expected to play a full part in the educational activities of the department. This will include trainees of all grades as well as medical students. The post-holder will be assigned an educational and clinical supervisor, and expected to agree a personal development plan. Satisfactory progression will be assessed at regular intervals, and the post-holder is encouraged to register with the ISCP or similar body for validated authorisation of training evidence

## **Research**

### **University of Exeter Medical School (UEMS)**

Since September 2013, the UEMS formed following the division of the Peninsula College of Medicine and Dentistry, with approximately 120-130 students being admitted per year. The Royal Devon University Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust is one of the NHS partners of the UEMS and the Department has responsibility for part of the clinical undergraduate teaching programme. Time for teaching and preparation is arranged by mutual agreement with the Clinical Director within the Trust's annual job planning and appraisal process.

## **Emergency On-call and Cover for Colleagues**

The post-holder will be expected to arrange mutually acceptable swaps of on-call responsibilities with other colleagues on the on-call rota at the same level, during absence for annual and study leave, with appropriate adjustment of clinical / research commitments. The post-holder and other GI Surgery ST3+ trainees will be expected to mutually cover each other's essential commitments for leave.

## **Administration**

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

## **Leadership and Management**

The appointee will be responsible for the leadership of his/her team as appropriate for their level. The appointee will be responsible to the Consultant GI surgeons, for the effective and efficient use of resources

## **Professional Performance**

The appointee will have continuing responsibility for the proper function of the work. 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 Clinical Lead, if satisfaction is again not obtained, concerns should be discussed with the Associate Medical Director.

## **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 & Dental Whitley Council regulations, but, in accordance with the Trust's leave policy.

## **6. TIMETABLE**

For more information on timetables, please contact Mr Alex Reece-Smith (alex.reece-smith@nhs.net) .

## **7. MAIN CONDITIONS OF SERVICE**

### **Salary Scale**

£61,825 plus allowances

### **Annual Leave**

6 weeks + 2 days per year (+day off in lieu for each Public Holiday worked)

### **Study leave**

30 working days over one year

### **Date of Vacancy**

October 2025 until October 2026

## **7. ACADEMIC FACILITIES**

### **The Peninsula Medical School / University of Exeter Medical School**

The Peninsula Medical School was founded on a unique partnership between the Universities of Exeter and Plymouth and the NHS within Devon and Cornwall. The school was established on 1 August 2000 and commenced delivery of the Undergraduate Programme in Autumn 2002. From September 2013, the Universities of Exeter and Plymouth have had their own, independent schools with approximately 125 medical student being allocated to the new UEMS.

This is supported by a major investment in research and teaching with the construction of a Research, Learning, Innovation and Development facility on the RDE site, adjacent to the current Peninsula Medical School Building.

There is great scope for staff in NHS Partner Organisations to become involved

in all aspects of the Medical School curriculum for undergraduate education; for example, clinicians may be engaged with PMS 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 micro-vascular research; cell and molecular biology laboratories. Research in the field of diabetes and micro-vascular 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. This Peninsula Unit, which was formed from three highly successful units, involves networks throughout the Peninsula

## **8. RESEARCH GOVERNANCE**

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

## **9. CANVASSING**

Candidates are asked to note that canvassing of any member of the Advisory Appointments Committee will disqualify {see Statutory Instrument 1982 No. 276 paragraph 8(1)(b)}. This should not deter candidates from seeking further information relevant to the post from those members of the Trust detailed below and, further, this should not deter candidates from making informal visits to the Trust which are encouraged.

## **10. ACCESS TO CHILDREN AND VULNERABLE ADULTS**

The person appointed to this post may have substantial access to children and to vulnerable adults. Applicants are, therefore, advised that in the event that your appointment is recommended and in line with Trust policy, you will be asked to undertake a disclosure check and a POCA (Protection of Children) list check with the CRB prior to commencement of employment. Refusal to do so could prevent further consideration of the application. Attention is drawn to the provisions of the Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974 (Exceptions) Order 1975 as amended by the Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974 (Exceptions)(Amendment) Order 1986, which allow convictions that are spent



to be disclosed for this purpose by the police and to be taken into account in deciding whether to engage an applicant.

### **11. REHABILITATION OF OFFENDERS**

This post is not protected by the Rehabilitation of Offenders Act, 1974. You must disclose all information about all convictions (if any) in a Court of Law, no matter when they occurred. This information will be treated in the strictest confidence.

### **12. DATA PROTECTION ACT 1998**

Candidates are informed that the information given by them in application for the post will be used only for the recruitment and selection process. For successful candidates this will then form part of their personal file, and for unsuccessful candidates the information will be destroyed. The information is stored both in hard copy form and minimally on a database. This information is held and administered in line with the Data Protection Act and the Trust's confidentiality procedure.

### **13. FURTHER INFORMATION**

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

Clinicians in Speciality:

Mr Alex Reece-Smith  
Consultant UGI Surgeon  
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Trust  
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Cluster Manager:

Ms Sarah Frensham  
Cluster Support Manager  
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