

EACTA clinical fellowship in cardiothoracic anaesthesia and intensive care

University Hospital Southampton

This post is based in the Wessex Cardiac Centre, University Hospital Southampton NHS Foundation Trust. University Hospital Southampton employs about 7500 staff and the General Hospital site covers 37 acres. It functions as both a district general and a regional/supra-regional specialist hospital. Over 50 clinical services are provided to ensure integrated patient care.

Cardiac surgery began in Southampton in 1957. Both adult and paediatric cardiac operations are performed in the Wessex Cardiac Centre. The adult cardiac unit is the third busiest UK cardiac centre with about 1400 cardiac operations per year. The centre has one of the highest survival rates in the UK. There are about 400 paediatric/ congenital cardiac operations per year, and again, the outcomes are amongst the best in the country. The adult cardiac intensive care unit has 16 beds and there are 22 all day cardiac theatre lists per week. There are four dedicated digital cardiac catheter laboratories with a new hybrid laboratory currently under construction. There is also a 10- bed cardiac surgical high care area with a 20-bed cardiology high care and coronary care unit.

There are currently 11 consultants who work in cardiac anaesthesia and intensive care, 6 of these anaesthetise adult and paediatric patients, 2 further consultants work in part-time in adult cardiac anaesthesia only.

The cardiac intensive care unit currently admits about 1200 patients per year. The unit sees an extremely wide case mix which includes all complex postoperative adult cardiac patients with the exception of transplants which are not performed in Southampton. The unit enjoys a close working relationship with the adjacent general intensive care and paediatric intensive care units and the on-site neurosciences intensive care unit.

Clinical Opportunities

This is initially a 6-12 month post which can be extended if mutually agreed. The post-holder will be based in the Cardiothoracic Unit with responsibilities in cardiac theatres and cardiac ICU. You will be part of a team of 9 clinical fellows and a number of UK anaesthetic trainees providing 24-hours in-house cover for the cardiac ICU.

When in theatre, the post-holder will work under the direct supervision of a senior cardiac anaesthetist and will participate in providing anaesthesia for elective and emergency cardiac procedures. There are opportunities to also undertake supervised work in thoracic theatres for those who wish to gain further experience in this field. When in cardiac ICU, you will be responsible for the day to day care of 4-8 intensive care patients under the direct supervision of one of the intensive care consultants.

The post-holder will be required to work both day and night shifts in the ICU. Each day shift will commence with a handover round, after which the post-holder will be expected to examine and formulate a provisional management plan for each patient under his/her care. The patients will then be presented to the consultant anaesthetist on a combined business/teaching ward round when detailed management plans will be made. You will then

be required to carry out those management plans. The day will end with the post-holder handing over the care of his/her patients to the person covering the unit for the night. Each night shift will again commence with a handover round after which the post-holder will be expected to examine each patient under his/her care. At night no formal ward rounds are held but a consultant is available at all times to discuss difficult management decisions. During the night you will also be required to be the first to deal with any unexpected emergencies until such time as the consultant can attend. A second colleague (usually an anaesthetic Specialist Trainee) will provide assistance.

The post offers wide exposure to all types of acquired adult and adult congenital cardiac disease with the exception of cardiac transplantation. During the course of the six-month post it is expected that the post-holder will gain experience in the placement of arterial and central venous lines and will become familiar with the use of both invasive and non-invasive cardiac output monitors, peri-operative transoesophageal echocardiography, the principles of cardiopulmonary bypass, the manipulation of multiple inotropes in the complex cardiac patient, the use of nitric oxide, the care of patients supported with intra-aortic balloon counterpulsation, ECMO and other mechanical circulatory assistance, the management of veno-venous haemodiafiltration and the insertion of percutaneous tracheostomies.

We have 2 purpose built point-of-care coagulation testing laboratories, one in theatres and one next to the intensive care unit so there will be plenty of opportunity to gain experience in complex transfusion medicine and coagulation problems.

Fellowship programme

The aim of the fellowship programme is to train anaesthetists to become proficient in cardiothoracic anaesthesia and cardiac intensive care. We can accommodate between 0-4

EACTA fellows at any one time depending on job availability and skill mix.

This unit is one of only five European centres accredited to run the EACTA fellowship programme. This programme has been running since 2006/2007 with 19 clinical fellows achieving the competencies required to reach EACTA accreditation over the last 10 years. The EACTA accreditation is awarded after successful completion of the competencies which are laid out in a document you will receive on starting the post.

In addition to in-theatre and in-ICU teaching there is formal consultant-led weekly teaching in cardiac anaesthesia, ITU and transoesophageal echocardiography (see table below). Extensive support and training is given to those undertaking TOE accreditation by either the European Association of Echocardiography (EAE), the European Association of Cardiothoracic Anaesthesiologists (EACTA) or the Association of Cardiothoracic Anaesthetists (ACTA). Mentors of the fellows are trained and accredited experts in TOE and have a large experience in teaching TOE with access to high-fidelity echocardiography simulation.

After completion of the fellowship programme, the aim is that fellows will be able to work independently as consultants in cardiac anaesthesia and intensive care. The programme has produced great outcomes for previous fellows; most are now working independently in the

field of cardiac anaesthesia and/or cardiac intensive care. A number of our fellows have transitioned to the UK Royal College of Anaesthetist's specialty anaesthetic training programme, progressing on to specialist recognition and becoming UK cardiac anaesthetic consultants.

This post does not have educational approval from the Postgraduate Dean and does not carry a National Training Number.

Education and Training

Each Fellow will be allocated an educational supervisor who will devise a training agreement with the Clinical Fellow at the beginning of the appointment. This will be used to inform formal appraisal at 3 monthly intervals. A summative assessment will be conducted towards the end of the post. You will be expected to attend the teaching sessions.

There is a well-equipped Postgraduate Medical Centre at the Southampton General Hospital in the South Block. Office and laboratory space is provided.

Weekly teaching programme

Day	Session	Teaching lead
1 st Monday of the month 0730	Cardiac intensive care/ anaesthetic morbidity and mortality	Consultant
Tuesday pm	Cardiac anaesthetic/ ITU teaching	ICU consultant
Wednesday 0730	TOE teaching	Consultant/ clinical fellow
Friday 0730	Cardiac anaesthetic dept teaching	Consultant

Research Opportunities

The cardiac anaesthetic department has an excellent research record and there are numerous ongoing projects. The post-holder will be supported if he/she has a desire to participate in one of these projects or wishes to expand on any individual area of interest. The larger general anaesthetic department also has a number of research projects which may be accessible.

Annual/ study leave

Annual leave entitlement is 3 weeks during the six-month post. Cover for annual leave will be provided from within the team of fellows. Arrangements for leave and other absences must be initially agreed and approved by the Care Group Lead and be subject to formal approval by the Cardiac Anaesthetic Unit. The annual leave year will run from the date of commencement of the appointment.

The post-holder is entitled to professional leave with pay to a maximum of 5 days during the six-month post. These 5 days will also be cross-covered from within the team of fellow.