Hospital Name: Alder Hey Children’s Hospital NHS Foundation Trust

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Start Dates and Closing Dates: Normally posts are advertised to commence in Feb or August

How many Fellowships offered each year: 6 including 1 cardiac fellowship

Alder Hey Children’s Hospital is one of Europe’s busiest paediatric hospitals and we have recently moved to our new facility in Alder Hey in the Park with 270 acute beds, 48 of which are for critical care patients. The hospital is a regional and supraregional referral centre for craniofacial surgery, children’s epilepsy surgery and cardiac surgery including ECMO. Experience can be gained in these specialties and also major orthopaedic, neurosurgery, neonatal, general, urology, spinal surgery, oncology, ENT and cleft palate surgery, cardiac catheterisation, interventional radiology/CT/MRI, endoscopies, ophthalmology, maxillo-facial/dental, plastics and burns. Approximately 22,000 patients undergo general anaesthesia each year within the 12 inpatient theatres, 5 day case theatres and MRI and radiology suites. The cardiac service perform approximately 450 major cardiac cases annually (300 requiring bypass), 420 cardiac catheter procedures and care for approximately 30 children requiring ECMO for cardiac and non-cardiac reasons on PICU. The department provides an acute and multidisciplinary chronic pain service. There are currently 34 consultant anaesthetists, 12 rotating specialty trainees from the Mersey deanery and 6 fellows.

The posts are normally occupied by anaesthetists who already hold FRCA or equivalent in the final years of specialist training (ST 5,6,7). The posts are open to all UK & EU and Non-EU candidates with CCT or equivalent. The posts are for one year and have educational approval for training from the Postgraduate Dean and Royal College of Anaesthetists for up to 12 months of Advanced Anaesthesia. The post-holder will spend 9 months of the fellowship working directly in anaesthesia, the remaining time divided into a 6 week block in intensive care and a further 6 weeks working with the North West Paediatric Transport Service (NWTS) stabilising and transferring critically ill children. Fellows undertake 1st on call duties on the Specialist Registrar rota. We also offer a specific cardiac fellowship aimed at individuals who are interested in pursuing a career as a paediatric cardiac anaesthetist.

Research and quality improvement projects are actively encouraged and co-ordinated by Dr Steve Roberts and Dr Phil Arnold; where appropriate time will be allowed on the weekly rota for research (up to a maximum of half a day per week.). The department holds monthly ½ day meetings which includes audit, journal reviews and presentations on topic of general interest. There is a strong interest in ultrasound guided regional anaesthesia within the department for all age groups; we run an ESRA credited 2 day course and teaching on regional anaesthesia is normally provided one morning a week. We also hold Paediatric Airway Workshops giving practical teaching on advanced airway techniques and one lung ventilation techniques for neonates and older children. In addition to the above there is also a morning of teaching held once a month focused on particular aspects of paediatric anaesthesia.

The anaesthetic service is largely consultant based however several lists will be run independently by trainees with a Duty Consultant available to provide advice, practical support and teaching on the theatre lists. Fellows should by the end of the year have not only developed their practical skills but also confidence and decision making ready to take up a consultant post in a tertiary paediatric centre.