

JOB DESCRIPTION

RESEARCH PHYSICIAN: LIVER DISEASE IN HAEMOPHILIA

Haemophilia Centre & Department of Medicine,
Royal Free Hospital

1. THE HOSPITAL

The Royal Free is London's newest teaching hospital. Situated in Hampstead, a pleasant suburb of inner north London, it has 820 beds and provides general services for patients living in the surrounding district and a range of specialist services which attract referrals of patients from a wide geographical area. The Royal Free Hospital School of Medicine, a constituent school of London University, is located on the same site.

2. THE HAEMOPHILIA CENTRE

The Haemophilia Centre and Haemostasis Unit is administratively part of the Academic Department of Haematology (Director: Prof A V Hoffbrand), but effectively operates as a separate sub-department within its own new and purpose-built accommodation. The Centre provides clinical, laboratory and administrative services for adults and children with congenital and acquired bleeding disorders, and has a growing commitment to thrombotic diseases. It is the designated Reference Centre for a large part of south-east England north of the Thames, and a recognised International Training Centre of the World Federation of Haemophilia. A large amount of research is carried out, and teaching and training of all types of staff, both from the UK and overseas, is an important activity. The total staff of about 30 includes a wide variety of different types of personnel, and there are strong links with other departments in the hospital, particularly the Liver unit of the Academic Department of Medicine (Director: Prof S Sherlock) and the Department of Orthopaedic Surgery (Mr J Madgwick). There are two Directors of the Haemophilia Centre - Dr P B A Kernoff (Consultant) and Dr E G D Tuddenham (Senior Lecturer).

3. DUTIES OF THE POST

The main duty of the post holder will be to take a primary responsibility, under the direction of Dr P Kernoff and Dr H Thomas (Senior Lecturer in the Dept. Medicine), for the implementation, co-ordination, follow through and completion of the research projects which are described in the attached protocols. He/she will be located in the Haemophilia Centre, and will need to acquire a thorough knowledge of the principles of diagnosis and management of patients with congenital coagulation disorders by involvement in the service and academic work of the Centre. There will be a strong clinical component to the job, which will include frequent contact with patients with liver disease and their relatives, making appropriate arrangements for their investigation follow up and the collection of necessary samples, and possibly establishing combined 'Haemophilia/Hepatitis' clinics. He/she will be responsible for the collection, recording and analysis of data which will accrue as the studies progress, and the final assembly of results for publication.

An important component of the post will be to liaise between the Haemophilia Centre and the Liver Unit of the Academic Department of Medicine, where most of the specialised tests will be carried out, to ensure that lines of communication between the two departments are fully maintained and that clinic and laboratory aspects of the projects are co-ordinated in the most efficient manner. It will be necessary for the post-holder to familiarise him/herself with aspects of liver disease and its management by participation in Department of Medicine meetings, seminars, and ward rounds. In particular, it may be necessary for the post-holder to acquire experience in the technique of liver biopsy, and to assume a primary responsibility for coagulation control in those

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patients who need to have this procedure carried out. He/she may also be called upon to advise on the management of non-haemophilia patients who have abnormal haemostasis.

The post-holder will work in close association with other staff of the Haemophilia Centre, and will need to advise and direct the activities of junior medical, nursing, technical and secretarial staff. He/she will also be required to contribute to teaching programmes.

4. STUDY AND TRAINING

The post-holder is expected to gain wide experience of clinical and laboratory aspects of bleeding disorders during the tenure of the post, and there will be many opportunities to participate in departmental activities which are not directly associated with the research projects. These could include periods of laboratory training in advanced haemostasis, participation in diagnostic, genetic counselling and haemophilia/orthopaedic clinics, and exposure to techniques appropriate to the investigation and management of thrombotic disease. Within the Department of Medicine, opportunities will be provided by Dr. Thomas to participate in general medical and liver disease clinics, and in-patient management. The post-holder will be able to attend activities relating to other aspects of haematology, including slide seminars and ward rounds, but training in branches of haematology other than haemostasis will be limited.

The hospital and medical school mounts a very full range of post-graduate lectures, seminars and meetings, and the post-holder will be encouraged to attend scientific and medical congresses appropriate to his/her field of interest which may take place in other institutions.

The research work carried out in this post will provide material for a postgraduate doctoral degree, and it is hoped that the post holder will work towards this specific objective.

5. MAIN CONDITIONS OF SERVICE

This is a whole-time appointment. Although there is no specific commitment to 'out of hours' or emergency on-call work, a substantial amount of time and effort will need to be devoted to the project if it is to reach a successful conclusion. Funding is available for a 3 year period, and the appointee should anticipate a minimum of 2 years in post. Grading, salary and terms of service will be according to NHS scales and regulations and appropriate to qualifications and experience. Most probably, the appointment will be at Registrar level with a salary in the range of £9000-£11,000 p.a. An honorary appointment as lecturer in the Academic Departments of Medicine and/or Haematology will be sought.

6. FURTHER INFORMATION/APPLICATION

Enquiries and application should be addressed to Dr P B A Kernoff, Haemophilia Centre and Haemostasis Unit, Royal Free Hospital, London NW3 2QG (Telephone 01-794 0500 Ext. **GRO-C**), and should be accompanied by a full C.V.

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7. CONDITIONS OF APPOINTMENT

The post would suit a young physician with a career commitment to academic haematology, hepatology or gastroenterology. Broadly based experience of general internal medicine and MRCP or equivalent are essential.

Qualifications must be acceptable to the GMC for registration purposes and membership of a suitable defence organisation will be mandatory.
