

QUEEN ELIZABETH HOSPITAL BIRMINGHAM

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Senior Neurosurgical Fellowship (Trauma/CSF)

Under the Trust's Terms & Conditions of Service
for Junior Specialist Doctors

Basic salary £46,208

Plus enhancements for out-of-hours commitments

Fixed term contract: 12 months

UHB NHS Foundation Trust vision

To deliver the best in care

Our Purpose

To provide leading edge healthcare for the people and communities we serve locally, nationally and internationally by delivering excellence in patient care through clinical expertise, research, innovation, teaching, training and support services

Our Values

Respect

We respect each other at all times with regard to age, disability, gender, position, race, religion and sexual orientation through professionalism and courtesy, treating all patients, colleagues, visitors, carers, communities and others as they would wish to be treated

Responsibility

We take personal and collective responsibility to do the best we can, working towards agreed individual and Trust-wide goals and expect to be held accountable and to challenge poor performance

Honesty

We are open, have integrity and are inclusive in our engagement and our decision processes

Innovation

We strive to be responsive, creative and flexible; always looking for ways to do things better. We trial new ideas and share best practice quickly and fully.

INTRODUCTION

QEHB employs over 8,500 staff and has 1,400 inpatient beds, 32 operating theatres and a 100-bed critical care unit, the largest co-located critical care unit in the world. QEHB is host to the Royal Centre for Defence Medicine (RCDM) and is world-renowned for its pioneering surgical techniques in the management of ballistic and blast injuries. QEHB has been designated both a Level 1 trauma centre and host of the UK's first and only National Institute for Health Research (NIHR) Centre for Surgical Reconstruction and Microbiology.

SUPERVISORS

Professor Antonio Belli

Tony Belli is a Professor of Trauma Neurosurgery and Director of the Surgical Reconstruction and Microbiology Research Centre (SRMCR) based at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital Birmingham (<http://www.srmrc.nihr.ac.uk/>). The SRMRC was founded in 2011 with £15M grant from NIHR, MoD, the University of Birmingham and University Hospitals Birmingham and its funding has recently been renewed for up to 5 more years.

The SRMRC is a world-leading centre for trauma research and has leveraged more than £60 million in external research grants since its inception. Prof Belli heads the neurotrauma research programme, which carries out translational research on traumatic brain injury and spinal cord injury. He is also a practising neurosurgeon at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital where he leads the Neurotrauma service, supported by a Clinical Nurse Specialist (Senior Sister Anne Preece) and a large team of doctors and therapists. Prof Belli's research interest is in neurobiochemistry and neuromonitoring of acute brain injury. A particular focus is brain metabolism following mild and severe traumatic brain injury and how this relates to the long-term outcome and the risk of early neurodegenerative conditions. Many of his current studies involve cross-disciplinary collaborations with engineering, chemistry, computing science and IT. Working with cerebral microdialysis, another area of interest is early markers of tissue damage for the prevention of secondary injury after trauma and subarachnoid haemorrhage, patient stratification and drug discovery. Prof Belli leads one of the largest research programmes on sport concussion in the world and is the principal or chief investigator of several acute brain injury studies, including international multicentre trials.

Mr Graham Flint

Mr Graham Flint qualified from the University of Birmingham. In addition to running a busy general neurosurgical practice he has, for the past 15 years, run the specialist CSF/Syringomyelia clinic, which was established by the late Bernard Williams. He has accumulated extensive clinical experience in the management of Chiari/Syringomyelia and complex CSF disorders in the adult population. In addition, Mr Flint works closely with patient support groups and, in co-operation with the Ann Conroy Trust, established a network of syringomyelia specialists in the UK. With this group he organised the international symposium Syringomyelia 2007, held in Rugby, UK. This was the predecessor of Syringomyelia 2010, held in Berlin. In addition to studying the outcome of surgical treatments for syringomyelia, he has a particular interest in the disturbances of CSF physiology that underlie the disorder and has applied well-established physiological methods, used to measure disturbances of CSF circulation in general, to the study of syringomyelia in humans. He is the lead editor of the international monograph 'Syringomyelia: a disorder of CSF Circulation'.

DUTIES OF THE FELLOW

This post is an appointment with the University Hospitals Birmingham NHS Foundation Trust. The post is intended to allow an experienced neurosurgical doctor to obtain sub-specialist training in trauma (Professor Tony Belli) & CSF (Mr Graham Flint) while providing second on call cover in all aspects of general neurosurgery. This post will provide a broad range of experience within one of the busiest neurosurgical units in the country, where all areas of subspecialist interest are represented.

The appointee will be expected to be of appropriate seniority (ST7 equivalent and above) in order to be able to be competent on all major neuro-trauma management according to the ISCP curriculum as he/she will be providing 1 in 6 **second on-call non-resident** cover to the neurosurgical department. During normal working hours or when not on-call the appointees will be attached as "Fellows" only to their particular sub-specialty team. Application for accreditation for approval by the Royal College of Surgeons of England is in process.

It is anticipated that the appointees will spend at least one year in this fellowship in order to acquire the necessary expertise and be able to present themselves for consultant interviews involving a substantial commitment to this specialist area of neurosurgery. To achieve this the trainee will be given experience in the following broad areas.

- 1) Assessment, investigation and treatment of patients with neuro-trauma and CSF pathologies including Chiari malformations, syrinxes, colloid cysts (endoscopic approach), complex hydrocephalus, arachnoid cysts, and IIH. The fellow will be expected to attend the neurosurgical operating lists, trauma ward rounds, CSF MDTs and relevant clinics. The fellow will also be encouraged to attend the IIH clinic run by Dr Alexandra Sinclair (Consultant Neurologist).
- 2) Reflection on complex cases and analysis of surgical approaches. This activity includes the editing of surgical videos using software to build a library of cases to be used during presentations and courses.
- 3) Birmingham has unique links to leading academics in both trauma & CSF neurosurgery (Professor Tony Belli, Mr Graham Flint & Dr Alex Sinclair). This combined with some of the largest surgical CSF case series in the world (Mr Graham Flint) means there is ample opportunity for the enthusiastic fellow to immerse themselves in research. The fellow will be expected to be involved in on-going clinical trials and to publish at least 2 papers in peer reviewed journals and present abstracts in at least 3 national/international conferences. Research support will be provided.
- 4) Preparation and presentation of cases at the weekly CSF MDT. This will involve liaising with our colleagues from neurology, neuro-ophthalmology, and neuro-radiology.
- 5) We believe that in a small speciality like neurosurgery, where the luxury of surgeons preparing to work as consultants must be intimately involved with the running of the neurosurgical service and in providing some element of continuity of care for the patients since this will be an integral part of their practice as consultants. The Fellow will therefore participate in the general neurosurgical rota primarily as a second tier on-call supporting registrars where required, and will also be expected to share responsibility for the neurosurgical patients in their area of sub specialist interest outside of strict rota commitments.
- 6) Specific on-call duties (Non-resident 1:6)
 - a) Be available for the first on-call registrar to provide advice on management of referral and where required liaise with the consultant on-call.
 - b) Be available to cover the ED department for Major Trauma cases, when first on call SpR unable to do so.
 - c) Relieve first on call SpR with the referrals management (on-line/phone) when he/she are scrubbed in theatres or dealing with other emergency
 - d) Supervise when the first on call registrar has does not have appropriate competences

This experience of supervising the first on-call registrar and in effect buffering the consultant will provide the Fellow the perfect opportunity to hone decision-making skills required at consultant level with the back up of a more senior on-call consultant.

DETAILS OF THE UNIT

The Department of Neurosurgery is located at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital Birmingham utilising facilities within the New QEHB Building and the Short Stay Unit (SSU) within the Old QEH

- 36 beds on ward 407, 36 beds on ward 409 and 10 beds on ward 411
- Access to the equivalent of 70 bed stays per week on (QSSU)
- Five dedicated neurosurgical operating theatres
- Access to four beds on the ambulatory care unit
- 12 designated neurosurgical beds in the hospital's Critical Care Unit
- Full imaging services, including 6 MRI scanning units and a new 3T state-of-the-art research MRI scanner.
- Full out-patient facilities with electronic patient records
- Full post-graduate training facilities

In the financial year 2014/15 the Neurosurgery department treated 977 day cases, 1,808 elective cases and 2,289 emergencies. Outpatient activity over the same period included 4,759 new and 10,695 follow-up patients. Activity is expected to increase further over the next few years, as regards both cranial and spinal neurosurgery. The hospital has been designated as a level one trauma unit, leading to increased emergency work in the department. QEHB already has special expertise in the management of all forms of trauma, as a result of its links with the Royal Centre for Defence Medicine (RCDM), which is located in the hospital.

In addition to providing an emergency service to the Greater Birmingham area and the RCDM, the unit deals with the full range of elective neurosurgical pathologies procedures, with staffing as follows:

- 11 full-time NHS consultants
- 2 academic consultants
- 1 part-time consultant providing teaching
- 2 locum consultants

Junior neurosurgical staff comprises the following:

- 8 Deanery posts part of the West Midlands training rotation
- 8 Trust appointments
- 1 Research Fellow

The neurosurgical unit is supported by a team of 5 neuroradiologists who provide a full diagnostic services and a 24/7 coiling service for aneurysmal subarachnoid haemorrhage. Theatres are staffed by 12 neuroanaesthetists. The unit is also supported by clinical physiology, neuropsychology & neuropathology services.

The Greater Birmingham area is staffed by 25 consultant neurologists, who have admitting right to the neurology beds in QEHB

The unit provides teaching and direct clinical experience role for neurosurgical trainees, be these Deanery posts or Trust appointments. It has an expanding programme of training events and is actively developing links with the University of Birmingham School of Medicine, including its Masters course in Trauma Sciences. It currently has two consultants who regularly examine for the Intercollegiate Board in Neurosurgery and one member of the Surgical Advisory Committee in Neurosurgery.

The successful candidate will be expected to participate in the academic activities of the unit.

ACADEMIC AND TRAINING FACILITIES

There are good links with the local universities. The department organises an academic session for all Neurosciences staff on Friday afternoons where the appointees will be expected to take an active role. All the Consultant Neurosurgeons have connections with clinical or basic research programmes within the Neurosciences Centre which Fellows are invited to join.

In addition to the teaching sessions described, the Fellow will normally have one half day per week free for private study and research. They may be expected to supervise the teaching of SHO's and participate in the teaching of undergraduate medical students.

There is funding for study leave by application through the appropriate channels. There are excellent library facilities available. There is a good medical library and the department has a quiet room and library facilities.

GENERAL

- The post holder has a general duty of care for their own health, safety and well being and that of work colleagues, visitors and patients within the hospital, in addition to any specific risk management or clinical governance accountabilities associated with this post.
- To observe the rules, policies, procedures and standards of Birmingham University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust together with all relevant statutory and professional obligations.
- To observe and maintain strict confidentiality of personal information relating to patients and staff.
- To be responsible, with management support, for their own personal development and to actively contribute to the development of colleagues.
- This job description is intended as a guide to the general scope of duties and is not intended to be definitive or restrictive. It is expected that some of the duties will change over time and this description will be subject to review in consultation with the post holder.

Infection Control Statement

The post holder has an important responsibility for and contribution to make to infection control and must be familiar with the infection control and hygiene requirements of this role. These requirements are set out in the National Code of Practice on Infection Control and in local policies and procedures which will be made clear during your induction and subsequent refresher training. These standards must be strictly complied with at all times.

For further details / informal visits contact:

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or

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Person Specification – CSF/Trauma Fellow

ESSENTIAL	DESIRABLE
<p>Qualifications</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ MBBS or equivalent Medical Degree ❖ Full GMC registration with a licence to practice (or application process in progress) ❖ Must be in possession of the appropriate professional qualification, FRCS(SN) or equivalent ❖ Must be close to completing their CCT/CESR in Neurological Surgery, or have an equivalent situation. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Awards/distinctions whilst studying for primary degree ❖ Higher degree (MSc/ MD/PhD)
<p>Clinical Experience</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Recent experience and familiarity of UK hospital systems and practices (or equivalent). ❖ A minimum of 3 years at ST level in a substantive post within the UK or equivalent training from an EU or Overseas neurosurgical unit ❖ Competent in all aspects of emergency neurosurgery ❖ Training in diagnosis and treatment of Neurosurgical conditions including emergency presentations. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Attended relevant courses (e.g. endoscopy, trauma)
<p>Research / Teaching / Publications</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Proven teaching ability ❖ Willingness to undertake teaching of medical undergraduates & post-graduates. ❖ National / International presentations ❖ Evidence of relevant publications in peer reviewed journals. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Proven track record in research. ❖ Willingness to undertake further research. ❖ Ability to gain the trust and confidence of colleagues and patients. ❖ Ability to teach effectively
<p>Skills</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Proven ability to work as a member of a team ❖ Ability to organise and prioritise busy workloads effectively and cope under pressure ❖ Ability to communicate effectively with patients, senior medical staff and other health professionals ❖ Proficient and efficient handling medical problems ❖ Evidence of safe sound practical procedures 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Good IT skills ❖ Anatomy demonstration skills ❖ Previous experience of video-editing
<p>Personal Characteristics</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Evidence of continuing professional updating ❖ Highly motivated individual ❖ Demonstrates a clear reason for wanting this post ❖ Punctual 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Interests outside medicine