Australian Interventional Fellowship Programme

Overseen by an independent Selection Committee:

Dr Jim Nolan
Dr Rod Stables
Dr Keith Oldroyd
Dr Adam de Belder

A continuing commitment to interventional cardiology
We are delighted to invite applications for the *Australian Interventional Fellowship Programme* for 2008/2009.

This programme is intended to provide a UK-based specialist registrar with the opportunity to gain valuable clinical experience in interventional cardiology, in a prominent Australian centre with a broad patient base that draws from metropolitan and rural areas, including the Northern Territory.

The successful candidate will receive training in percutaneous treatment of structural heart disease and coronary intervention, including primary angioplasty, for a year at the Flinders Medical Centre, Adelaide, South Australia, under the supervision of Dr Julian Vaile.

Access to the fellowship will be limited to trainees in Year 5 or 6 of their Specialist Registrar training who intend to specialise in interventional cardiology. The Fellowship will be decided through a process of open competition where a panel of senior interventional consultants will review all applications and award the Fellowship based on the candidates’ career development and interventional experience.

Enclosed is further information relating to the training and research opportunities at the Flinders Medical Centre, along with application details.

Yours sincerely,

Dr Jim Nolan  
Consultant Cardiologist  
*University Hospital of North Staffordshire NHS Trust*
This Fellowship programme is linked to the Flinders Medical Centre, Adelaide, South Australia under the supervision of Dr Julian Vaile. The hospital provides interventional cardiology services for a population of 600,000, distributed through metropolitan and rural centres of South Australia, as well as all interventional procedures from the Northern Territory which has a population of 180,000.

The cardiac laboratories conduct elective interventional procedures during normal business hours, as well as providing an around-the-clock primary PCI programme. The total catheterisation volume includes 2,500 diagnostics and a large number of interventions per year. Currently, there are five interventional cardiologists performing PCI procedures and transradial access is used in some of the cases.

The programme for the Fellow will consist of laboratory work and interventional research. The Fellow can expect to complete a large number of procedures with many being performed as a solo operator (depending on individual experience and progress). Other interventional procedures are also offered for the management of complex patients, including mitral valvuloplasty, ASD/PFO closure devices and percutaneous aortic valve replacement.

Multiple interventional research projects are underway including single and multi-centre projects. The Fellow will be encouraged to develop a research project leading to presentation and publication.

The Fellowship programme will provide salary support (related to the current basic salary of the successful applicant, without on-call supplement) for the 12 months of the programme.
The Interventional Fellowship at Flinders will provide you with full training in all mainstream aspects of PCI, in a welcoming and encouraging environment.

The unit provides tertiary cardiac services for the southern suburbs of Adelaide as well as rural and remote areas of South Australia, its adjoining states, and the Northern Territory. Around-the-clock primary PCI is provided for ST-elevation MI patients and an emergency helicopter retrieval service makes this available to patients living outside the metropolitan areas.

As the sole Interventional Fellow you will have the opportunity to increase your PCI experience and case numbers rapidly. You will undertake a full range of first operator coronary interventions with substantial proportions of complex cases, ‘device’ PCI, and primary PCI for acute MI. You can expect to perform between 600 and 700 first operator PCIs in a year depending upon your pre-existing level of experience.

There are excellent opportunities to train junior registrars in cardiac catheterisation and I anticipate that you will find this aspect of the Fellowship fun and rewarding.

The unit also has a rapidly evolving programme of non-coronary intervention including ASD/PFO and percutaneous mitral valvuloplasty (there is a high incidence of rheumatic valve disease within indigenous Australian patients who are referred to Flinders from the Northern Territory). In addition, a percutaneous aortic valve replacement programme is being developed. You can expect to be heavily involved in these.

The unit has a strong academic background. There is heavy involvement in multi-centre clinical trials with a focus on acute coronary syndrome/infarct PCI and the Fellow is strongly encouraged to get involved. In addition, time and expertise will be available to you if you wish to develop an individual project.

Adelaide offers an unbeatable combination of climate, coastline, good food, and world-class winemaking! South Australian culture is very family-friendly and mine was very sad to leave.

Please send your questions about the job, the place, or the process (of relocating) to adrian.large@virgin.net

Good luck with your application.

Adrian Large

Applications

If you are interested in applying for the Fellowship, please submit a detailed Curriculum Vitae with letters of support from two supervisory consultants to Dr Jim Nolan by email (nolanjim@hotmail.com).

Applications will close on 28 September 2007 with a view to interviewing short-listed candidates in October.

The fellowship bursary will be available from 1 February 2008.*

* The fellowship bursary must be paid into a trust fund or institution and cannot be paid to an individual.