BCIS Interventional Fellowships 2016 (Toronto and Vancouver Island)
This successful fellowship programme is now in its eighth year. It has been developed to provide interventional experience in an internationally prominent high volume Canadian centre. The successful candidate will take up an interventional cardiology fellow post for 12 months at the Toronto General Hospital, University Health Network in association with The University of Toronto. This centre has a high international profile and a well developed and well established fellowship programme, co-ordinated and supervised by Dr Mark Osten. Access to the fellowship will be limited to UK specialist registrars in the final 2 years of training who are BCIS members and intend to specialise in Interventional Cardiology.

Dr Rajesh Kharbanda
Consultant Cardiologist
Oxford University Hospital
On behalf of BCIS Training and Education Group

These posts are funded by contributions from the host institution, an unrestricted educational grant from Boston Scientific and BCIS. Please follow the links to the right to find further information relating to the fellowship hosting centre, training and research opportunities within the programme, and details of the application process.
Toronto Fellowship 2016

Supervising Consultants: Dr M Osten (Toronto), Dr R Kharbanda (UK)
Toronto General Hospital, Toronto, Canada

The Toronto General Hospital, Peter Munk Cardiac Centre is associated with the University of Toronto. This is a large university quaternary care centre with a high volume interventional cardiology department performing more than 1600 PCIs per year. It has a well established fellowship programme with very experienced and internationally renowned interventionalists as trainers. It has a well established interventional educational programme and an active research output primarily focused on clinical outcomes and multicentre trials.

The department has 6 cath labs (3 dedicated coronary labs) with a new suite of labs. The local set up involves simple and complex cases referred to Toronto General Hospital. Transradial access is used for the majority of the PCI procedures. The case mix is varied and complex with exposure to the full range of interventional techniques.

Interventional fellowship programme

Interventional fellows can expect to perform a high volume of procedures (300-500 as first or solo operator) using a full range of interventional devices for managing complex patients. Multiple interventional research projects are underway including single and multi-centre projects. The interventional fellow will be expected to develop research projects during his time in Toronto leading to presentation and publication.

There is a well organised formal interventional training scheme developed by Dr Peter Seidelin who himself came to Toronto originally as a visiting UK interventional fellow more than 15 years ago. The educational programme involves: (1) a weekly journal club and research meeting; (2) monthly half day PTCA Fellows seminar run by the University of Toronto including a comprehensive set of seminar topics; (3) a two day interventional fellows course composed of practical, hands-on workshops run by the University of Toronto at the annual Canadian Cardiovascular Congress and (4) the opportunity to go to one or more of TCT, CRF North American Fellows course, or other meetings.

The fellowship programme has attracted several UK specialist registrars who have gone on to tertiary centre interventional posts. Examples include Clare Appleby, Keith Oldroyd, Doug Fraser, Pitt Lim, Dan Blackman, Saqib Chowdhary, Vaikom Mahadevan and Jonas Eichhöfer highlighting a first class interventional fellowship programme.
Vancouver Island Fellowship 2016

Supervising Consultants: Dr Anthony Della Siega (Victoria), Dr Beth Freestone (UK)
Royal Jubilee Hospital, Victoria, British Columbia, Canada

This fellowship programme is linked to the Royal Jubilee Hospital, Victoria, British Columbia, under the supervision of Dr Anthony Della Siega, a leading Canadian and International Transradial Interventionalist. The hospital provides interventional cardiology services for a population of 750,000 across Vancouver Island.

The cardiac laboratories carry out elective transradial interventional procedures during normal business hours, as well as providing a 24 hour, 365 day primary PCI service. There is a 22 bed short stay unit attached to the catheter laboratories, and the majority of angioplasty procedures are performed on a day case basis.

At present there are seven interventionalists performing 1700 PCI procedures. Transradial access is used for the majority of procedures. There is also a flourishing TAVI programme.

Interventional fellowship programme

The programme for the UK based interventional fellow will consist of four full lab days and one research day each week. The fellow can expect to complete at least 500 procedures, with a large proportion being performed as solo operator (depending on individual experience and progress). A full range of interventional devices are available for managing complex patients.

Multiple interventional research projects are underway including single and multi-centre projects. The interventional fellow will be expected to develop a research project leading to presentation and publication.
Notes from recent fellows

Dr Ross McGeoch

Following his fellowship post in Toronto

The Boston Scientific Interventional Fellowship based at Toronto General Hospital provides an excellent opportunity to train in complex coronary intervention within a well-established fellowship programme in an internationally renowned centre.

The majority of PCI cases undertaken are complex providing excellent experience in multivessel revascularisation, bifurcation stenting, CTO (antegrade and retrograde), LMS PCI, graft intervention and rotational arthrectomy.

My own experience is that the fellows are given the opportunity to take the lead in all cases, both technically and intellectually, with excellent support and guidance from the consultant staff. The educational element of the fellowship is excellent.

This fellowship offers an experienced interventional trainee opportunity to gain further high quality training in a prestigious unit, gain insight of a different healthcare system and work with fellows from around the world. I would highly recommend it.

I would be happy to answer any questions.
rossmcgeoch@doctors.net.uk

Notes from Dr Bilal Iqbal

Following his fellowship post in Vancouver Island

The interventional fellowship at the Royal Jubilee Hospital, Victoria on Vancouver Island is a fantastic fellowship for advanced training in PCI. The Royal Jubilee Hospital is a tertiary cardiac centre on Vancouver Island serving a population of over 1 million and is the only centre providing interventional cardiology services. There are 11 referring hospitals over the island, and thus there is a very high volume of interventional work.

The case mix is very diverse with a large proportion being complex cases with multivessel intervention; bifurcation lesions; vein graft intervention; unprotected LMS intervention; chronic total occlusion intervention; rotational and laser atherectomy. There is a busy primary PCI program, and you will be expected to participate in the primary PCI call rota. Depending on your level of experience, you can expect to be sole operator for most cases, and you can anticipate to have between 600-700 first operator (solo) procedures in your fellowship year. There is an established hybrid CTO program with exposure to antegrade and retrograde techniques. The TAVI program has been established for over 2 years, and fellows participate in TAVI and balloon aortic valvuloplasty procedures.

When you are not in the cath lab, you are actively involved in research at the Victoria Heart Institute which is involved in multiple large international trials. You are encouraged to develop and conduct your own research project during the fellowship.

Besides the interventional training, Vancouver Island is beautiful with plenty of activities and places to visit. My family have really enjoyed their time there. I strongly recommend this fellowship. If you have any further questions about the fellowship please feel free to contact me via email at biqbal@excite.com.
Access to both fellowships will be limited to UK trainees in their last two years of Specialist Registrar training who intend to specialise in Interventional Cardiology and are BCIS members. The supervising consultants act on behalf of the BCIS Training and Education Group.

The successful candidate will be identified by means of formal interview. The interview panel will be made up of several independent consultant cardiologists from multiple centres.

The fellowship will be awarded based upon the candidate's career development, interventional experience and performance at interview.

If you would like to register your interest in this opportunity, please submit by email (bcis@bcs.com) a detailed curriculum vitae with letters of support from two supervisory consultants to Azeem Ahmad, BCIS Secretariat, Tel: +44 (0)20 7380 1918.

Please clearly indicate in your email whether you would like to be considered for a post in Toronto, Vancouver or both.

The deadline for applications is 12pm, Friday 15th May 2015. Shortlisted candidates will be informed by Monday 18th May 2015.

N.B Interviews will take place on Tuesday 30th June 2015, British Cardiovascular Society Office, 9 Fitzroy Square, London W1T 5HW. The successful candidates will be required to enter into a contract to take up their posts in Toronto and Vancouver island on 1st July 2016.

The fellowship bursary will be paid to the institution and not to an individual. The salary support provided will be equivalent to that of a senior SpR. The fund in question will be at the receiving institution in Canada and the candidate will be paid a regular salary in Canadian Dollars from that fund. The selected fellow is in no way considered to be an employee of Boston Scientific.