Imperial College Healthcare NHS Trust,
Milan Interventional Cardiology Fellowship 2015/2016
Supported by an unrestricted educational grant from Abbott Vascular

We are pleased to announce the eleventh year of this established Interventional Cardiology Fellowship between Imperial College Healthcare NHS Trust, London, UK and Dr Antonio Colombo’s Unit in Milan, Italy.

This Interventional Fellowship has been established for the benefit of Specialist Registrars who are currently training in interventional cardiology. The fellowship will provide an opportunity for Specialist Registrars to expand their interventional training in a high volume, world renowned centre. There will also be an opportunity to gain experience in the use of intravascular ultrasound, additional interventional devices, carotid and renal artery stenting, peripheral vascular intervention as well as percutaneous valve treatment. The unit has a very active research programme and it is expected that the selected SpR will be involved in research studies.

The fellowship is intended for SpRs who are training in interventional cardiology. The selected SpR will spend 12 months at San Raffaele and EMO Centro Cuore Columbus in Italy under the supervision of Dr Antonio Colombo. They will then be expected to return to complete their training at Imperial College Healthcare NHS Trust. Selection of the interventional fellow will be made in open competition during an interview process. The selection will be based on the candidates’ interventional skills as well as their research experience.

Enclosed are details of the Interventional Cardiology Fellowship which includes the training and research opportunities available and how to apply. Funds for this Interventional Cardiology Fellowship have been kindly donated by Abbott Vascular.

Dr Ghada Mikhail
Dr Iqbal Malik
Dr Rodney Foale

Supported by an unrestricted educational grant from Abbott Vascular.
San Raffaele and EMO Centro Cuore Columbus, Milan Italy  Interventional Fellowship
Director of Invasive Cardiology – Dr Antonio Colombo

San Raffaele Hospital is a university hospital and EMO Centro Cuore Columbus is a private hospital. Both institutions are tertiary referral centres for cardiovascular interventions.

Dr Antonio Colombo is currently the Director of the Catheterisation Laboratories and of the Department of Invasive Cardiology at San Raffaele Hospital and Columbus Hospital. Professor Paolo Camici is Professor of Cardiology at the Medical School of San Raffaele Hospital “University Vita e Salute” and is the Director of the Cardiothoracic Department of San Raffaele Hospital.

San Raffaele Hospital is located in the south east part of Milan whilst Columbus Hospital is located in the north west part of Milan. Both hospitals are within 20 minutes by bus or subway to the centre of the city – “Piazza Duomo”.

The department of Invasive Cardiology in each hospital is equipped with latest generation Philips Digital Laboratories, two in Columbus Hospital and three in San Raffaele Hospital. The entire range of ancillary equipment for performing state-of-the-art interventions is available. Many patients referred to the units have complex anatomy or additional medical problems that have declared the patient not suitable for standard intervention.

A total of over 2500 coronary interventions are performed annually in both hospitals along with a variety of peripheral procedures, including carotid stenting, renal artery and peripheral vascular interventions. In the field of carotid stenting, these centres have been pioneers in evaluating various types of cerebral protection devices. There is also an active programme for treating cases of adult congenital heart disease.

The centres have a high rate of angiographic follow up with an average of 70% over the last five years. All procedures are entered into a dedicated database and Quantitative Coronary Angiography is performed off line in all patients who undergo a coronary intervention and who return for angiographic follow-up.

Clinical Research

The centres have an active research programme and have participated in major cardiovascular studies such as AMIGO, EXCEL TRIAL*, and many others.

The EXCEL trial will evaluate “unprotected” patients with left main disease who have not received grafts to these arteries to determine whether coronary stenting can be an alternative to bypass surgery in these patients. The trial is being led by a multi-disciplinary team of physician specialists representing both surgeons and cardiologists.

The EXCEL trial will enroll more than 2,600 patients at up to 165 medical centers in 18 countries from regions across the globe, including the USA, Europe, Asia Pacific, Canada and Latin America. Select patients who have unprotected left main disease will be randomized to receive a drug eluting stent (XIENCE PRIME or XIENCE V) or CABG. The primary endpoint of the study is the composite measure of all-cause mortality, myocardial infarction, or stroke at a median follow-up duration of three years, with all randomized patients having reached a minimum of two years’ follow-up.

New clinical research trials have started in percutaneous aortic valve implantation and mitral valve repair. A new protocol on bone marrow stem cell injection into the myocardium has also began in patients with refractory angina. Clinical research has always been a major activity of both hospitals. As a result of this, a number of manuscripts have been published and a large number of presentations are regularly being presented at major scientific meetings. Five full-time medical personnel are entirely devoted to clinical research. There is a consulting statistician on site available for assistance. The clinical centre works in close association with a clinical research organisation (Mediolanum Cardio Research), which coordinates a number of multicentre trials.

Further information on the activities of both centres can be found on our websites: www.centrocuoremilano.com and www.fondazionesanraffale.it
Imperial College Healthcare NHS Trust, London

St Mary's, Hammersmith and Charing Cross hospitals formally merged on 1st October 2007 to form Imperial College Healthcare NHS Trust, the largest Trust in the UK. This represents one of the most significant initiatives in the recent history of the NHS in that the merger of these hospitals and the Faculty of Medicine at Imperial College London has created an academic health science centre (AHSC), the first of its kind in the UK.

The creation of the UK’s first AHSC is a major advance for patient-centred clinical care, research and discovery. It is at the forefront of major research and development, bringing together leading teaching and research hospitals alongside the UK’s leading clinical academic university to generate excellence in health services and scientific research.

Cardiology services at Imperial College Healthcare NHS Trust

The cardiology service provides treatment for patients with acute coronary syndromes and over 1300 percutaneous coronary interventions are performed each year. There is also a 24 hours, seven days a week primary angioplasty service for patients presenting with acute myocardial infarction. Within the Trust, there is also an established Transcatheter Aortic Valve Implantation (TAVI) programme for the treatment of patients with aortic stenosis. The Cardiac Electrophysiology service at Imperial College Healthcare NHS Trust has an international reputation for innovation in mapping and ablation of complex cardiac arrhythmias. The Imperial Valve and Cardiovascular Course (IVCC) is a highly successful and well-established meeting which is in its 6th year and continues to attract a world class international faculty with delegates attending from both the UK and abroad.

*Abbott's EXCEL is the Largest Trial to Date Designed to Evaluate Optimal Treatment Strategy (Surgery or Stenting) in Patients with Unprotected Left Main Disease, AMIGO was supported by the Guidant corporation.*
The Fellowship

The fellow who is selected for the fellowship programme will rotate between both San Raffaele and Columbus Hospitals. Arrangements for the time allocated to each hospital will be made on an individual basis. As part of the fellowship, SpRs will need to apply and enter the Master Course of interventional training. Further details on this are available on: [www.unisr.it/view.asp?id=7902](http://www.unisr.it/view.asp?id=7902). The cost of this will be covered as part of the fellowship.

As well as participating in the clinical activities, the interventional fellow is expected to actively participate in the research activities of the department and to take part in data collection entry and evaluation during and following the clinical procedures performed on patients.

Original research projects are encouraged and all reasonable support is given to fulfil this goal. The fellow is expected to devote some of his/her time (20%) to formal data handling and acquisition as well as assisting in the work of the CRO Mediolanum Cardio Research.

The fellow will help in the preparation of manuscripts and abstracts to be presented at local and international meetings and will, where necessary, attend International Meetings and Angioplasty Courses. A significant amount of time will be spent at the computer desk, so knowledge of softwares, such as FileMaker® Pro, Excel®, Statview®, is essential.

Alongside the professional commitments, the working environment in both institutions is warm and friendly. The staff are very supportive and will offer whatever help is needed to ensure that the fellow achieves their goals.

Selection Process

The fellow will be selected in open competition following an interview process. A panel of Interventional Cardiology Consultants will review all applications and award the fellowship based on the candidates' interventional and research experience. Once selected, the CV of the candidate will be forwarded to Dr Antonio Colombo for final approval. The fellow should be a cardiology SpR who is training in intervention and who has research experience. The fellowship is for a period of 12 months, starting October 2015. The selected SpR will return to complete their rotation at Imperial College Healthcare NHS Trust for a further 12 months.

The fellowship has been kindly sponsored by Abbott Vascular. If you are interested in applying for the fellowship and wish to know more details please contact:

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We hope that the time spent in Milan will prove to be invaluable in expanding both your interventional skills as well as your research experience.

Dr Antonio Colombo, Director of Invasive Cardiology San Raffaele and Columbus Hospitals, Milan, Italy.

*This fellowship is sponsored through an education grant from Abbott Vascular which must be paid to a trust fund or institution and not to an individual. The successful candidate will not be considered an employee of Abbott Vascular.*