

ST. JAMES' UNIVERSITY HOSPITAL, LEEDS

This is a busy post in the largest teaching hospital in Europe serving a large local population in addition to the tertiary referral service. All areas of hand surgery are covered by the six consultant hand surgeons who are from both orthopaedic and plastic surgical backgrounds. All areas of hand surgery are covered including children's hand and reconstructive surgery, microsurgery, brachial plexus and nerve surgery, cerebral palsy surgery, wrist surgery, the management of fractures of the distal radius and rheumatoid disease. The hand fellow is considered supernumerary as much as possible to enable them to attend the areas that are of most interest and value to their training.

There is a dedicated ambulatory hand surgery unit that allows surgical procedures to be performed in a day surgery environment under regional anaesthesia. The remaining surgery is provided on an inpatient basis with microsurgical reconstruction performed on a regular basis. There is a well equipped library within the department in addition to the hospital library.

WYTHENSHAW HOSPITAL, MANCHESTER

Wythenshawe now has two Advanced Training Posts in Hand Surgery and feedback from the trainees in post at the time of change from one to two states that this has improved training opportunities markedly. These are busy jobs for both hand trauma and elective work. Post one is Wythenshawe based but has sessions with Mr Fahmy in Stepping Hill Hospital and Professor Stanley in Wrightington. Miss Lees has a special interest in paediatric hand surgery. Post two is also based at Wythenshawe Hospital but with sessions at Hope Hospital and includes work with Professor McGrouther, Mr Watson and Mr Muir. Both posts include hand trauma.

WRIGHTINGTON HOSPITAL

The post at Wrightington covers the syllabus for an Advanced Training Post in Hand Surgery with sessions allocated for hand trauma at Wigan as Wrightington is purely an elective hospital. The special interests of the Consultants include rheumatoid disease, joint replacement and wrist arthroscopy but also include sessions with a Plastic Surgery trainer.

QUEENS MEDICAL CENTRE, NOTTINGHAM

In the Nottingham Advanced Training Post in Hand Surgery the trainee rotates three or four monthly to work for Professor Davis and Messrs Downing, Starley and Oni. The case mix covers the full spectrum of hand surgery and curriculum for the University of Manchester Diploma in Hand Surgery. Research is actively encouraged and the Hand Unit has an impressive list of publications over the last few years.

OXFORD

The Oxford programme offers wide experience in hand surgery in a unit with close integration of plastic and orthopaedic hand surgeons. Areas of special interest include congenital abnormality, obstetric brachial plexus palsy, thoracic outlet syndrome (Henk Giele, Paul Critchley), wrist surgery and joint replacement in the hand (Ian McNab), rheumatoid disease and adult brachial plexus trauma (Peter Burge) and hand trauma (Chris Little).

Peter Burge

ST. ANDREW'S, BROOMFIELD / SOUTHEND

St Andrew's has a very large Hand Surgery throughput. Currently there are between 4000 and 4500 hand surgical cases done each year in St Andrew's. 3500 approximately are hand trauma cases. The Advanced Trainee in Hand Surgery has considerable access to all of the Hand Surgery but particularly to the hand trauma. He carries out a weekly trauma list and is also on call at either middle grade or senior grade level for hand trauma. All of these activities are carried out under consultant supervision or with a consultant immediately available.

Manu Sood has a particular interest in congenital hands, upper limb spasticity, tendon transfers and toe transfers for digital reconstruction. He teaches on these and also on rheumatoid hand surgery and secondary trauma referrals. The Advanced Trainee in Hand Surgery works with Mr Sood on Fridays and every other week on Thursdays. This allows for a mixture of cases from the above to be seen both in clinic and in the operating theatre.

My own special interests in Hand Surgery are flexor and extensor secondary surgery, nerve pain surgery, Dupuytren's surgery, rheumatoid hand surgery and trauma surgery. The Advanced Trainee in Hand Surgery works with me in the operating theatre on a Monday and attends my clinics on Tuesday. On some Wednesday afternoons he attends my rheumatoid hand clinic. This mixture of clinics and operating lists also provides him with a fairly wide experience of all the above.

D Elliot

With regard to the elements of Hand and Upper Limb Surgery, which the Advanced Training Posts offers training in, the Southend element of the post in question offers experience in acute and chronic wrist problems, including wrist arthroscopy and chronic wrist disorders including surgical treatment of instability and of the distal radioulnar joint, fractures of the distal radius and acute treatment and treatment of malunion, joint replacement of wrist and hand and treatment of acute and chronic disorders of the forearm. The post also offers trainees the chance to become involved in the treatment of acute and chronic disorders of the elbow, depending upon the trainee's wishes.

G J Packer

SHEFFIELD TEACHING HOSPITALS

The Sheffield programme offers a broad experience to hand and wrist surgery within a Plastic/Orthopaedic Unit which is becoming more and more integrated. The Hand Trauma service has been reconfigured to enable consultant teaching on hand trauma lists five days a week.

Although the timetable is flexible it specifically offers exposure to reconstructive Microsurgery (including Brachial Plexus Surgery), Rheumatoid Hand Surgery, Wrist Arthroscopy and Congenital Hand Surgery. There are opportunities for clinical research and holders of the Sheffield ATP position are encouraged to take the Diploma in Hand Surgery.

ROYAL ORTHOPAEDIC HOSPITAL, BIRMINGHAM

Summary of Strengths:

1. Wide clinical exposure.
2. Mixed Orthopaedic and Plastic Surgery input.
3. Large Trauma experience with operating in hours (12 day time hand surgery clearing lists per week).
4. Emphasis on hand teaching with separate teaching programme in Hand Surgery.
5. Opportunities for clinical research.
6. Out-patient consultant teaching in Plastic Surgery and wrist conditions.

M A Waldram

PULVERTAFT HAND CENTRE, DERBY

This post offers training in the whole spectrum of Hand Surgery and possibilities for research as well as formal and regular teaching programme.

The unit has at present nine Consultants with special interest including wrist, peripheral nerve and brachial plexus, congenital hands, hand trauma, soft tissue tumours and microsurgery. There are dedicated clinics for new patients with hand trauma, wrist clinics and a children's hand clinic.

There is a regular teaching programme with teaching sessions in the morning from 7.45am until 8.30am on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday and weekly teaching sessions on Friday afternoon, this includes lectures, case discussions, Journal Club and audit.

The unit has a dedicated outpatients and dedicated hand theatre suite, which is well equipped, and there is a trauma list for hands every day to minimise the out of hours emergency operating. Further to that the unit runs 10 different courses every year, which our trainees can attend at no charge. World experts often visit the unit. For example, Marc Garcia-Elias visits the unit and operates and sees patients in outpatients about three times a year and once a year we have a visiting Professor who spends a week in outpatient and theatres and teaching the trainees. Visitors include Harold Kleinart, Mike Tomkin, Jim Strickland and Amit Gupta.

The unit has its own Library with a good collection of hand and upper limb books. There is a fellow's room available to the trainees with computers connected to the Internet and there is a hospital Library, which is well equipped with journals.