

Neurology Elective Training Post – Orange NSW 2800

Orange Neurology Services - Introduction

In 1982 Dr James Gordon (JAG) ventured over the mountains to Orange and established the first regional neurological practice in NSW. He was joined by Dr Simon Hammond (SRH) in 1989, and the region now has three neurologists with the addition of Professor Simon Hawke (SHBH) in 2004, the largest conglomeration in non-metropolitan NSW.

Neurology in Orange is truly regional with a referral population of 350,000 to 400,000 extending from as far north and west as Alice Springs, Broken Hill, Bourke, Lightning Ridge and Mudgee, to Lithgow and the Blue Mountains in the east and down to Grenfell and Young in the south. Orange has been a major medical referral centre in the Western region since the 1920s. In those early years, patients even travelled from Sydney for eye surgery in Orange. Moreover, the Bloomfield Hospital has long been the acute referral centre for psychiatric patients from Katoomba to Broken Hill. Not surprisingly, therefore, Orange has become a natural referral centre for a large area of country NSW.

The range of neurological exposure and access to local consultants in diverse specialities would be a good opportunity for senior advanced trainees. The level of enthusiasm in the regional medical and surgical community would be such that a trainee would gain a wealth of experience.

Names of supervisors with whom the trainee will work

Dr James A Gordon

M.B. B.S.(SYD), F.R.A.C.P.

Mob: 0428814836

Orange Neurology Centre

56 Byng St, Orange NSW 2800

Ph: 02 63629947 Fax: 02 63618139

neuro@ix.net.au

Dr Simon R Hammond

M.B. B.S.(LOND), Ph.D.(SYD), F.R.C.P.(UK), F.R.A.C.P.

Mob: 0412840927

Maynooth Neurology

167 Anson Street, Orange NSW 2800

Ph: 02 63620711 Fax: 02 63620129

neurology@maynooth.com.au

Prof Simon H Hawke

M.B. B.S., D. Phil.(OXON), F.R.A.C.P.

Mob: 0428288408

Brief Description of Departmental Facilities

Neurological practice in Orange is largely private rooms based and apart from the consultative services, neurophysiological services including EEG, EMG, nerve conduction studies and evoked potentials (VEP, BAER, VEMP, SSEP, DSEP) are also provided in that setting.

The neurologists operate a consultative service to the Orange Base and Dudley Private Hospitals on a weekly roster basis. At the current time, there are no public outpatient neurology clinics at the OBH, but the organisation of such clinics is under consideration for the new hospital (vide infra).

Hospital Information

Orange is a thriving rural and mining community in the Central West of NSW, and as noted above, it has been a major medical centre for many years. The Orange Base Hospital (OBH) is a major referral hospital for inland NSW and a new hospital will open in 2011. Orange has a wide range of specialist physicians and surgeons providing a broad range of services. The cardiac services include coronary angiography and stenting. MRI, CT, Ultrasound and Nuclear Medicine are all available in the city, and a measure of the confidence of the future of medicine in this city is the recent establishment of the second private pathology and comprehensive imaging services.

The new hospital will have an intensive care unit with 12 ventilator beds with two full time staff specialist intensivists, in addition to high dependency, coronary care, stroke and rehabilitation units. It will also have a full radiotherapy unit for the first time, and its location on the Bloomfield campus will facilitate its being integrated with the mental health services which have long occupied the site.

Description of Main Educational Focus of the post

- Supervised private outpatient clinics circulating through the JAG, SRH and SHBH rooms.
- Neurophysiology exposure through the JAG and SRH clinics (optional depending on the registrar's interests).
- Assessment of OBH consultations for JAG, SRH and SHBH prior to their assessment.
- Involvement in the management of Stroke Unit patients including decisions on thrombolysis.
- Involvement in neurological rehabilitation assessment and management in cooperation with the staff specialist rehabilitation physicians.
- OBH Grand Rounds presentations for JAG, SRH and SHBH.
- Weekly neurology clinical review meetings.
- Involvement in resident and medical student teaching at OBH.
- Neuroradiology sessions via video-conferencing through the Brain and Mind Research Institute, and possibly through the recently established private neuroimaging service locally.
- OBH outpatient neurology clinic – this clinic does not exist as yet but it is under discussion for the new hospital, for instance to expedite rapid assessment of TIA presenting to the ED.

The weekly timetable would be fashioned around the proposed composite of duties as listed above.

Other Educational Opportunities for the trainee.

This would include attendance at Brain School and local/state/national/international meetings as appropriate.