

Grid and Centre Information for Grid Trainees in Paediatric Rheumatology:

Paediatric Rheumatology is an exciting and evolving specialty. It covers a broad range of diagnoses, the whole spread of ages of children and young people, and a range of management methods from the complex immunological processes involving novel biological therapies, to multidisciplinary management of patients involving cognitive behavioural therapy. The training involves a minimum of two years within Paediatric Rheumatology. Other associated posts can be helpful, such as in Immunology, Infectious Diseases, Nephrology and Dermatology. Details about the specialty can be found on the website for the British Society of Paediatric and Adolescent Rheumatology at www.bspar.org.uk. This website has a Trainees area where the form can be found for completing an expression of interest in the specialty to send to the CSAC Chair, Prof Helen Foster, at h.e.foster@ncl.ac.uk or Training Advisors, Dr Liza McCann, at liza.mccann@rlc.nhs.uk or Dr Ramanan at Athimalaipet.ramanan@UH Bristol.nhs.uk. The website also has the current syllabus. A competency-based framework is yet to be finalised. Meanwhile, the current syllabus gives an idea of the breadth of knowledge and skills required. Trainees need to complete a portfolio as a record of their training based on priorities set out in the syllabus. This can be started prior to grid training.

It is important that the Trainee has an interest in the management of young people with chronic illness, an interest in the care of young people in transition to adult services, an interest in an holistic approach to management within the context of a multidisciplinary team, and an interest in working within evolving managed clinical networks. We appreciate that not all Trainees will have had the opportunity of working within Paediatric Rheumatology before applying to the Grid, and this will not disadvantage them in the selection process. We are interested in Trainees with an enthusiasm for working in a tertiary specialty within the areas of the syllabus.

There are an increasing number of Centres that offer national grid training in Paediatric Rheumatology and these potentially include Birmingham, Bristol, Glasgow, Leeds, Liverpool, London (Great Ormond Street), Newcastle and Nottingham. The current recommendation is that training is undertaken in two different grid Centres within the United Kingdom over a two to three year period. This move between Centres is encouraged in order to provide comprehensive training and to experience in more than one model of service delivery. For instance, only two of the centres undertake Autologous Bone Marrow Transplantation for rheumatological diseases and other centres have expertise in the management of young people with Chronic Fatigue and Chronic Pain Syndromes. As a specialty we are committed to the welfare of Trainees, and there are ways of Trainees not having to move residence to achieve this, although it may require a minimum of six months with moderate commute. Currently we tailor the rotations to individual Trainee's personal circumstances and educational needs, and within the specialty we review all Trainee's requirements on an annual basis and have been able to satisfactorily place Trainees to meet their needs. Applicants must have at least 2 years of training left before CCT in order to apply for the National Grid.

For further information regarding likely grid centres available for grid training in the near future / for your potential year of application, please contact Dr McCann, Dr Ramanan or Prof Foster. Candidates are also able to contact educational supervisors in individual centres to discuss local programmes after short-listing has occurred.

Please note: There are no fixed rotations in paediatric rheumatology. Movement between centres is arranged after individual discussion with trainees at their annual informal rheumatology appraisals at time of the trainees meeting, taking into consideration training needs of the individual trainee and facilities available at each centre at a certain time. An effort is made to try and ensure that a trainee only has to move once during a 2-3 year rotation. Consideration will be taking for special needs such as carer roles. For more information, contact Dr Liza McCann / Dr Ramanan / Prof Helen Foster.

Dates for grid process 2010:

- Advert in BMJ will open on the 2nd October.
- Interview date: 4th December 2009.

For more information, contact:

- Dr Liza McCann: Alder Hey Hospital, Liverpool; tel 0151 252 5153 / e-mail as above.
- Dr Ramanan, Bristol Royal Hospital for Children; tel 0117 342 8809 / e-mail as above.
- Prof Helen Foster, Newcastle; tel: 0191 222 7541 or e-mail as above.