

**Eastern Region: School of Anaesthesia  
The University Division of Anaesthesia (UDA) Attachment  
12 months beginning February 2024**

**[A] Instructions for trainees**

**The post**

The UDA attachment is a one year period of attachment to the University Division of Anaesthesia, Cambridge, offered to all Post-Fellowship trainees in the East of England at an appropriate stage of their training, with selection by competition. Successful candidates will participate fully in the trainee on call rota out of hours but will undertake a maximum of one half day training list per week, averaged across weeks, if mutually convenient. The post is part of the East of England School of Anaesthesia Rotation and standard annual, study and professional leave arrangements will apply.

Up to two trainees can be attached to the UDA at any one time and the time spent in the post counts towards CCT. Shortlisting will be based on a submission from the trainee, with or without support from a mentor. Many trainees will be mentored in such research by Consultants or Senior Scientists in (or associated with) the UDA. However, it is hoped that at least some of these projects will be jointly supervised by other Regional Consultants. Shortlisted candidates will be interviewed for a formal selection. The purpose of this attachment would be:-

- a) To complete a significant piece of research
- b) To present the data at National or International meetings.
- c) To publish the data as at least one paper in a peer reviewed journal
- d) Where appropriate, to obtain adequate pilot data to apply for a substantial research funding (from the MRC, Wellcome Trust, RCoA, etc.) so as to fund studies towards a higher degree
- e) Where appropriate, to arrange for collaborative research with other groups in the Region, in order to provide research opportunities that are currently unavailable to the specialty. This will not only provide opportunities for the individual, but also for the specialty as a whole.

**Applications for Shortlisting**

You need to submit a current curriculum vitae and a short (<2500 words + references and figs) review of literature on a topic of your choosing, with the aim of coming up with an un-answered (but answerable!) research question. This does not have to be on the topic on which you finally do your research; the idea is to see how you perform when working in an area where you have a special interest. It would be entirely appropriate for you to discuss this with a more senior trainee or Consultant, who acts as a mentor. If the chosen Mentor is one of the Selection Committee, then that individual cannot vote on the final decision at the Committee, but can contribute to discussions.

This approach has the advantage that each of you will be concentrating on an area of special interest that you are familiar with, and whether successful or not, you will have the infrastructure for a publication.

Trainees who are interested in applying for the post will need to submit their applications by **17:00 Friday 1<sup>st</sup> September 2023**. Please send submissions through to Professor Coles at [jpc44@cam.ac.uk](mailto:jpc44@cam.ac.uk) Submissions will be scored on originality, content and presentation, making some allowance for whether or not the effort was solo, or done with consultant input. However, we will not penalise individuals who have managed to organise a mentor, since part of the success of research is being able to interact with people and take advice.

**Interviews**

The interview for shortlisted candidates will be held in **during week commencing 25<sup>th</sup> September 2023** will include a brief (10 minute) presentation of the proposed research question arising from the article (not a presentation of the article itself). The presentation of the research proposal should cover the following headings:

- Aims
- Hypothesis to be tested
- Background literature review
- Protocol
- Data analysis
- Interpretation of positive and negative results
- Funding the other resource implications
- Eventual plans for the object

## **[B] Instructions for proposed supervisors**

All Post-Fellowship trainees in the Region are offered the opportunity to compete for a year's attachment to the University Division of Anaesthesia. One or two slots are available each year, and places are awarded by interview, which will be held **during week commencing 25<sup>th</sup> September 2023**, for attachments starting in February 2024. The aims of the attachment and its expected outputs are listed on the previous page. This section provides guidance for prospective supervisors.

While some trainees looking for such attachments will come with their own project, sometimes after discussion with a senior mentor/supervisor, others will be looking for a project. The Regional Training Committee is keen to offer the widest possible range of high quality projects to prospective applicants, and so are seeking proposals from senior colleagues who wish to supervise such individuals.

Decisions about which projects are selected for consideration will be made on the basis of the following criteria:

- Scientific background
- Research from your group on this topic
- Proposed studies
- Funding available for proposed studies
- What specific contribution will the ST make, and how you see this forming a basis for a research training fellowship application
- Scientific (not funding) prospects for extension beyond the initial year to provide a basis for a PhD (or less optimally, an MD)
- Relevant references
- Any papers on the topic from your group

These are research training slots and these individuals are at the start of their research careers, it is important that they are supervised within the context of an established research program. It is not appropriate to seek to supervise a trainee if they are going to be initiating the research, or this is a project that needs to be established by the trainee with little or no supervisory input.