

**Eastern Region: School of Anaesthesia
The University Division of Anaesthesia (UDA) Attachment
12 months beginning February 2025**

[A] Instructions for trainees

The post

The UDA attachment is a one year period of attachment to the Perioperative, Acute, Critical Care and Emergency Medicine (PACE) Section, Department of Medicine, University of Cambridge (formally known as the University Division of Anaesthesia), offered to all Post-Fellowship Anaesthesia 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. The intention is that one of the posts will be allocated to work on a study of the perioperative care of patients with chronic subdural haematoma. Further project details are available from the principal investigator; Dr Daniel Stubbs (djs225@cam.ac.uk). The project benefits from close links and collaboration with national partners including the Royal College of Anaesthetists Centre for Research and Improvement (CR&I), the Society for British Neurological Surgeons (SBNS), and the Neuroanaesthesia and Critical Care Society (NACCS). It would be of particular interest to those with an interest in perioperative medicine, neuro-anaesthesia, or other sub-specialties such as vascular anaesthesia. The exact project will be decided on appointment, taking into account the date of commencement, project priorities, and specific interests. For this project the specific research opportunities include ethics application/amendment, qualitative methods (including interviews, survey design and interpretation), quantitative methods (including use of electronic health records and other routine data sources), and programme evaluation.

Shortlisting for both posts 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 brief (<1000 words + references and figures) introductory review of the literature on a topic of your choosing, with the aim of coming up with an unanswered (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 11th October 2024**. Please send submissions through to Professor Coles at 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 21st or 28th October 2024** 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 outline research proposal should cover the following headings:

- Aims
- Hypothesis to be tested
- Background literature review
- Protocol
- Data analyses
- 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 21st or 28th October 2024**, for attachments starting in February 2025. 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.