Waipapa Taumata Rau University of Auckland

nz national eye centre

DEPARTMENT OF OPHTHALMOLOGY, UNIVERSITY OF AUCKLAND: FELLOWSHIP DESCRIPTION: Vitreo-retinal service

Location

1. Department of Ophthalmology, New Zealand National Eye Centre
   Faculty of Medical and Health Sciences,
   Grafton Campus, University of Auckland

2. Department of Ophthalmology, Greenlane Hospital, Auckland

3. Auckland Eye, St Marks Rd, Auckland

4. Eye Institute, Remuera Rd, Auckland

Head of Department:

Professor Charles NJ McGhee
MB, PhD, DSc, FRCS, FRCOphth, FRANZCO
Maurice Paykel Professor and Chair of Ophthalmology
Director, New Zealand National Eye Centre

Supervisors / Vitreo-Retinal consultants (N=5)

Dr Nadeem Ahmad, MBBS, FRCOphth (Principal Supervisor)
Dr Riyaz Bhikoo, MBChB, FRCOpth

Dr Peter Hadden MB, FRANZCO
Dr Clairton Feitosa de Souza, MD, PhD, CBO
Dr Monika Pradhan, MBBS, FRANZCO
Dr Joel Yap

Contact Details

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Fellowship Objectives:

1. To gain exposure to surgical retina and prepare a candidate for a career with subspecialty training in vitreo-retinal diseases.

2. To enhance registrar and undergraduate medical student teaching and provide surgical supervision for registrars where appropriate.

3. To provide administrative support as required in regard to organization of the vitreo-retinal and outpatient lists. Maintenance of the Vitreo-retinal data base is a major objective.

4. To pursue clinical or laboratory research in the Department of Ophthalmology, University of Auckland.

5. The post will be 70-80:20-30 clinical/research, unless otherwise agreed by the Supervisors.

General description:

This fellowship is offered to prepare suitable candidates for an academic/clinical career in ophthalmology. This includes appropriate clinical and surgical skill acquisition in order to be competent as a vitreo-retinal specialist. We generally recommend two years of fellowship experience in surgical retina and many of the previous Fellows, without VR experience prior to taking up this post, have subsequently gone on to pursue additional training to complement their Auckland experience.

Clinical Duties:

Auckland City Hospital is a tertiary service provider with a catchment population of over 1.3 million and around 55,000 ophthalmology outpatient attendances per annum.

These include examining, diagnosing and treating referred subspecialty patients (Surgical and medical retina, diabetic retinopathy, intra-ocular tumours etc.) in an outpatient setting in the Auckland District Health Board Ophthalmology Service, located at Greenlane Hospital. Typically, the outpatient sub-specialty clinic (4 hours) would comprise 20-25 patients staffed by a Consultant Ophthalmologist (de Sousza, Hadden, Ahmad, Welch, Yap Bhikoo, Pradham) a Registrar (resident) and a Fellow. The Fellow is expected to gain expertise in retinal imaging techniques including ultra-sonography, OCT and FFA.

Approximately one third of the clinical time will be spent in the operating room, both first assisting, and performing retinal procedures under supervision. A typical week will comprise 4-5 clinical sessions and 2 operating room sessions. In addition there is a weekly retinal meeting where clinical problems are presented and discussed. Part of this meeting is dedicated to the clinical teaching of registrars (residents). The VR Fellow is expected to co-ordinate and present at this meeting.

The candidate will be exposed to a wide variety of surgical retinal problems including retinal detachments, diabetic eye disease, trauma, and endophthalmitis. The Fellow will be exposed to a variety of surgical techniques including vitrectomy, conventional re-attachment. At Auckland, the surgeons typically use small gauge instruments, a wide angle viewing system, intra-operative video recording and intra-operative OCT imaging when required. The candidate will be expected to follow and be responsible for inpatients on the retinal service.

The fellow is required to provide him/herself with a cell-phone and be contactable at all times (except when on vacation), and will avail him/herself for consultation to registrars and emergencies referred by outside ophthalmologists.

Surgery will be allocated in a graded fashion of responsibility and a talented candidate can expect to perform around 300 vitreo-retinal surgeries. Complex cases are likely to involve input from other sub-specialists particularly where there are co-existing corneal or anterior-segment pathologies.

Research:

Depending on whether the successful candidate undertakes a one or two year Fellowship(s) he will be expected to spend 30% of his/her time on laboratory and/or clinical research. Regular written reports to the Supervisor are required, together with progress reports and project outlines.

A basic or clinical science project will be outlined for the fellow and he or she will be expected to present this at Research meetings of the Department of Ophthalmology as well as at a national or international conference.

Teaching:

Ophthalmology training in New Zealand usually involves one year as SHO, and five years as a vocational registrar (resident). The last year of registrar training is typically spent in a Fellowship position overseas. The Vitreo-retinal Fellow is expected to be actively involved in the clinical and surgical training of registrars. This includes encouraging registrars to present interesting cases at the weekly retinal meeting and literature discussions. The Greenlane clinical centre is linked to the University of Auckland for teaching of medical students and fellows will frequently be involved in clinical teaching within the clinic and will also provide occasional lectures/tutorials. Participation in teaching of medical students and therapeutic optometry students is also an expectation of this role.

Annual Leave:

5 weeks paid annual leave per year plus public holidays.

Conference Leave:

Applications are submitted for approval to the HoD, Department of Ophthalmology. There is no specific funding allocated for attending conferences but several sources are available.

Evaluation:

An evaluation after 2 months of the fellowship will be held to determine performance. A mid-term evaluation will also be held with the fellow to evaluate his or her performance and to give feedback regarding progress. Fellows are encouraged to provide feedback and express their comments on how their fellowship is progressing, including areas they would like to further develop.

Fellowship Duration: 1 or 2 years as directly negotiated.

Salary: The salary is paid at Research Fellow / Level 1 as per the University of Auckland Academic collective agreement.

Weekly Duties

The Fellow is expected to be on university or clinical sites at a minimum of Monday to Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. regardless of clinical activities. Attendance Saturday mornings 8.30am-10.30am may be required to review surgical/inpatient cases. There will be a significant amount of on call duties, i.e. 2-3 times per week and often on a Saturday morning. Fellows are also expected to assist with the after hours roster when directed by the Head of Department.

All time not occupied by patient responsibilities must be used to further academic pursuits such as research and teaching. Failure to utilize non-clinical time in an appropriate fashion and unsatisfactory progress may result in curtailment of the Fellowship with one months' notice. Except in exceptional circumstances all absences from clinic and operating room duties must be cleared six weeks in advance.

Housing:

Unfortunately no residence accommodation is available to support this post. Average weekly rental in Auckland can vary from $500 to $700 per week depending on the time of accommodation required.

Application Process:

Applications are by CV and cover letter to Professor Charles McGhee at the above contacts. Please include with your CV an up-to-date summary of surgical log. Fellowships normally run from July to June, but flexible start dates are considered. Generally, decisions are made approximately 6-12 months prior to the start date. Interviews are conducted by telephone and personal interviews are not generally required. Please check our website for closing date for sending applications. For flexible start dates, applicants should enquire as to availability.

Medical Registration:

Non-New Zealand Nationals may apply. However, foreign medical graduates should note that they may not enroll in any programmes involving patient contact, nor practice medicine in New Zealand, unless they are registered by the Medical Council of New Zealand. This body is entirely independent of the universities. Completion of an

Australian, North American or UK vocational registrar/residency program usually makes medical registration fairly straightforward.

Those applicants whose medical school was not taught in English and who do not speak English as their native language must have the following minimum International English Language Testing System (IELTS) scores as per the Council requirements:

- Speaking 7.0
- Listening 7.0
- Writing 7.0
- Reading 7.0

From 9 September 2018, applicants can pass the Medical Module of the OET by achieving a minimum score of 350 in each of the four components (reading, writing, listening and speaking) within one result. Please check the website www.mcnz.org.nz for full details

Fellow Responsibilities:

1. Obtain medical registration prior to the start of the programme
2. Obtain practice insurance via Medical Protection Society
3. Obtain visa and work permit from the NZ Immigration Service
4. Obtain health insurance for family members while in New Zealand
5. Adhere to the policies of the University of Auckland and Auckland District Health Board
6. Report to the University Department of Ophthalmology for administrative issues
7. Obtain occupational health clearance prior to arriving in New Zealand
8. Report to the consultant vitreo-retinal ophthalmologists for clinical issues