DEPARTMENT OF OPHTHALMOLOGY, UNIVERSITY OF AUCKLAND,
FELLOWSHIP DESCRIPTION: Uveitis

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

Principal Supervisor:

Dr Rachael Niederer, MBChB, FRANZCO
Dr Joanne Sims, MBChB, PhD, FRANZCO

Co- Supervisors

Dr Narme Deva, MBChB, MD, FRANZCO

Contact Details

Professor Charles NJ McGhee
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Fellowship Objectives:

1. To gain exposure to the spectrum of uveitis, ocular and systemic manifestations and to prepare a candidate for a clinical academic career with subspecialty training in uveitis.

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 surgical and outpatient lists under the care of Uveitis.

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

General description:

This fellowship has a degree of flexibility in relation to both duration and the mix of clinical and research components. It is offered to prepare suitable candidates for an academic/clinical career in ophthalmology. This includes appropriate clinical experience in order to be considered a sub-specialist in the field of uveitis and systemic diseases as well as involvement in basic and clinical research and also the opportunity to continue developing surgical skills. One year posts are generally 70% clinical and 30% research.

Those wishing to pursue a higher research degree (Masters, research MD by thesis, or PhD by thesis) must opt for a 50% clinical and 50% research appointment over one (Masters), two (MD) or three years (PhD).

Clinical Duties:

These include assessing, diagnosing and treating referred subspecialty patients 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 25-30 patients staffed by a Consultant Ophthalmologist (Dr Sims or Deva, or both in a combined clinic) a Registrar (resident) and a Fellow. One clinic each fortnight has a clinical immunologist in attendance. Additionally, approximately one quarter of the clinical time would be spent in the operating room, both first assisting, and performing cataract procedures under supervision. A typical week would comprise 5-6 clinical sessions and 1-2 operating room sessions

The fellow will be exposed to a wide variety of uveitis problems including infectious and non-infectious aetiologies and intraocular lymphoma. A significant proportion of patients seen in clinic require systemic immunosuppressant medications including biologic agents, and the fellow will gain experience in the indications, initiation and monitoring of these medicines. The fellow will be expected to follow and be responsible for patients on the uveitis inpatient or daystay service. The fellow will carry a cell-phone at all times (except when on vacation), and will avail him/herself for consultation to registrars and emergencies referred by outside ophthalmologists. Auckland District health Board is a tertiary service provider with a catchment population of over 1.5million and around 95,000 ophthalmology outpatient attendances per annum.

Senior candidates are expected to have already had adequate training in cataract surgery (>500 phaco-emulsification procedures), as this is not an emphasis of the fellowship – with the exception of complex and combined cataract procedures. The fellow will receive training in management of uveitic cataract surgery, and there may be scope for training in surgical management of glaucoma complications. Fellows are expected to supervise registrar cataract surgery and may be called upon to do occasional service lists comprising mainly cataract surgery.

Research:

Depending on whether the successful candidate undertakes a one or two year Fellowship (s)he will be expected to spend 30-50% of his/her time on laboratory and/or clinical research. A basic or clinical science project will be outlined for the fellow and he or she will be expected to present this at Research Day of the Department of Ophthalmology as well as at a national or international meeting.

Teaching:

Ophthalmology training in New Zealand usually involves one year as an SHO, and five years as a vocational registrar. The last year of registrar training is typically spent in a Fellowship position overseas. The local Corneal Fellow is expected to be actively involved in the clinical and surgical training of registrars. This includes involvement in interesting cases in the outpatient service as well as graciously stepping aside in the operating room if a registrar shows specific interest in a surgical procedure, be it cornea or not. Presentation of interesting cases at regular teaching sessions is also expected.

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, 2 or 3 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 9am-10.30am may be required to review surgical/inpatient cases. Except when on leave, the Fellow is expected to be available for consultation regarding anterior segment cases. An example of a recent time-table is highlighted below.

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Morning	Clinic Sims			Niederer CMDHB	Deva clinic/ OR alt
Afternoon	Clinic Sims/Niederer		Niederer Clinic/OR	Niederer CMDHB	Sims, Deva, Immunologist clinic/

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. Rental accommodation is widely available in Auckland. Average weekly rental can vary from $500 to $700 per week depending on the type 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 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. Report to the consultant corneal ophthalmologists for clinical issues