DEPARTMENT OF OPHTHALMOLOGY, UNIVERSITY OF AUCKLAND: FELLOWSHIP DESCRIPTION: **Ocular Genetic 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, Te Whatu Ora, Health New Zealand, Te Toka Tumai, Auckland

3. Retina Specialists, Parnell, 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 / Retinal consultants (N=4)

Assoc Professor Andrea Vincent MBChB, MD, FRANZCO
(Principal Supervisor)

Dr Sarah Hull, MA, MBBS, PhD, FRCOphth
Dr Leo Sheck, MBChB, MD,FRANZCO
Dr Tracey Wong, MBChB, FRANZCO

Contact Details

Dr Andrea Vincent
Associate Professor Ophthalmology,
Department of Ophthalmology, Faculty of Medical & Health Sciences,
The University of Auckland, Private Bag 92019,
Auckland, New Zealand

Telephone: 64 9 9236712
Facsimile: 64 9 367 7173

Email h.chinoy@auckland.ac.nz
Website http://www.ophthalmology.auckland.ac.nz

Fellowship Objectives:

1. To gain exposure to Ocular Genetics and prepare a candidate for a career with subspecialty training in Ocular Genetic diseases, along with paediatric ophthalmology subspecialty training.

2. To enhance registrar and undergraduate medical student teaching where appropriate.

3. To provide administrative support as required in regard to organization of the ocular genetics outpatient lists. Maintenance of the inherited retinal diseases data base is a major objective.

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

5. The post will be approx. 70/30 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 research skill acquisition in order to be competent as a Ocular Genetic specialist. We generally recommend one year of fellowship experience in Ocular Genetics, in order to attain the exposure, experience and skills required to provide a similar service in the candidate's home country, but shorter periods may be possible depending on the candidate's previous experience.

Clinical Duties:

Auckland City Hospital is a tertiary service provider with a catchment population of over 1.6 million and around 100,000 ophthalmology outpatient attendances per annum.

Three clinical sessions per week will be in the Ocular genetics Eye clinic. This will include examining, diagnosing and treating referred subspecialty patients (e.g Inherited retinal dystrophies, syndromic disorders, phacomatoses, congenital cataracts and glaucoma) in an outpatient setting in Te Whatu Ora, Health New Zealand, Te Toka Tumai, Ophthalmology Service, located at Greenlane Hospital, Auckland Typically the outpatient sub-specialty clinic (4 hours) would comprise 15-18 patients staffed by a Consultant Ophthalmologist (Vincent), a Registrar (resident) and a Fellow
The Fellow is expected to gain expertise in retinal imaging techniques including fundus autofluorescence, OCT, microperimetry.

Three clinical sessions per week will spent in the Paediatric subspecialty service – predominantly clinics, with a theatre session approximately fortnightly. These clinics will include examining, diagnosing and treating referred subspecialty patients (eg strabismus, congenital cataract and glaucoma, neuro ophthalmology, and retinoblastoma.

One clinical session will be spent in the acute eye service.

Approximately 30% of the time will be spent in undertaking clinical research, a typical week will comprise 7 clinical sessions. There is an opportunity to gain skill in Electrodiagnostics. In addition there is a biweekly Ocular Genetics team meeting where research activities are presented and discussed. The OG Fellow is expected to present at this meeting.

The candidate will be exposed to a wide variety of ocular genetic disorders including the inherited retinal dystrophies (rod-cone, cone dystrophies, congenital stationary night blindness, achromatopsia, mitochondrial retinopathies, maculopathies and pattern dystrophies etc), syndromes with ocular manifestations (eg Marfan, Down, Neurofibromatosis, Von Hippel Lindau, Ciliopathies, Bardet Biedel, Alstrom, Alport and metabolic disorders). The Fellow will be exposed to a variety of diagnostic techniques both clinical, pedigree ascertainment, cascade screening, bioinformatics, and gene testing methodologies, and interpreting test results.

Research:

The Ocular Genetic fellow will be expected to spend 30% of their time on clinical research. This research is complementary to the clinical work, and strengthens the fellow's understanding of genetics. 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 Ocular Genetic Fellow is expected to be actively involved in the clinical training of registrars. This includes encouraging registrars to present interesting cases at the monthly departmental 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 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 year, or variable as directly negotiated.

Salary: The salary is paid at Research Fellow grade 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.

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 $400 to $800 per week depending on the type of accommodation required.

Application Process:

Applications are by CV and cover letter to Associate Professor Andrea Vincent at the above contacts. Please include your CV. 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 virtually 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: its website may be found at <http://www.mcnz.org.nz/>. 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

The Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) and Occupational English Test (OET) are not accepted by the Council as alternatives to IELTS. If you require to sit the IELTS examination (please check criteria on the Medical Council website), please ensure you have passed the examination at the time of application.

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 Te Whatu Ora, Te Toka Tumai Auckland
6. Report to the University Department of Ophthalmology for administrative issues
7. Report to the consultant Ocular Genetic ophthalmologists for clinical issues