Advance Trainee in Neurology

12 Month Core Training Position

St Vincent's Private Hospital

Darlinghurst, NSW, 2010

Applications open: 2 January, 2014.

Expressions of interest: Dr Susan Tomlinson

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Setting

St Vincent's Private Hospital, Darlinghurst, is situated in Sydney's inner east, in close proximity to the central business district, and the eastern suburbs and beaches. St Vincent's Private Hospital has 180 inpatient bed facility for acute medical and surgical patients. There are 10-15 neurology admissions per week, an average of and 10-15 neurology consults per week. We have a 4 bed acute stroke unit offering a 24-hour thrombolysis service.

St Vincent's Private Clinic is adjacent to the Private Hospital and provides high-level tertiary and quaternary specialist medical services. The trainee will see private patients in the clinic under supervision of a designated neurologist. Nine neurologists work at St Vincent's Clinic, with a broad range of subspecialty interests. Clinic attendance will be focused on providing the trainee with experience in disciplines not routinely available in other centres and to compliment trainee's prior experience or interests.

St Vincent’s Private Hospital is situated adjacent to St Vincent’s Public Hospital, and several of the facilities of the public and private Neurology and Neurosurgery departments are combined. This serves to increase the educational opportunities available to the registrar, and to ensure that the position is a high-quality educational experience. The trainee will attend clinical meetings, educational sessions and outpatient clinics at St Vincent's Public Hospital, which is adjacent to the St Vincent's Private Hospital.
St Vincent's Public Hospital has 15-20 acute neurology beds, neurophysiology clinics (EEG, nerve conduction studies and EMG, SSEP, VEPs), interventional neuroradiology, and both general and subspecialty outpatient clinics.

At St Vincent's Private Hospital a strong emphasis is placed on clinical excellence. The position is designed to facilitate close level of liaison and supervision with the neurology consultants. All consultant neurologists at St Vincent's hospital hold higher qualifications and have research experience, and the trainee will be closely mentored to ensure that they have a broad range of career options available. Trainees will be working with the following consultants:

- Dr Dudley O’Sullivan (movement disorders, neurophysiology)
- Professor Bruce Brew (neuroinfection, neuroinflammation, HIV neurology, cognitive disorders)
- Associate Professor Paul Darveniza (muscle disease, movement disorders, botox)
- Associate Professor Raymond Garrick (neuro-ophthalmology, MS, pain, neuro-oncology)
- Dr John O’Neill (movement disorders, neuromuscular disease, neurophysiology)
- Dr Romesh Markus (stroke)
- Dr Ian Sutton (neuroinflammation and MS)
- Dr Susan Tomlinson (ion channel disorders, neurogenetic disorders, neuromuscular disease)

The educational imperatives for this post are to

- Cultivate excellence in clinical assessment, with particular attention to history taking and examination. The trainee should develop the ability to synthesise a case presentation and generate a management plan.
- Learn current evidence-based best practise in acute and clinic-based neurologic disorders.
- Enable the trainee to undertake self-directed learning and to be able to critically appraise literature.
- Develop experience in specific subspecialty areas in which St Vincent's Private Hospital carries expertise.
- Obtain experience in teaching medical students from the University of NSW and the University of Notre Dame, as well as basic physician trainees.
- Develop an interest in research and development and to explore avenues by which the trainee may wish to enter higher study. Involvement in research is highly encouraged but not compulsory. Trainees would be given the opportunity to choose and area of interest to pursue.

This training position provides the trainee with a unique exposure to neurology sub specialties which are not routinely available at public teaching hospitals. For example, but not limited to the following:

1. Deep brain stimulation in movement disorders - Parkinson's disease is one of the most common clinical problems encountered in neurological practise. Dr Steven Tisch leads a multi-disciplinary team in managing Parkinson's Disease including deep brain stimulation.
The trainee will have the opportunity to learn about management of complex Parkinson’s patients, assessment and management of apomorphine and the pathway for DBS surgery. The duodopa programme is scheduled to commence in 2014.

2. HIV neurology - HIV is no longer a terminal illness, but a chronic disease. The commonest complications of long-term HIV are now neurological sequale including dementia and neuropathy. There is a critical need for neurologists with expertise in treating neurological sequale of HIV, and other neurological infections. Prof Bruce Brew is a world leader in HIV neurology and neurovirology, one of only a few in Australia. This quality experience is not available in most public teaching hospitals.

3. Pain management - Management of pain is not well understood and seldom taught at registrar level, and yet need for physicians with expertise in pain management is increasing exponentially. Assoc Prof Raymond Garrick (past President of the Board of Examination for the Faculty of Pain Medicine) has 35 years experience in management of acute and chronic pain, and leads a group of neurologists at St Vincent's with expertise in pain management. The trainee would gain competence in the assessment, diagnosis and management of acute and chronic pain. This level of training is not available in general neurology registrar training at public teaching hospitals.

4. Neuro-oncology – St Vincent’s has a highly active multi-disciplinary neuro-oncology group and services many urban and rural patients. In association with our radiation and medical oncologists, trainees will have exposure to complex management of neuro-oncology patients.

5. Neurological complications of transplant medicine (heart, lung, bone marrow).

This position will provide the trainee with all elements required to gain the appropriate skills and experience consistent with the Australia and New Zealand Association of Neurology's (ANZAN) registrar training requirements. It fulfills the Royal Australian College of Physician's STP eligibility criteria. In particular, the trainee will be involved in the following: Regular consultant-led ward rounds, participation in the acute thrombolysis service during working hours, at least one outpatient neurophysiology clinic per week (NCS, EMG, VEP, SEP, EEG), outpatient neurology clinics, access to state-of-the-art neuroradiology, weekly neuroradiology meeting, regular involvement with neurosurgical patients, monthly neuropathology meeting, monthly journal club, quarterly audit, attendance at National neurology registrar teaching ('Brain School') and the ANZAN annual scientific meeting.

The learning objectives are in line with the educational imperatives for the post. The trainee will be closely mentored by the supervisor to ensure clinical skills are developing with regards to the following:

- Excellence in clinical assessment. The trainee should develop the ability to synthesise a case presentation and generate a management plan.

- Learn current evidence-based best practice in acute and clinic-based neurologic disorders
- Undertake self-directed learning and to be able to critically appraise literature

- A sound knowledge of basic sciences pertaining to neurology

- An understanding of indications and interpretation of investigations (CT, MRI, LP etc)

- Experience in neurophysiology tests (EMG, NCS, VEP, SSEP)

- Cultivate an understanding of holistic care and empathy

- Work effectively as part of a team with colleagues in emergency, rehabilitation medicine, neurosurgery, intensive care, neuropsychiatry, and palliative care

**Educational opportunities** include monthly neuropathology meeting, monthly journal club, quarterly audit, attendance at Brain School, attendance at the ANZAN annual meeting, weekly neuroradiology meeting.

The trainee would be expected to teach medical students from the University of NSW and the University of Notre Dame, as well as basic physician trainees.

Involvement in research is highly encouraged. At the start of the year, trainees would be given the opportunity to chose an area of interest to research and encouraged to design a project which would be achievable in the given timeframe.

**Duties will involve:**

- assessment of acute neurology presentations through the emergency department at St Vincent's Hospital.

- management of elective ward admissions and consults

- management of 4 bed stroke unit and leading multidisciplinary team

- participation in thrombolysis roster

- weekly neurophysiology clinic (EEG, EMG, NCS, VEP, SSEP, MEP)

- weekly subspecialty clinic (e.g Movement Disorders, HIV/neuroinfection,

- weekly neuroradiology case conference

- monthly neuropathology

- participation in general medical registrar after hours roster at St Vincent's Public Hospital

- research project of trainee's choice

Candidates must have APRHA accreditation and have successfully passed RACP examinations or equivalent, and be eligible to hold an advance training neurology registrar position. Excellent communication skills are essential.