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# MULTIPLE SCLEROSIS CLINIC

## BRAIN & MIND RESEARCH INSTITUTE



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### MS/NEUROIMMUNOLOGY FELLOWSHIP AT RPAH/BMC

#### About Us

The BMC Multiple Sclerosis (MS) Clinic is a collaboration between SLHD (Royal Prince Alfred Hospital), the University of Sydney and MS Australia. The clinic is the largest (~1000 patients; with 5-10% growth per annum) and only University-based MS clinic in NSW, and provides both unparalleled multidisciplinary patient service and an expanding platform for clinical research. The clinic is staffed by subspecialist neurologists, two MS clinical nurse consultants, neuropsychologists, continence advisors and a dedicated MS physiotherapist. Linked to the co-located BMC MS Clinical Trials Unit, the clinic provides patients with ready access to state of the art multi-national and investigator-initiated clinical trials. The MS Clinic is the cornerstone of the BMC MS Research Program, comprising clinical, epidemiological, imaging, neurophysiology, biomarker and neuropathology projects.

A sponsored Fellowship in Multiple Sclerosis and Neuroimmunology was established at the Brain & Mind Centre and Royal Prince Alfred hospital in 2009. RPAH and BMC have an established MS Program, first developed by Prof James G McLeod, and are recognised leaders in the field. The structured Fellowship is aimed at Neurology advanced trainees who wish to develop expertise in the field of neuroimmunology/multiple sclerosis. *The primary focus of the Fellowship is patient care.* However, the Fellow will complete both Clinical and Research components during the 1 year cycle. Appropriate research may be undertaken with a view toward subsequent study for a PhD.

#### **A. Clinical Attachment**

##### 1. CLINICS

###### *a. MS Clinic at BMC*

The Fellow will be responsible for evaluating and treating patients in a supervised environment with the aim of achieving subspecialty level competence in the diagnosis and management of multiple sclerosis and related disorders. This fully-fledged multidisciplinary clinic runs weekly at the BMC. A wide range of neuroinflammatory disorders including MS, NMO and various MS-mimics are seen at this clinic.

###### *b. Neuroimmunology Clinic at RPAH*

This clinic subspecialises in rare CNS inflammatory disorders, for example neurosarcoidosis, neuro-Bechet's and CNS inflammation associated with systemic autoimmunity.

###### *c. Neuromuscular Clinic (NMC) at RPAH*

Patients with peripheral neuroimmunological and muscle disorders are seen at the weekly NMC at RPAH. The Fellow is encouraged to participate in the clinic.

## 2. INPATIENTS

The Fellow will not be directly responsible for inpatient care during working hours. However, the Fellow will be expected to participate in the on-call roster with 2-3 other Neurology Advanced trainees/basic trainees during the 6 month clinical attachment and, if desired, the full year. Salary for the on-call/call-back component of the Fellowship will be paid separately.

The fellow may be required to present inpatients with neuroimmunological disease to the RPAH Clinical meetings on occasion (see 3. Below)

## 3. RPAH NEUROLOGY CLINICAL MEETINGS

The Fellow will be expected to attend the weekly RPAH Neurology clinical meetings, and to present a minimum of 2 patients with interesting neuroimmunological disorders (either outpatients or inpatients) during the 6 month clinical rotation.

## 4. NEURORADIOLOGY

Clinical neuroradiology meetings are held weekly at RPAH and monthly at BMC. The Fellow is expected to participate in both of these meetings. If desired, a 2 week intensive neuro-radiology teaching rotation at BMRI Neuroradiology may be undertaken during the Fellowship.

## 5. CLINICAL TRIALS

RPAH/BMC have an active clinical trials programme encompassing Phase 2-4 pharma-driven, as well as investigator-driven, studies. The fellow will be expected to actively participate in clinical trials involving all stages of MS as an examining physician. He/she will gain experience in the use and interpretation of clinical outcome measures such as the EDSS, the multiple sclerosis functional composite (MSFC), and MRI-based outcome measures.

## 6. ELECTROPHYSIOLOGY

The Fellow is expected to attain subspecialty level competence in the performance and interpretation of all forms of evoked potential studies applicable to patients with central neuroimmunological disorders. The Fellow will independently report a minimum of 100 studies which will be reviewed by the reporting neurologist and used as a teaching tool.

## **B. Research Component**

During the course of the clinical fellowship, the Fellow will be able to undertake a variety of projects. Projects will vary according to the interests of the Fellow and the nature of ongoing projects at the BMC and University of Sydney. The Fellow will be expected to participate in translational or clinical research that will lead to the submission of at least one manuscript to a high-impact journal. The project will be supervised by one of the MS Neurologists or MS Researchers based at the University of Sydney/BMC. The Fellow will be expected to present this work at the annual ANZAN conference, and if applicable, at one overseas meeting such as ECTRIMS. Travel to present work undertaken during the fellowship at an overseas conference will be funded.

*For further information, please contact A/Professor Michael Barnett on 0416288208.*

