Palliative Medicine

Introduction

Palliative Medicine is a specialty of the Royal College of Physicians and encompasses the active total care of patients with life-limiting illness, and their families. This will include pharmacological and non-pharmacological holistic management. It involves multi-professional team working across different care settings: hospital, hospice & community.

Entry into the specialty is via the National Recruitment process at ST3 level, following appropriate core training and post-graduate membership examinations. It is a four year training programme.

The HETV training scheme includes Oxfordshire, Berkshire & Buckinghamshire and offers training opportunities across all settings, including NHS and independent providers.

Post locations

Most trainees find that they do not need to relocate their accommodation during their training as units are within reasonable commuting distances from a central location. The rotation currently has 5 trainees and each trainee will usually spend one year in each of four of the following training units:

**Sobell House**, Churchill Hospital, Oxford: [www.sobellhospiceoxford.org](http://www.sobellhospiceoxford.org)
2 ST posts are based in Oxford, one in the palliative care inpatient unit and one working with the community Clinical Nurse Specialist and the hospital teams, supervised by a consultant. The Churchill site includes a tertiary referral centre for oncology, renal and respiratory medicine, amongst others.

**Katharine House Hospice**, Banbury: [www.khh.org.uk](http://www.khh.org.uk)
1 ST post, predominantly working on the inpatient unit of this independent hospice. Opportunities to work with community team, covering large rural catchment area, and hospital advisory service at the Horton Hospital (part of Oxford University Hospitals NHS Trust)

**Duchess of Kent House**, Reading: [www.dokhc.org.uk](http://www.dokhc.org.uk)
**Nettlebed Hospice**, Nettlebed: [www.surerydercare.org](http://www.surerydercare.org)
These 2 units are managed by the charity Sue Ryder Care.
1 ST post providing experience across sites: the working week will be divided between covering inpatient care plus community CNS team support, which involves outpatient work in addition to seeing patients in their own homes.

**Florence Nightingale House Hospice**, Aylesbury: [www.buckshealthcare.nhs.uk](http://www.buckshealthcare.nhs.uk)
1 ST post based in NHS inpatient unit on site of Stoke Mandeville DGH. Opportunity to work with in-reach service in hospital and with community CNS team based in the hospice

On call

The frequency of on call commitment varies between posts but requires non-resident availability within a fixed travelling time. This is remunerated according to work intensity at individual units (1A or 1B)

Last updated August 2014
Educational Supervision
The rotation endeavours to provide continuity of educational supervision throughout the training time of an individual trainee, providing broad support and mentorship.

Regional Teaching Days
STs are allocated one morning per month to meet for structured teaching, according to curriculum objectives and collective training needs. This is coordinated by one of the trainees based at Sobell House and is therefore on a rotating basis. The small and supportive rotation enables this to be tailored to individual training needs eg exam preparation, joint audits, poster presentations. While trainees are encouraged to take ownership of these training sessions, help and guidance is available from the Training Programme Directors.
The rotation has good links with other specialties to enable trainees to cover broad curriculum objectives.

Teaching
Trainees are supported if they wish to undertake additional postgraduate educational programmes, such as Diploma, MSc, MA. Several posts include the supervision of Core Trainees & GPs. Trainees also have numerous opportunities to be involved in teaching of Medical Students and health care professionals.

Research
Dr Bee Wee (Consultant at Sobell House) undertakes Research Supervision for trainees. This has included helping trainees understand the principles of research, supervising them undertaking projects and publications, and supervising OOPR students undertaking PhDs.

For further Information please contact:

Training Programme Director:
Dr Astrid Adams astrid.adams@ouh.nhs.uk
Dr Beth MacGregor bethmacgregor@khh.org.uk

Note: In August 2015 ONLY the TPD will be Dr Tim Harrison, tim.harrison@ouh.nhs.uk
From 1 September 2015, the sole TPD will revert solely to Dr Beth MacGregor.

Specialty Trainee Representative:
Dr Maggie Presswood
- as this is a rotating post please contact the TPD for appropriate contact details