Clinical Pharmacology in Edinburgh (South East Scotland)

An ST3 post is available in Edinburgh (South East Scotland) for a trainee in Clinical Pharmacology and General Internal Medicine. Edinburgh offers excellent clinical training based mainly in the Royal Infirmary of Edinburgh and Western General Hospital. Subspecialty training is available in clinical toxicology, clinical trials, and hypertension, and a period of time spent in research is strongly encouraged. There are also excellent opportunities for involvement in teaching. For the current post, an interest in clinical toxicology would be an advantage, and candidates who already have a PhD are welcome to apply.

Background
The University of Edinburgh’s Clinical Pharmacology Unit (CPU) is part of a grouping comprising Pharmacology, Toxicology and Therapeutics (PTT), based within the Queen’s Medical Research Institute (QMRI) at Little France alongside the University Medical School, and the new Royal Infirmary of Edinburgh (RIE; ~1000 beds).

Senior staff include: Professor David Webb (Christison Professor of Therapeutics and Clinical Pharmacology); Professor Simon Maxwell (Professor of Student Learning/Clinical Pharmacology); Dr Michael Eddleston (Reader in Clinical Toxicology and Scottish Senior Clinical Fellow); Dr James Dear (Honorary Senior Lecturer and NRS Career Research Fellow), and Drs Aravindan Veiraiah and Euan Sandilands, Consultants in Medicine and Clinical Toxicology.

Clinical Activities
Members of CPU staff provide major contributions to general and acute internal medicine and clinical toxicology services, as well as outpatient medical, hypertension and lipid services.

Edinburgh is one of the strongest clinical toxicology centres in the world, with a busy clinical service and a Scottish poisons information centre (Director Dr Michael Eddleston), which is one of four units that make up the UK’s National Poisons Information Service. It is also home of the TOXBASE clinical management database. There is a large research portfolio that covers clinical trials in Edinburgh and Asia, clinical mechanistic studies, and studies in large and small animals. It offers a world-class exposure to, and training in, clinical toxicology. Five of Edinburgh’s six consultants work in the Clinical Toxicology service (JD, ME, ES, AV and DW), which is consultant led and admits over 1700 patients to its toxicology ward every year. Ward rounds are held twice daily and used for teaching of trainees. Journal clubs are held every 2 weeks and a toxicology research meeting is held every 2 months. Clinical toxicologists frequently visit the unit from abroad to see how its clinical practice is organised. Edinburgh offers a unique training opportunity for clinical toxicologists in the UK.

Edinburgh hosts a European Society of Hypertension (ESH) Hypertension Excellence Centre (HEC; Director Professor David Webb), in which three of the
academic consultants work (JD, SM and DW). The clinics provides an integrated regional service for management of patients with complex hypertension and lipid problems, and also undertake clinical research in the field of hypertension that complements internationally competitive laboratory based research. Much of the work of the Edinburgh HEC is funded by the British Heart Foundation, including several large national hypertension studies.

After completion of training, trainees will be competitive for NHS consultant posts in acute medicine and clinical toxicology, or for academic posts in clinical pharmacology and toxicology.

**Research**
The major research interests within PTT have a major translational element, spanning from cell culture and experimental models to human mechanistic studies and clinical trials. Aims include the identification of informative biomarkers and the development of new medicines and therapeutic approaches.

Key themes include:
(i) cardiovascular research, with a focus on hypertension, with areas of interest including arterial stiffness and endothelial function, and on the kidney, with major areas of interest including the pathophysiology of acute kidney injury and chronic proteinuric kidney disease, and large trials, including the BHF studies, PATHWAY and SPIRO-CKD.
(ii) clinical toxicology, with major foci on the role of acetylcysteine as a protective agent against paracetamol toxicity and in the clinical pharmacology of antidotes.

Professor Webb leads a Wellcome Trust funded Scottish Translational Medicine and Therapeutics Initiative (STMTI: [http://stmti.mvm.ed.ac.uk/](http://stmti.mvm.ed.ac.uk/)), which provides clinical PhD training fellowships for translational projects. The department has an excellent record for clinical PhD training.

**Teaching**
Professor Maxwell is Director of the vertical theme of pharmacology and therapeutics in the undergraduate medical curriculum at Edinburgh University. The approach to teaching is dynamic and offers UK leadership in CPT teaching through Professor Maxwell’s leadership of Prescribe ([http://www.prescribe.ac.uk/](http://www.prescribe.ac.uk/)) and the UK medical schools’ Prescribing Skills Assessment. Professors Maxwell and Webb are also involved in a programme of research studies (PROTECT) concerning problems with prescribing and patient safety.

Professor David Webb directs the Research Education Core Programme within Edinburgh’s Wellcome Trust Clinical Research Faculty ([http://www.wtcrf.ed.ac.uk/](http://www.wtcrf.ed.ac.uk/)).

If interested in an ST3 CPT post in South East Scotland, based in Edinburgh, please contact Professor David Webb in the first instance (0131-242-9215; d.j.webb@ed.ac.uk)