A Career in Neurology in the West Midlands

Developing people for health and healthcare

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What is Neurology?

What is neurology?
• A branch of medicine that deals with disorders of the nervous system, including the brain, spinal cord, peripheral nerves, and muscles.

How common are neurological disorders?
• Approximately 1/8 of all GP consultations
• 20% of acute medical admissions are for a neurological problem.
Neurology Training

- Foundation year 1&2
- Core Medical training
- MRCP examination
  - Try to build a CV demonstrating your commitment to specialty e.g. case reports, audit

- 5 years Neurology training, based at regional neurosciences centres with rotation to other units.
  - Some trainees chose to take 2-3 years out of clinical programme to do research but this is not compulsory.

Neurology Consultant
Training in the West Midlands:
University Hospitals Birmingham NHS Trust

Hyperacute stroke Thrombolysis, working with endovascular team/thrombectomy

Neurodegenerative: Alzheimer’s disease, Vascular cognitive impairment, Frontotemporal dementia

Parkinson’s disease and parkinsonian syndromes

Muscle disorders, inflammatory myopathy, mitochondrial disorders, channelopathies

Peripheral neuropathy, AIDP, CIPD, small fibre neuropathy

Neuromuscular Junction Disorders, myasthenia gravis

Epilepsy, Epileptic disorders and syndromes, management of status epilepticus

Myelopathies and spinal disorders

Headache, Primary headache syndromes, Idiopathic intracranial hypertension

Neuroinflammation, Multiple sclerosis, Neurobehcet’s, Neurosarcoidosis

Neuroimmunology, autoimmune encephalitis, Morvan’s syndrome

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Training in the West Midlands: 
University Hospitals Birmingham NHS Trust

Close links with other teams and departments:

- Neurosurgery/Spinal surgery
- Epilepsy surgery
- Neuro-oncology
- Neuro-rehabilitation
- Neuro-Radiology:
  - Thrombectomy
  - MR Spectroscopy
  - Functional MRI
  - Diffusion imaging
- Neurophysiology
- Neuro-Metabolism
- Neuro-Endocrine
- Neuro-Urology
- Neuro-Otology
- Neuro-Pathology
- Neuro-pituitary
- Neuro-Ophthalmology
- Neuro-Intensive Care Unit
Training in the West Midlands:
University Hospitals Birmingham NHS Trust

Royal Centre for Defence Medicine
Opportunities for research
Links with University of Birmingham
Training in the West Midlands:
University Hospitals Coventry and Warwickshire

Out-patient exposure includes
- General Neurology clinic
- Sub-specialty clinic
- Choice clinic

Neurology Day-Case Unit
- Acute neurology:
  - On-call shifts
  - Thrombolysis
  - Stroke Ward Rounds

In-patient load based on Ward 42
- Exposure to acute and chronic conditions
- MDT working

Weekly journal club, clinical case presentations, Consultant led neurology teaching, Pre-arranged directly observed mini-CEX clinics

The Centre for Hearing and Balance Disorders, Ophthalmology Clinic, Cardiology and transient loss of consciousness clinics
Training in the West Midlands:
University Hospitals Coventry and Warwickshire

An enthusiastic and supportive team:
• 10 consultant neurologists
• 1 associate specialist
• 6 neurology registrars
• 3-4 mix of FY and CMT
• 6 clinical nurse specialists

Opportunities for research:
• Links with academic centres
• Regular teaching commitment

Close links with other teams and departments:
• Neurosurgery
• Neuro-rehabilitation
• Neuro-imaging
• Neurophysiology
• Neuropsychology
Training in the West Midlands: University Hospitals Coventry and Warwickshire

Broad exposure including out-patient clinics in

- General neurology
- Epilepsy
- Movement Disorders and Parkinson’s disease
- Headache
- Motor Neurone Disease
- Multiple Sclerosis and Botulinum toxin treatment

Acute neurology exposure through:

- On-call referrals
- TIA Clinics
- Acute Stroke Thrombolysis
Training in the West Midlands: University Hospitals North Midlands NHS Trust

Out-patient exposure includes:
- General Neurology clinic
- Sub-specialty clinic
- Choice clinic

In-patient are based in Neurology ward

Multiple Sclerosis Centre of Excellence

Neurology Day-Case Unit, Acute neurology

Headache Specialist Centre:
- Day case admissions for management of status migrainosus, IIH clinics

Royal Stoke MS Centre
Training in the West Midlands: University Hospitals North Midlands NHS Trust

Opportunities for research:
• Links with Keele University
• Regular teaching commitment

Broad exposure inc. out-patient clinics
• General neurology
• Epilepsy
• Movement Disorders and Parkinson’s disease
• Headache
• Motor Neurone Disease
• Multiple Sclerosis

Close links with other teams and departments:
• Neurosurgery
• Neuro-rehabilitation
• Neuro-imaging & thrombectomy
• Neurophysiology

An enthusiastic and supportive team:
• 10 consultant neurologists
• 5-6 neurology registrars
A Career in Neurology

Consultant posts

• Trainees apply for CCT after satisfactory completion of their training programme.

• Most develop subspecialty interest during their training or research and provide regional expert service for particular conditions e.g. stroke, neuromuscular disorders, neuroinflammation, epilepsy etc.

• Most consultants have sessions at regional neurosciences centres, where there is access to inpatient beds and specialist investigational services including neuroimaging, neurophysiology, pathology.
Where to go for more information…

- NHS health careers
- JRCPTB specialty page and curriculum
- RCP (London), Specialty spotlight
- ST3 person specification
- Association of British Neurologists
- Health Education England, West Midlands