A Career in Nuclear Medicine in the West Midlands
What is Nuclear Medicine?

- Nuclear Medicine encompasses a wide range of diagnostic and therapeutic clinical procedures using radioactive substances.

- Nuclear medicine images are often interpreted with simultaneously acquired CT/MRI. This enables to correlate the function of organs (NM images) with structural changes (CT/MRI), resulting in a more complete and enhanced diagnostic outcome.
What is Nuclear Medicine?

- Diagnostic nuclear medicine either uses gamma emitter radionuclides (SPECT or planar) or positron emitting radionuclides (PET), together with CT or MRI.

- Common investigations are for malignancies (Bone scan and FDG-PET imaging) pulmonary emboli and lung function (VQ scan), angina (myocardial perfusion scan), renal function, brain imaging (blood flow for dementias and strokes and PET amyloid for Alzheimer, dopaminergic nerve terminal imaging for Parkinson’s).
What is Nuclear Medicine?

- Radionuclide therapy uses various beta and alpha emitting radionuclides tagged to radiopharmaceuticals targeting specific cells (cancer cells, inflammatory cells...) within the body. There is growing number of targeted therapies, such as liver tumours & metastases, prostate cancer, neuro endocrine tumours and thyroid cancer, to name a few.
Training in Nuclear Medicine

• Minimum of 2 years of core medical training with MRCP or equivalent is an essential entry criteria.

• Training is for 6 years (ST3-ST8), in first three years there is full training in radiology resulting in FRCR, the second 3 years is in Nuclear Medicine. Trainee is also expected to complete the Diploma in NM (or optional NM MSc from London University) during two final years of training. Upon successful completion trainee obtains dual accreditation with CCT in Nuclear Medicine and CESR in Radiology.
A Career in Nuclear Medicine

• It is a rapidly changing discipline, which provides plenty of opportunity for research and development, in both medical and scientific aspects of the subject. It also provides ample patient contact.
• Departments are often led by a single consultant who has a major role in decision-making, budget management and future policies.
• The work is very interesting and varied with combination of patient care, image reporting, basic science and management.
A Career in Nuclear Medicine

• The majority of posts are in larger teaching hospitals, with opportunities for teaching and academic involvement. There is ample opportunity to be involved with patient care and decision making and involvement in multidisciplinary meeting. There is also the opportunity to develop private practice.

• Nuclear Medicine posts are often daytime jobs, usually with no or minimal on call commitment. There are some part time posts.
Personal Qualities

• Good interpersonal relations are important due to the multidisciplinary nature of the specialty. The team comprises of physicists, technologists, radiographers, nurses and radio-pharmacists. There is close liaison with consultants in other specialties

• Management abilities are a necessary part of running the department

• Good clinical background

• An interest in basic science
Personal Qualities

Click link to view personal specification
Where to go for more information…

- NHS health careers
- JRCPTB specialty page and curriculum
- ST3 Recruitment
- RCP (London), Specialty spotlight
- British Nuclear Medicine Society
- Health Education England, West Midlands