

THE ROYAL CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL

Registrar Positions in Child & Adolescent Psychiatry

There are seven positions in the service:

1. Community Team : North west
2. Community Team : Mid west
3. Community Team : South west
4. Community Team : Inner west
5. Adolescent Inpatient Unit
6. Consultation and Liaison (2)

All registrars will receive the following experience in addition to any external Training programme

- a. Two Week Orientation Training Programme
- b. Weekly Supervision with a Consultant Psychiatrist
- c. Weekly Supervision for an Individual Psychotherapy cases: Child & Adolescent
- d. Weekly Seminars In Child & Adolescent Psychiatry
- e. Journal Club/Case Presentation and discussion in weekly rotation
- f. Weekly Family Therapy workshop
- g. Monthly Professional development afternoons

Registrars see at least one new case per week for assessment. The consultant provides supervision and training to enable them to see and treat a variety of cases. The registrar is encouraged to keep a log of the cases to ensure that they have a varied and representative caseload. Registrars are required to present cases for supervision; the consultant is expected to provide case supervision, and to provide shared cases to begin with so that the registrar has exposure to a senior clinician interviewing and providing a variety of treatment interventions. They are required to keep their case notes up to standard that will pass the monthly case file audit. There is also the opportunity to share cases with other team members to enable the registrar to gain experience in a number of treatment approaches such as behaviour therapy, cognitive therapy, family therapy, and individual psychotherapy. The Community Teams see a wide range of cases including, disruptive disorders, anxiety states, mood disorders, suicidal behaviours, developmental disorders and psychosis amongst others.

The Adolescent Inpatient Unit is a new unit that was opened in October 2003. It is a 12 bedded unit with 2 two high dependency beds. There is a highly skilled nursing cadre, teachers with special educational training, and 2 psychologists who together with the Consultant Psychiatrist and registrar form the inpatient team. It caters for young people with acute psychiatric disorders such as acute psychosis, acute suicidality, mood disorders, and emerging personality disorders. It also provides for treatment of non acute disorders such as eating disorders, short admissions for young people who may require brief intensive treatments, or young people who require admission for more detailed observation than can be managed in a community setting to provide a more accurate diagnostic evaluation. The inpatient unit works closely with all the outpatient teams to enable coherent planning and transition of treatments to occur as the patient moves in and out of the inpatient unit.

The Consultation & Liaison registrar is exposed to a wide variety of clinical disorders, and psychiatric problems occurring in an acute hospital setting. Referrals to the Consultation & Liaison Team arise for many different reasons. Young children admitted to the hospital may have had a psychiatric disorder prior to entering hospital, and this may compromise any medical or surgical treatment they may need to undertake. Some young people may develop psychiatric disorders either as direct result of their medical condition, as a result of the treatment or as a result of the stress engendered by the medical disorder or its treatment. Equally medical disorders and treatments may have a profound impact on families and this stress impact on the admitted young person or their treatment. The members of families of the young people may also have had a psychiatric disorder prior to the child being admitted that either impinges directly on the treatment of the young person or as an added stressor for the family. The emotional impact of the family on the treating team may also interfere with the young person receiving optimum care. The C&L team comprises psychiatrists, psychologists, social workers, speech pathologists and psychotherapists who have considerable expertise in managing these problems.

All registrars will have an opportunity to attend the Autism Team Assessments. This team established by Professor Margot Prior an international authority on Autism is expert in providing assessments for pervasive developmental disorders, and in the management of these disorders.

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