

Doctors in Training Grant

PRELIMINARY REPORT



With Mr Sachin Salvi at the European Oculoplastics Society Meeting

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Fellowship in
Ocular Oncology and Oculoplastics

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Sheffield, South Yorkshire, England



After four years of studying the microstructure of the human eye, how to take it apart, put it back together, and replace any parts no longer up to scratch, it was surprisingly challenging to decide on a part of this tiny organ to focus on for a subspecialty fellowship. I considered the patients I had encountered in my training and the cases which brought me the most intrigue and satisfaction. I saw two subspecialties that are not normally practised together, but I thought would marry quite well. Ocular oncologists are traditionally trained in the diagnosis and management of ocular surface, iris and intraocular tumours. In addition to this, I was keen to pursue a passion for the management and reconstruction of larger tumours involving the eyelids and orbit. I set about to find a fellowship where I could learn all of these skills, and was pleased to discover the Ocular Oncology and Oculoplastics Fellowship at the Royal Hallamshire Hospital in Sheffield, England.

The Ocular Oncology Unit in Sheffield is one of four nationally designated centres of excellence for intraocular tumours in the United Kingdom. This Unit uses cutting-edge treatments and explores newest technologies to deliver radiotherapy and chemotherapy to the eye with minimal side effects. In addition to the surgical management of tumours, I have started to gain experience in the use of photodynamic therapy, brachytherapy plaques and proton beam radiotherapy. Additionally, Sheffield is the only centre with access to Stereotactic Radiosurgery, which is proving to be a useful addition to the armamentarium of the ocular oncologists here.

I have a varied timetable which allows me excellent access to oncology, oculoplastics and orbital outpatient clinics and theatre. I am privileged to work with the most senior ocular oncologist in Europe, Prof Ian Rennie. Additionally, Mr Paul Rundle who was trained at the prestigious Wills Eye Hospital in Philadelphia, has a breadth of experience to offer the department. Mr Sachin Salvi, my direct supervisor and alumnus of Moorfields Eye Hospital, is trained in oncology and orbit – and is often involved in multidisciplinary cases. There is also a very supportive and experienced oculoplastics department overseeing my training. In addition to the clinicians, we have an outstanding team of support nurses who aid in direct patient counselling and the overall organisation of the Unit. The team environment is unlike that which I have experienced in Australia, and I look forward to taking some elements home on my return.

The highlight of my week is the multidisciplinary meeting on a Tuesday. As well as the ocular oncology clinicians and nurses, our ocular pathologist and medical oncologists or other subspecialist ophthalmologists join us to discuss challenging patients from the week just passed. We discuss up to fifty patients, with clinical images and investigations projected. In some cases where a biopsy has taken place, we are also taken through the histological findings, which can be very useful for the planning of appropriate adjuvant therapy. Again, the expertise of the varied team members come together in order to offer patients the most appropriate treatment options for their conditions.

The Ophthalmology Department at the Royal Hallamshire Hospital has an award-winning photography department, and the imaging quality and technology is unsurprisingly outstanding.

In addition to being very useful for the monitoring of disease, the detailed library is also invaluable for research and presentations. On my way to begin my Fellowship, I stopped in Stockholm, Sweden for the European Society of Oculoplastic Surgery Meeting. This was a great meeting, and there were some inspirational research projects presented. Soon after, I was lucky enough to travel to Hull in Northern England for the British Isles Paediatric Ophthalmology Society Meeting, where I presented Mr Salvi's experiences with optic nerve sheath fenestrations for recalcitrant raised intracranial pressure. At present I am working on multiple research projects, with abstracts submitted to the Royal College of Ophthalmologists Congress, the World Ophthalmology Congress, The North of England Ophthalmology Society Meeting and the British Oculoplastics Society Meeting. I'm looking forward to some travelling to attend these meetings – but quite daunted by the work ahead to get there!

Over the next nine months I am excited about continued learning and experience in the field of ocular oncology. I hope to gain more independence in the surgical management of these conditions and present our team's research at local and international conferences. Additionally, I am anticipating performing more orbital surgeries, and gaining confidence in manoeuvring the anatomy of this region. I'm a long way from home, but the busy schedule at work and heavy research portfolio is definitely keeping me busy. I am so grateful to MIGA for the financial support through their Doctors in Training Grant, which is making it easier to focus on my work and able to embrace opportunities for academic travel.



1. Royal Hallamshire Hospital, Sheffield, UK
2. Removing a Ruthenium Plaque from an eye being treated for choroidal melanoma
3. Preparing cases for the weekly multidisciplinary meeting

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