

Perioperative Medicine Fellowship UCLH

Introduction

Hi, I'm one of the Perioperative Medicine (POM) Fellows at UCLH. The Fellowship is a 12-month position based in central London. There are about 12-14 Fellows: cohorts change in February & August. Currently the mix is about 50:50 UK anaesthetic trainees & international Fellows.

Fellows work closely with a welcoming team of 8 Consultants with clinical, educational & research interests in perioperative medicine. The role involves working with people who are passionate about POM & offers flexibility to develop your own interests.

We work at 2 sites: [University College London Hospital](#) (UCLH) & [Westmoreland Street Hospital](#) (WMS). The hospitals are about 15 minutes walk apart, both with easy access by public transport & plenty of amenities (coffee!) nearby.

The overarching goals of the Fellowship are to:

- Work in a team to deliver safe high quality care to our patients
- Gain clinical experience: particularly the postoperative care of high-risk patients undergoing major surgery
- Develop interests & expertise in perioperative medicine through teaching; academic opportunities; and service development

On-call PACU shifts:

Clinical work involves day & night shifts covering the PACU (Post-Anaesthetic Care Units) at UCH or WMS. These are 8-10 bed critical care units dedicated to patients undergoing high-risk major surgery. POM Consultants are on-site 7 days a week.

- At UCH the PACU is located on the 6th floor (T6). Surgical specialties include head & neck/maxillofacial; colorectal; upper GI; gynaecology-oncology. UCH is a large hospital with an emergency department & a 20-30 bed main critical care unit separate to PACU.

- At WMS we cover patients undergoing thoracic or urological surgery. WMS is a small hospital: our role at this site also includes leading the cardiac arrest team & dealing with emergencies.

There is always a POM Consultant on-call available 24 hours by telephone for escalating issues or seeking advice.

When you're not working on PACU:

The Fellowship provides an overview of POM at UCLH and the flexibility to explore areas of interest across clinical experience, research, academic work, teaching or quality improvement. There are too many projects & opportunities to say yes to. Most of us have focused on 2-3 of the following to match our personal goals:

- Preassessment clinic; CPET; & prehabilitation. There are occasional opportunities to work in theatre but this isn't a focus of the Fellowship.
- Delivering teaching & presentations; improving services or developing new ones. We meet *every Tuesday* for journal club & teaching. Most of us are undertaking training in strategic healthcare leadership.
- Studying the Perioperative Medicine MSc/ PG Dip/PG Cert at UCL, depending on personal goals & funding arrangements. Ongoing research projects include qualitative evaluation of teaching; a pilot study of wearable monitors; studies in prehabilitation.

Summary

Fellows are integrated into a friendly & supportive team of Consultants keen to share their experience of perioperative medicine. Outside of PACU shifts, the flexible schedule facilitates professional development in areas of interest.