

## **Proposal for Fellowship Attachment in TMJ Surgery, Nottingham +/- Oxford +/- Liverpool**

### **National Case of Need**

The need for specialist TMJ surgeons is becoming increasingly apparent. The numbers of TMJ replacement have gradually increased over the last 10 years. Following NICE approval for TMJ replacement (Mr Sidebottom has been the expert adviser for this group for the 2009 and 2014 guidelines documents), NHS England is looking into establishing a National approval document to ensure appropriate assessment for funding for these cases is consistent across the NHS (Mr Sidebottom is the NHS England adviser for NHS South England who are currently running a pilot for these guidelines). In addition 3 established TMJ specialist colleagues have recently retired leaving gaps in areas where specialists are needed such as Greater London and the South East and North East England. At present many of these cases are referred to Nottingham, Oxford, Birmingham or Liverpool so the fellow would be working with NHS England groups (s)he would likely be working with as a consultant helping to establish working relationships prior to taking up post.

TMJ Cases account for around 1/3 of NHS secondary care referrals. Few colleagues are interested in dealing with these patients and often care is limited to conservative management without due consideration for appropriate surgical intervention, which would relieve the patients of long term suffering and inferior Quality of Life with increasing dependence on drug management and primary care budgets. A holistic approach to care is essential with the ability to not only perform advanced surgical techniques but a thorough knowledge and skill base in less aggressive interventions such as arthroscopy and open surgery, where indicated, and a full understanding of appropriate non-surgical care. Nottingham is uniquely positioned in being able to deliver this level of care in dedicated clinics.

### **Nottingham University Hospitals NHS Trust**

Nottingham is recognised as a national tertiary referral centre for TMJ surgery with a large surgical throughput of all aspects of TMJ surgery and a significant research portfolio based on the senior consultants' 15 year database on all aspects of TMJ surgery.

Nottingham already has an established training scheme for higher surgical trainees in OMFS with 4 specialist registrar posts and an established fellow post which is funded by the Trust. This fellow post links closely with the established trainees and currently is either a post-CCT post for specialist training or a pre-specialist training post dependent on the needs of the applicant. The current incumbent is a post-CCT Australian fellow who has an interest in TMJ surgery and during his time in the unit has been involved in delivering (since October 2016) 25 joint replacement cases, 20 open joint case and more than 40 arthroscopy and arthrocentesis cases, whilst only being formally attached to the TMJ firm for 4 months. In addition he has been involved in 8 national/ international presentations and 6 papers submitted for publication in TMJ.

It is envisaged that the TMJ fellow post could run for a period of 4-12 months dependent on the need of the fellow in terms of prior experience. This could be incorporated in a rotation between the other units providing advanced TMJ surgery in Oxford and Liverpool to give the fellow an even more rounded experience of different approaches to management. During the time in Nottingham the average numbers of cases per year from the last 5 years logbooks of the unit would be 25-40 joint replacements, 30-40 open surgery, 100-150 arthroscopy or arthrocentesis cases. The unit has been responsible for around 10 National/International scientific TMJ presentations and 5 peer reviewed publications on average every year, which the fellow would lead on with the senior consultant's support. There are also proposed multicentre studies (with the support of NFORC) which would ideally suit a fellow with a research interest to participate and collaborate.

There are 3 specialist TMJ clinics a week between Mr Sidebottom and Mr Rajapakse and 2 all day operating lists. In addition there will be a monthly MDT clinic with physiotherapy support. The remainder of the week could be devoted to delivering general maxillofacial trauma with a view to significant experience in condylar trauma management and skull base access surgery dependent on the fellows need.

The impact on the other trainees on the rotation has been shown to be minimal with all trainees passing through Nottingham gaining more than adequate exposure to TMJ surgery to meet the National Training Logbook guidelines.

This post is fully supported by the Trust. Funding would be trust supported to include a 1 in 5 second tier on call with the other specialist registrars with twice weekly operating lists devoted to TMJ surgery.

## Surgeons Responsible for Training

There would be 3 surgeons responsible for the supervision and training of the fellow.

The lead trainer would be Mr Andrew Sidebottom who is currently educational supervisor for the Nottingham Higher surgical trainees. He is the BAOMS SSIG lead for TMJ (since 2014), an Associate Editor for BJOMS (Since 2011) and specialist advisor in TMJ for BJOMS. He is a past president and co-founder of ESTMJS (European Society for TMJ Surgery) and a co-founder of BATS (British TMJ Society) with Mr Speculand. He co-established and is the clinical lead for the BAOMS/NFORC Dendrite TMJ Replacement database. He is author of 14 TMJ related book chapters and over 40 TMJ related publications. He is the TMJ research clinical lead for NFORC. He has been a consultant since 2001 and established Nottingham as one of the leading tertiary referral centres in TMJ management, having performed over 250 total TMJ replacements.

The second TMJ trainer would be Mr Suj Rajapakse. He has been a consultant in OMFS since 2016 and has a specialist interest in TMJ management. He completed his CCT in Trent region and trained with Mr Sidebottom and Mr Korkzac in Derby.

The third trainer would be Mr Dilip Srinivasan who has a subspecialist interest in facial deformity, sleep apnoea and skull base surgery. He would provide added input in the management of condylar trauma to the other two trainers and facilitate joint working with

neurosurgeons with skull base and infratemporal fossa access surgery required for more complex TMJ surgery.

In addition supervision when on call would be provided by the other, soon to be 4, oncology consultants in the department.

## Caseload

The unit TMJ caseload is:

18 New local and 7 new tertiary referrals a week (720 and 280 a year)

35 follow up a week (1400 a year including 120-150 botulinum injection cases)

Multidisciplinary clinic once a month, with physio review clinic weekly (1/2 WTE specialist

TMJ physio in clinic)

100-150 arthroscopy or arthrocentesis

25-40 open joint surgeries

8-20 open condylar fracture cases

25-40 TMJ replacements

## Timetable

Monday – Specialist TMJ multidisciplinary clinic all day

Tuesday – am Research

Pm Trauma list 2:4, Orthognathic MDT 1:4

Wednesday - Orthognathic/skull base list all day DS or MDT planning clinic AJS/SR

Thursday - TMJ list all day AJS

Friday - TMJ list all day SR

TMJ clinics also occur with SR in Mansfield.

1 in 5 general on call

General funding for the post is already provided by the Trust, but this does not include travel or accommodation. The post has been supported by Head of Service (Mr Srinivasan) and as this is an existing post is supported by the Medical Director.

For any further information on the proposed post please contact Andrew Sidebottom at [aasidebottom@doctors.org.uk](mailto:aasidebottom@doctors.org.uk)