



Visiting Professional Programme: Vascular Surgery

Visiting Professional Programme – Complex Endovascular Aortic Surgery

Introduction

The Guy's and St Thomas' NHS Foundation Trust Vascular Surgery Visiting Professionals Programme (VPP) is designed to provide international visiting professionals with the opportunity to profit from exposure to cutting edge endovascular case selection, planning, operative technique and new developments in the field. The Programme's aim is to provide an unique development experience intended to broaden a visiting professional's surgical education and to teach new skills with which the participant can ultimately enhance his/her home institution. Our programme offers an unrivalled opportunity covering the full range of vascular and endovascular surgery in a high volume, world class vascular unit in the heart of London.

The remit of the Endovascular VPP is to offer focused training in complex endovascular endografting of the full range of aortic pathologies that affect the aorta from the aortic valve to the femoral vessels. In addition, the unit maintains a comprehensive complex open aortic service and VPP participants are encouraged to profit from the learning opportunities that are available in open aortic surgery.

Who should attend?

This programme is particularly designed to enhance the skills of vascular and cardiothoracic surgeons and interventional radiologists who plan to develop their own fenestrated and branched aortic endografting programs.

Duration

We are able to offer visiting professional programmes for international doctors for periods of 3 weeks to 12 months. The programme's duration can be tailored to the specific learning requirements of those visiting the Trust.

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Format

The programme is focused on the following areas:

Patient Selection

The participant will participate in the weekly multi disciplinary meeting (MDT) dedicated to complex endovascular aortic interventions and will also attend weekly clinics with our team of endovascular specialists, cardiovascular anaesthetists, specialist peri-operative dedicated for the proactive care of older people going to have surgery (POPS) team, and complex endovascular specialist nurse coordinator.

Endograft planning

The weekly timetable will include 2 sessions of focused advanced complex EVAR planning. Participants will learn to independently plan custom-made fenestrated or branched endografts, thereby enhancing his/her future complex aortic endovascular practice by reducing delays in endograft production time.

Endograft procedure execution and operative steps

There will be a minimum of three complex endovascular operating sessions per week, at which advanced participants will be exposed to fenestrated and branched cases for the treatment of chronic dissection and degenerative aneurysms.

Participants will learn how to lead a team in complex endovascular procedures, discuss strategies related to patient care, anaesthetic options, operating room set up, radiation protection and detailed operative procedural steps.

A “hands-on” experience, if required, is available subject to appropriate GMC registration and medical indemnity arrangements.

The participant will benefit from working in state of the art hybrid endovascular theatre, equipped with advanced imaging fusion facility.



Trouble shooting and complications management

Participants will acquire technical tips for managing challenging anatomies and avoiding pitfalls and complications.

Radiation exposure reduction

There will be specific training on the responsible use of ionising radiation and the use of strategies to minimise the radiation dose to clinical staff and patients.

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The Complex Endovascular Service at St Thomas' Hospital

The St. Thomas' vascular unit is one of the largest in UK and Europe with a surgical staff of 13 consultant surgeons. We offer all aspects of vascular surgery and have active, advanced open and endovascular lower limb revascularisation and deep venous programmes.

The complex aortic endovascular service is one of the largest in Europe, performing over 80 fenestrated and branched endografts procedures per year. It is part of a comprehensive aortic service offering complex open aortic surgery and endovascular surgery to treat the full length of the aorta and iliac arteries (in collaboration with our cardiac surgeons where necessary). On average, we perform 110 infra renal EVAR (approximately 10% with iliac branched devices) and 20 EVAS, 70 open aortic cases.

This opportunity provides ample opportunity for participants to achieve their training goals in a friendly, innovative and busy vascular unit.

Vascular Surgery Faculty

Dr Jason Wilkins – Consultant Radiologist

Mr Mark Tyrrell – Consultant Vascular Surgeon

Mr Bijan Modarai – Consultant Vascular Surgeon

Dr Panos Gkouzios – Consultant Radiologist

Mr Michael Dialynas – Consultant Vascular Surgeon

Mr Said Abisi – Consultant Vascular Surgeon



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Fees

A course fee per week will be applied. This excludes accommodation and travelling expenses. Participants will be provided with a certificate at the end of their attachment.

Registration and enquiries

To register for the Vascular Surgery Visiting Professional Programme please complete the application form at www.guysandstthomasevents.co.uk and return to:

Education and Events Team

Guy's and St Thomas' NHS Foundation Trust

vpp@gstt.nhs.uk

Telephone: + 44 (0) 20 7188 7188 extension 55865

For clinical enquiries about the scope of programme please contact:

Mr Said Abisi

Consultant Vascular Surgeon

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Guy's and St Thomas' NHS Foundation Trust

Guy's and St Thomas' NHS Foundation Trust is one of the largest Foundation Trusts in the UK. It consists of St Thomas' Hospital, Evelina London Children's Hospital and Guy's Hospital.

The Trust provides a full range of hospital services, as well as specialist services including cancer, cardiothoracic, women and children's services, kidney care and orthopaedics. Guy's is a major centre for cancer and renal services with the UK's largest kidney donor programme, and is also a leading centre for genetics, stem cell and allergy research and cleft lip and palate. St Thomas' is a leading centre for the treatment of cardiovascular disease, stroke, HIV and dermatology.

The Trust has one of the largest critical care units in the UK and one of the busiest A&E departments in London.

It has an annual turnover of £1.2 billion and employs 13,500 staff.

Last year, the Trust handled over 2 million patient contacts, including:

- 1.07m outpatients
- 85,000 inpatients
- 88,000 day case patients
- 192,000 accident and emergency attendances
- 859,000 in community services
- 6,847 babies delivered

The Trust has 665 beds at St Thomas', 288 at Guy's, 144 at the Evelina London Children's Hospital and 64 in the community.

NHS statistics show that our patient survival rates are nearly 25 per cent better than the national average. This is one of the lowest standardised mortality rates in the NHS and provides an important indication of the quality of care provided by our clinical staff.

In 2013, the Dr Foster Hospital Guide awarded us Trust of the Year for safe care.

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History of the Trust

Guy's and St Thomas' are amongst the oldest hospitals in the world, having endured the Black Death, the War of the Roses and the Great Fire of London. Long before they were brought together as a single NHS Hospital Trust in April 1993, the two hospitals had shared centuries of working together.

The brutal beginnings

The history of our hospitals began in 1170 with an assassination. Thomas Becket the Archbishop of Canterbury was slaughtered by the King's knights in his own cathedral after a fall out with Henry II. After his murder he was made a martyr and monks at a Southwark infirmary renamed their hospital in his memory. St Thomas' was born.

St Thomas'

The first St Thomas' was a charitable hospital with only 40 beds. The original site was known as St Mary's Overie, and it existed decades before 1170. The original site is where Southwark Cathedral, near today's Guy's Hospital, now stands. It was run by Augustinian monks.

In the 16th Century King Henry VIII closed down all monastic institutions, including St Thomas', and took their wealth. He planned to refound St Thomas' due to the number of sick and dying on the streets of London, but he died before he signed the Bill. His son Edward reopened it in 1555 on the condition that it no longer took its name from the Catholic saint St Thomas Becket and instead honoured St Thomas the Apostle.

As London grew, so did the hospital. After the Great Fire of London in 1666, the streets around the hospital were breeding grounds for disease and many children died before the age of two.

By the late 18th century the powerful railway companies won the right to build London Bridge station on part of the hospital's site. Eventually, and after temporarily relocating its patients to an old zoo in Kennington, St Thomas' was rebuilt to its present location opposite the Houses of Parliament. This move coincided with Florence Nightingale's return from the Crimean war, who influenced the design of St Thomas' by ensuring that the ward environment had high ceilings and was big and airy in order to help patients feel better.

Guy's

Thomas Guy was a very wealthy governor and benefactor of St Thomas'. He leased some neighbouring land to build one of the world's first institutions for the care of the 'incurably ill and hopelessly insane'. Sadly Thomas Guy died a month before Guy's Hospital opened in 1725. He is buried in the crypt underneath Guy's Chapel. Before his death he gave the hospital his entire fortune. This generous gift was so big that it allowed the hospital to run for nearly two centuries until the NHS came into existence in 1948.

As Guy's expanded from its original 60 beds into a major hospital, it retained close links with St Thomas', particularly through the joint medical school that the hospitals shared.

The schools separated in 1825 and were reunited as the United Medical and Dental Schools in 1982. Guy's remains on its original site at London Bridge.

Surviving World War II

Westminster was a prime target for enemy bombers during World War II and the bridge end of St Thomas' was badly damaged. The old court room at Guy's was destroyed.

Although ten members of staff died during the bombing, not one single patient was killed. Such was the determination of the staff to treat people locally, A&E never closed.

The names of the staff members who died during the War are recorded in the Chapel at St Thomas'.

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The birth of the NHS

Three years after the end of the war, the NHS was created. Guy's and St Thomas' saw their biggest changes for more than 200 years when they were brought under public control for the first time in their history. From now on they were publically accountable.

Two became one

For years the two great hospitals were fierce rivals, one claiming superiority over the other. Over time, they began to work more closely together and in the early 1990s a Government review recommended that the hospitals merge. In 1993 Guy's and St Thomas' NHS Trust was created and in 2004 we became one of the UK's first NHS Foundation Trusts.

Charitable roots

When the NHS was created, two separate organisations called the Special Trustees managed the donations for the two hospitals. When they merged in 1993, the two charitable funds came together to form Guy's and St Thomas' Charitable Foundation. It became known as Guy's and St Thomas' Charity in 2005 when we received Foundation Trust status.

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