



Training to be a Consultant

Currently, there is much discussion about training within the medical specialties; the following is a description of the training programme as it stands at present:

General professional training

At present as with the other medical specialties, at least 4 years of general professional training are required before entry into the specialty registrar grade (ST3). These must be in approved Foundation years 1 and 2 and ST1 and ST2 posts and at least 12 months should involve acute unselected medical intake.

Full membership of the Royal College of Physicians (MRCP) is required before commencing an ST3 post. Entry to Dermatology is competitive and clinical experience within core training or as a clinical fellow is often beneficial.

Overseas and non-UK EU graduates who do not hold the MRCP and wish to apply for specialty registrar posts must provide evidence of equivalent knowledge, training and experience.

Higher medical training

The duration of higher medical training in dermatology is only 4 years. Many trainees feel that 4 years is too short and there have been discussions regarding an extension to 5 years. At present no dermatology specialty registrar training programmes offer dual accreditation with general internal medicine, but few feel that this is a disadvantage. A period of supervised research is considered to be a desirable but not an essential part of higher medical training.

Research Opportunities

There is ample opportunity for both clinical and laboratory based research as many diseases are very common and skin samples are easily accessible. Dermatology is at the cutting edge of much immunological and molecular biological research.

Of those trainees who undertake higher degrees, most take time out from their training programmes. However the relatively non-acute nature of dermatology has allowed some to undertake this during their training. Funding can be obtained via the usual grant giving bodies, pharmaceutical companies and other charities. The British Association of Dermatologists, British Skin Foundation and The British Society for Investigative Dermatology offer a number of awards and grants to sponsor research and travel in the U.K. and abroad.