



A Career in Dermatology

Skin disease is extremely common, accounting for approximately 15% of GP consultations and it has a significant impact on quality of life. Dermatology is the study and treatment of skin disease and is fascinating, maintaining one's interest throughout a lifetime's career. Every clinic is different, the number of possible dermatological diagnoses has been estimated at 3000 and each can present in numerous ways.

Although dermatologists see a certain amount of chronic disease, many conditions are curable and most are at least treatable (we have the largest formulary in the hospital ranging from ancient tar preparations to the latest immunomodulatory drugs). This, when considered with the enormous morbidity and social stigma caused by skin disease, results in a high level of job satisfaction.

Although we are one of the major outpatient-based specialties some of our patients require inpatient admission and we are often on the wards seeing patients from other departments. Surgery is an important part of our practice with most dermatologists having at least one theatre list per week. A surgical list can be just as varied as a clinic and will typically consist of excision of cutaneous malignancies, shave excision or curettage of benign tumours, cautery of vascular lesions and diagnostic biopsies of rashes.