African Paediatric Fellowship Programme
Sub specialist Training in Haematology/Oncology

Paediatric Oncology and Haematology Service
Red Cross Children’s Hospital

Summary of staff:
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- Red Cross Children’s Hospital is the largest children’s hospital in Sub-Saharan Africa. It provides all levels of multidisciplinary care at an international level whilst taking into account the limitations of being located in a resource poor country.
- The haematology part of the service sees rare and complex diseases (congenital bleeding disorders, complex anaemias, inherited haemolytic anaemias and haematologic conditions associated with systemic diseases).
- The oncology part of the service manages all childhood cancers including brain tumours, Wilms’ and other solid tumours, lymphomas and leukaemias. Approximately 140 newly diagnosed patients are treated annually.
- The vision and mission of the haematology/oncology service is to provide the best possible care for all children with cancer. We follow internationally accepted guidelines and protocols currently in use in the developed world. Handling the additional problems of infection (including HIV and Tuberculosis), malnutrition and late presentation prevalent in underdeveloped countries forms a particular focus of our work.
- The Service is directed towards building and expanding capacity to manage both complex haematologic disorders and malignancy in children, including those from vulnerable populations affected by the neglected diseases of poverty.
- The increasing number of HIV-1 related malignancies and their management has resulted in the design of new protocols based on the availability of antiretroviral therapy.
- The service operates in the region of 20 clinics a month, with more than 6000 clinic visits a year.
- There are 18 dedicated paediatric haematology/oncology beds and we provide opinions on patients being managed on the “general wards” in this hospital system and by paediatricians and oncologists from further afield.
- An outreach service operates with regional specialist visits for both training and case assessment.
- The service assists with establishing national guidelines for the management of paediatric cancer and haemophilia.

Southern African training centre

- Currently one of five centres in South Africa with a dedicated paediatric oncology training post.
- The post follows international training guidelines.
- To date one trainee has completed training, and the second started in March 2011.
- The team regard training as an essential way to improve care to children with haematologic and malignant conditions. We are keen to set up links with other centres throughout Africa and to offer training experiences either through attachments to our department or through invited training workshops.
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<td>7h30</td>
<td>Neuroimaging Meeting</td>
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<td>8h00</td>
<td>Surgical Forum</td>
<td>General Medical Meeting</td>
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<td>Journal Club</td>
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<td>9h00</td>
<td>Oncology Clinic</td>
<td>Combined Oncology Meeting with Surgeons, Pathologists and Radiotherapists</td>
<td>Long Term Follow Up Oncology Clinic</td>
<td>Oncology Clinic</td>
<td>General Haem/Onc Clinic</td>
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<td>10h00</td>
<td>Neuro-path Meeting (monthly)</td>
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<td>Haematology Clinic</td>
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<td>11h30 Ward Round</td>
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<td>12h00</td>
<td>Folder meeting to discuss clinic patients</td>
<td>E2 Sub-speciality Case Presentations</td>
<td>Folder meeting to discuss clinic patients</td>
<td>D3 Medical Case Presentations</td>
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<td>12h30 Ward Round</td>
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<td>14h00</td>
<td>Grand Round</td>
<td>Haematology Tutorial</td>
<td>Post Graduate Teaching Afternoon (weekly)</td>
<td>Academic afternoon with TBH (monthly)</td>
<td>Social Round (monthly)</td>
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Course outline and training guidelines
You will be spending one year with us. During this time we aim to help you improve your Haematology/Oncology Skills.

You will learn the most if you become an important part of our working team. While there are regular ward rounds and tutorials, much of what you learn will be from your own experience working in the clinics and on the ward and taking responsibility for your own patients under consultant supervision.

Course Outline

By the time you leave us you should have achieved the following:

Haematology
- Be conversant with the diagnosis and management of:
  - Haemoglobinopathies including Sickle Cell disease
  - Complex anaemias including Aplastic Anaemias
  - Nutritional anaemias (Iron Deficiency; Folate, B12 and combined deficiency)
  - Thrombocytopenias and acquired and congenital bleeding conditions
  - Haematologic conditions encountered in the neonate
  - The Haematologic manifestations of infections including HIV and TB
  - Multiple transfusions and Fe Overload
- Have an approach to neutropaenia
- Understand the value of combined care in Haemophilia
- Spend some time in the haematology laboratory service to develop some basic diagnostic skills in red cell and white cell Morphology.

Oncology
- Have an approach to the diagnosis and management of:
  - Acute Leukaemias of Childhood
  - Wilms' Tumour
  - Neuroblastoma
  - Hodgkin and Non Hodgkin Lymphoma including Burkitt lymphoma
  - Soft tissue sarcomas
  - Retinoblastoma
  - Bone Tumours
  - Brain tumours.
  - HIV associated malignancies
- Be familiar with the management of acute oncologic emergencies such as:
  - Tumour lysis syndrome
  - Hypercalcaemia
  - Superior mediastinal syndrome
  - Raised intracranial pressure
  - Status epilepticus
  - Septic shock.
- Develop a knowledge of supportive care including:
  - The investigation and management of febrile neutropaenia
Side effects of commonly used chemotherapeutic agents
The management of severe mucositis
Pain management and the care of terminally ill patients
• Understand the importance of a multi disciplinary team approach.

Procedures
• Lumbar punctures
• Bone Marrow aspiration and trephine biopsies
• Fine needle aspiration of solid tumours
• The care of Hickman lines and Portacaths
• Insertion of chest drains
• A chance to attend an advanced paediatric life support course
• Good sedation techniques for procedures

Responsibilities of the Trainee

What do we expect of you?

Hours
[1] Monday to Friday: 08h00 to 17h00 (with one afternoon off)
[2] Alternate Weekend ward rounds (Saturdays and Sundays): 08h00 to 12h00
[3] Night duty covering Haematology/Oncology (There will be 5 calls a month, at least one of which will be a Saturday or Sunday)

Your duties will vary over the 12 month period. Time will be allocated to work in the procedure room administering chemotherapy and doing spinal taps and bone marrow procedures, attending acute oncology and haematology clinics and the long-term oncology follow-up clinic, as well as time out in the lab and on courses. Throughout the year you will have ward responsibilities in addition to these activities, and will follow your patients throughout the time spent with us.

Leave
You are entitled to 22 working days leave. This may be taken as a single period or as 2 periods of 11 working days. This must be arranged with your supervisor at a time convenient to both of you.

We hope that you will spend a happy and very productive time with us. If there are conditions particularly relevant to your work at home in which you need more training please let us know. Our aim is to help you improve your general paediatric care and to develop particular skills in Haematology/ Oncology, We will continue to give you email support once you return home.