

RUN DESCRIPTION

POSITION:	Hepatology/Liver Research Fellow
DEPARTMENT:	Liver Unit
PLACE OF WORK:	Auckland City Hospital
RESPONSIBLE TO:	Ed Gane, Deputy Director, NZ Liver Transplant Unit (NZLTU).
FUNCTIONAL RELATIONSHIPS:	Healthcare consumer, Hospital and community based healthcare workers
PRIMARY OBJECTIVE:	This position will have two components: (i) Phase One clinical research based at the Auckland Clinical Studies unit (adjacent to LabPlus) and (ii) Clinical Hepatology and Liver Transplant research based in NZLTU, 15 th Floor Support Building.
RUN RECOGNITION:	Medical Council &/or College recognition
RUN PERIOD:	6 months

Section 1: Registrar's Responsibilities

<i>Area</i>	<i>Responsibilities</i>
General	<p>The Fellow will:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Be expected to spend 0.5 FTE (mornings Monday to Thursday and Friday afternoon) at ACS assisting with set-up and conduct of Phase One trials. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> He/she will be principally involved in the Hepatology studies which include chronic hepatitis B and chronic hepatitis C and also in the hepatic impairment studies (including cirrhotics of all aetiologies). Assist in other pharmacokinetic studies including those in patients with hepatic impairment and renal impairment. Be involved in screening and follow-up of study subjects. Assist in the admission and management of inpatients in the unit. Receive formal training in all aspects of clinical research, including Good Clinical Practice from the only NZ approved instructor, who is based at ACS. Attend regular updates in resuscitation techniques. Be trained in how to write an ethics submission and will attend Ethics meeting. Be invited to attend international and local investigator meetings and associated Webcast meetings.

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Area	Responsibilities
	<p>2. Be expected to spend 0.5 FTE (afternoons Monday to Thursday and Friday morning) conducting clinical research within the NZLTU. The Liver Unit provides ample opportunity to design and conduct meaningful audit and prospective clinical trials. The Fellow would be able to present this work during his/her 12 month attachment and prepare for submission for publication. If required, the Fellow will receive training in statistics and database management. Research opportunities currently available within the Liver Unit include the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tertiary liver transplant service (380 cases) • Tertiary liver (hepatocellular carcinoma) cancer service (760 cases) • Chronic Hepatitis C (approx 2000 cases), • Chronic hepatitis B (approx 3000 cases, including 1400 on antiviral therapy) • National HBV Surveillance Programme database: the Liver Unit is contracted by the Hepatitis Foundation and Ministry of Health to maintain the National HBV Surveillance Programme secondary care database. This is the largest HBV screening programme in the world today and contains comprehensive baseline and follow-up data on almost 20,000 patients with chronic hepatitis B and the Unit is required to analyse this on behalf of the Foundation to determine the outcomes of the screening programme. The Fellow would be able to be directly involved in this work if he/she wished. • Tertiary nonalcoholic fatty liver disease clinic: Dr David Orr has recently established the only service for the assessment and management of nonalcoholic fatty liver disease and has already constructed a large database of such patients. • Tertiary Fibroscan™ service: the Liver Unit has the busiest Fibroscan™ service in Australasia and is currently scanning approximately 100 patients per month. It is expected to have data on more than 1000 patients with chronic liver disease by end of this year. The Fellow will train in this technique and will audit the results to-date.
Accountabilities	<p>The Fellow will be required to assist the research physicians at Auckland Clinical Studies each morning. He/she will be expected to spend afternoons conducting clinical research for the Liver Unit.</p> <p>There will be involved in all Liver Unit CME activities including weekly journal clubs, multidisciplinary hepatoma and liver transplant assessment meetings, continuous quality assurance meetings (including Morbidity and Mortality presentations) that will require attendance by the fellow and occasional participation. Three times a year, there will be a Hepatology focus for the Medical Grand Rounds. The fellow will be responsible for one of these presentations.</p> <p>The Fellow will be expected to attend Investigator meetings and to present at the annual New Zealand Association of Clinical Research (NZACRES) meeting.</p> <p>The Fellow will be expected to prepare and submit abstracts to the relevant annual scientific meetings for the New Zealand Gastroenterology Society, the gastroenterology Society of Australia, the Asia-Pacific Association of the Study of the Liver and the American Association of the Study of Liver Diseases.</p>
Clinical Experience	<p>The Auckland Clinical Studies is one of only two Phase One Research Units in the country and internationally, has recently become one of the leading units for drug development for chronic viral hepatitis. The ACS unit also performs studies in other therapeutic areas and is one of the few centres capable of conducting renal and hepatic impairment studies, where drug pharmacology is evaluated in patients at various stages of chronic renal and liver disease. The experience gained in this attachment will give the Fellow a solid grounding in both therapeutics and basic pharmacology.</p>

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	Whilst the NZLTU is a very specialised tertiary unit, the clinical work is diverse and interesting. The care of such patients involves input from surgeons, hepatologists, nephrologists, intensivists, anaesthetists, psychiatrists, social workers, allied health personnel, nurses, infectious disease staff etc. The educational and clinical experience of the fellow is expected to be diverse, intense and valuable no matter what subsequent career he or she chooses.

Section 2: Training and Education

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
a.m.	8-12 Research Auckland Clinic Studies	8-12 Research Auckland Clinic Studies	8-12 Research Auckland Clinic Studies	8-12 Research Auckland Clinic Studies	8-12 Educational session Liver Unit
p.m.	12.30-16.30 Research Liver Unit	12.30-16.30 Research Liver Unit	12.30-16.30 Research Liver Unit	12.30-16.30 Research Liver Unit	12.30-16.30 Research Auckland Clinic Studies

Note: dates and times for the sessions above may change.

There is a minimum of 2 hours per week medical learning (on Friday morning), which includes the weekly tutorial, journal club, radiology and pathology session.

Section 3: Performance appraisal

<i>Fellow</i>	<i>Service</i>
	<p>The supervision of the fellow at Auckland Clinical Studies is the direct responsibility of Associate Professor Richard Robson (Pharmacologist) and Ed Gane (Hepatologist) and Dr Christian Schwabe (Research Physician). The supervision of the Fellow at the Liver Unit is the direct responsibility of Associate Professor Ed Gane, Dr David Orr and Dr Rachael Harry, all consultant hepatologists with extensive clinical research experience in hepatology and liver transplantation.</p> <p>A Performance appraisal will be performed after 6 months and at the end of 12 months</p>

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Section 4: Hours and Salary Category

<i>Average Working Hours</i>		<i>Service Commitments</i>
Basic hours (Mon-Fri)	40	The Service, together with the RMO Support Unit will be responsible for the preparation of any Rosters.
Rostered additional hours (inc. nights, weekends & long days)	Nil	
All other unrostered hours		
Total hours per week	40	

Salary The salary for this attachment will be as detailed in a Category F run category.

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