Future of anaesthesia and developments in Wales

Trainees are represented on our training committee so we get feedback from our training and incorporate trainee views into future plans. We have a new curriculum which will further enhance our competency based training.

We offer an initial core training programme of two years and also the option of a third year to gain experience in medicine, accident and emergency, or more anaesthesia if required to gain the Primary FRCA.

Useful Contacts:

Wales Deanery
www.walesdeanery.org
Email: stjobs@cardiff.ac.uk

Royal College of Anaesthetists
www.rcoa.ac.uk

Association of Anaesthetists
www.aagbi.org.uk

Welsh School of Anaesthesia
www.welshschool.co.uk

@walesdeanery
facebook.com/walesdeanery
Anaesthesia in Wales

Anaesthesia is an exciting and rewarding career and is the single largest hospital specialty.

The training is organised by the Welsh School of Anaesthesia (www.welshschool.co.uk) and there are many sub-specialties, so there really is something for everyone. You can start anaesthesia in your foundation year by using a taster session or as a four month post. You can then join as an ACCS trainee or alternatively into the core training programme of anaesthesia and intensive care.

If you enjoy working as part of a team and the challenges of dealing with acutely ill patients, then anaesthesia may be the career for you.

Key Locations

Training in anaesthesia takes place in almost every hospital throughout Wales as part of a structured training programme. The training will enable you to experience the district general hospital, as well as the large teaching hospitals for the sub-specialty work e.g. cardiothoracic anaesthesia, neuroanaesthesia, paediatric anaesthesia and academic anaesthesia.

Taster Sessions in Anaesthesia

We encourage foundation trainees to arrange a taster session in anaesthesia to help you decide whether to apply for core training. If you can’t spend a week, then even one or two days would be beneficial. The local college tutor in anaesthetics and your educational supervisor can help you arrange this.

Notable Achievements in Wales

We have a very strong academic department in anaesthesia at the University of Wales which enables all trainees to have the opportunity to take part in many ongoing research projects. Our trainees are strongly encouraged to present at Welsh meetings and there are many groups representing trainees e.g. Junior Anaesthetist’s of Wales (JAW), Group of Anaesthetists in Training (GAT) at the Association of Anaesthetists (of which Wales has held several important committee posts). There are many opportunities for overseas experience using the OOPE (out of programme experience) or ORT (off rotation) option in higher training.

Workforce Information

This is the largest single specialty with approximately 325 consultants working in Wales, 70 associate specialist or SAS doctors and over 200 trainees. We produce around 145 CCT holders every five to seven years.

We also have a healthy number of less than full-time trainees (LTFT’s).

The trainees experience

“Anaesthesia provides me with the mix of skills and experiences that I love.”

“Excellent support and teaching with regular assessments, progress reports and feedback.”

“There are good trainee study days twice a year to meet up with fellow colleagues from all over Wales.”

A consultant’s experience

“Anaesthesia enables me to have an enjoyable, challenging career with plenty of continuing professional development so things never get boring. It also allows for a healthy work-life balance for family and leisure time.”