

Testimonial

If you want to be good at Arthroscopic and joint preservation surgery and get an appreciation for working with elite athletes, all while living in a beautiful and vibrant city, then you have to apply for this fellowship.

If you're fortunate to be selected, you'll not be disappointed, Pete leads the fellowship and works so hard to help you settle into Perth life and enjoy some great live sport at the Optus (Aussie Rules, Cricket, Rugby). The other supervisors, Brendan, Sat and Li-on are all great, as are the rest of the staff you'll work with, be it admin staff, theatre staff, trainees and other doctors. Pete will go out his way to tailor his public and private lists to suit your interests and needs to be able to develop the skills you want to. The timetable is as listed on the website, and is heavily favoured towards operating, with the majority being public. This inevitably means a lot of operating, and this is reflected in the numbers you'll get in 6 months. 350 cases in 6 months (including 2 weeks off for Christmas and 2 weeks pat leave for a fellowship baby!). This included 65 ACLs 55 meniscal repairs, 14 TKR, 8 revision ACLs, 6 PCLs and 6 multi-ligs. I was also able to gain competence in OATS, MACI and varying osteotomies, along with gaining experience in Osteochondral Allograft surgery for larger defects. The proportion of these as first surgeon being 70%. There was access very early in the fellowship to doing solo lists, and these can be filled with cases you feel comfortable with, increasing the complexity as you go. I would never have thought I would be doing revision ACLs or PCLs solo by the end of 6 months, despite what I knew about the fellowship, but that has been possible as a result of the brilliant teaching, expert guidance and unrivalled support network.

There is also the opportunity for Research, and it is expected you will lead a project, present it and publish it, not necessarily all in 6 months. I gave 3 international presentations and 1 regional presentation, and I'm working on 2 projects that should go on to be presented and published. With the fellowship going from strength to strength and the high quality of my predecessors, the data and ongoing projects that Pete has, are a great resource for projects. And I've no doubt work I've done here will continue to bring me, my predecessors and successors, future presentations and publications.

Living in Perth is brilliant for families or individuals, there's something for everyone. The weather is amazing, with beautiful beaches, the coffee is great with so many coffee shops, the beer and wine are very nice, and the people are so so welcoming. I can also highly recommend the maternity services, pre, peri and postnatal care!

There aren't many truly great fellowships worldwide, but this must be one of them. The combination of case mix, high volume, independent operating, brilliant supervision, good pay, great lifestyle, great research opportunities meant for me it ticked every box.

I'm sure Pete could tell you more about how I developed over the 6 months, but I feel as though my training in Mersey gave me the tools and fundamentals to be a good Orthopaedic surgeon, and this fellowship allowed me to become the surgeon I always wished I could be. I have no doubt that my patients and future colleagues will benefit hugely from these six months, and for that, Pete and the other supervisors should feel immensely proud.

I'm sure our paths will cross again, and it's a day I look forward to.

Mike Grant

26/02/23