



## **An Elective in Neonatal and Paediatric Intensive Care in Great Ormond Street Hospital for Children, London, United Kingdom**

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I was placed between the Neonatal and Paediatric Intensive Care wards of Great Ormond Street Hospital (GOSH) for Children, London for my six week elective during April and May 2017. GOSH is one of the leading centres in the world for the treatment of rare and serious paediatric conditions.

During my time at GOSH I was given a lot of freedom to explore areas of interest and I immersed myself in the day to day clinical life of the department. Most days started at 8:15 am with the ward round. During this time I practiced presenting new admissions to the team. I also observed how carefully the team addressed each system, including antibiotics, nutrition and lines. Following ward round I attended daily teaching at 9:30 am for the Clinical Fellows on the unit. We covered topics such as 'How to Ventilate a Life Threatening Asthma Case, Congenital Diaphragmatic Hernias, Duct Ligation and Paediatric Advanced Trauma Life Support'. The teaching subjects often reflected the cases on the ward and were a great opportunity to ask questions and consolidate my practical learning. I also attended Journal Club where I developed skills in critically analysing papers and reflecting on whether newly published data should influence my clinical practice. I then shadowed the clinical fellows where I expanded on my

knowledge of blood gas interpretation, intubation and extubation, line insertion and seizure management. I was also able to attend weekly simulation teaching on subjects such as neonatal sepsis and inter-hospital patient transfer.

Being placed in Intensive Care meant that many doctors from other specialities come to review and treat patients on the ward. In particular, GOSH NICU sees many surgical cases. With the guidance of the Fellows I was able to examine and illicit many clinical signs I had only read about previously, including congenital diaphragmatic hernias, gastroschisis, necrotising enterocolitis and Vein of Galen malformation. I also attended theatre and interventional radiology to observe three surgical procedures where I was able to learn about airway management and cannulation in neonates and young children. I attended the weekly surgical meeting where surgeons and intensivists balanced the risks and benefits of a surgical intervention.

During my time at GOSH I also observed discussions and some of the most difficult decision making between clinicians and parents. Although emotionally challenging, I was inspired to see how effectively and sensitively information was synthesised and communicated. I saw how helpful the nurses could be during these times, as they had been the consistent figure to the patient and family.

*I would like to thank the team at the AAGBI for their kind contribution to my elective. Without their funding this placement and the invaluable experience I gained from it would not have been possible. I am excited and feel better placed for my Foundations Years ICU placement and to further explore pursuing a career in Anaesthetics and Intensive Care Medicine.*