



SCHOLARSHIP REPORT

This report should be completed by recipients of awards and scholarships from the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Glasgow on completion of the activity for which they received their award or scholarship. Please complete all sections of the report form.

Please return your completed report via email to: **scholarships@rcpsg.ac.uk**

Or via mail to: **Scholarships Committee Administrator, Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Glasgow,
232-242 St Vincent Street, Glasgow G2 5RJ, UK**

Please use typeface when completing this form.

SECTION 1 | PERSONAL AND AWARD DETAILS

Title	Dr	PID	34002
Surname	Wright	Forename(s)	Fiona
Scholarship/award awarded	Travelling Scholarship	Amount awarded	£2000

SECTION 2 | PROJECT/VISIT DETAILS

Name/Title	National Stroke Thrombectomy Service Sabbatical
Location	New Zealand – Multiple centre
Aims and objectives	<p>My sabbatical had 2 key objectives. These were chosen due to the absence of a stroke thrombectomy service in Scotland currently and to help me gain insights and experience that would be valuable and informative when contributing to the local and National planning strategy moving forward.</p> <p>1.To gain practical experience in assessing and managing stroke thrombectomy candidates in multiple centres using a variety of clinical assessment methods and modalities</p> <p>2. To gain a wide overview of service development and provision and specific systems in place to optimise access to specialist stroke care and interventions across a wide geographical area.</p>

<p>Summary</p> <p><i>Include methodology, results and conclusions if applicable</i></p>	<p>During the 12 week sabbatical period I rotated through a number of clinical centres observing systems of care, clinical practice and attending senior staff and governance meetings.</p> <p>Auckland City Hospital - a large regional “hub” centre in the North Island dealing with large numbers of referrals and the largest thrombectomy service in New Zealand.</p> <p>Middlemore Hospital – a “spoke” hospital in Auckland that provides a daytime service but refers out of hours to Auckland City Hospital. This population access a specific pre-hospital assessment process executed by advanced practitioner paramedics to minimise delays to time sensitive therapies and optimise patient diversions to the central service to maintain efficiency</p> <p>Wellington Hospital – A regional “hub” centre providing a central service, advice and assessment of potential thrombectomy candidates with a particular emphasis on the use of telestroke technology serving a number of less densely populated peripheral spoke sites.</p> <p>Christchurch Hospital – The main hub serving the South Island again with a strong emphasis on the use of telestroke technology to widen access to the largest possible number of eligible large vessel occlusion patients across the South Island.</p> <p>Tauranga Hospital – A regional “spoke” Hospital service that assesses and refers to the hub at Auckland Hospital for thrombectomy. This service provided unique insight into the local processes at smaller centres evaluating cases’ suitability for helicopter transfer to a regional service.</p>
<p>Learning outcomes</p> <p><i>Detail here how the aims and objectives were met</i></p>	<p>I became experienced in the use of advanced neuroimaging including the utility of CT Perfusion and artificial intelligence in patient selection for thrombectomy and how this technology can lengthen the treatment window for selected cases using specific patient selection criteria.</p> <p>I gained experience in the use of telemedicine to assess patients in geographically distant / lower population density areas and the skills required to undertake thorough and clinically meaningful evaluations when working under time pressures.</p> <p>The importance of robust repatriation policies to maintain a functional service when providing regional services with limited resources.</p> <p>I gained a further appreciation of the importance of developing hyperacute specialist services with sustainable staffing and rota design coupled with imaginative ways of working to future-proof and secure the service moving forward.</p>

Evaluation

How has this scholarship/award impacted on your clinical/NHS practice or equivalent?

This was an invaluable experience and opportunity to gain practical and clinical experience in an established and growing National service. The New Zealand health service and population has many parallels with Scotland.

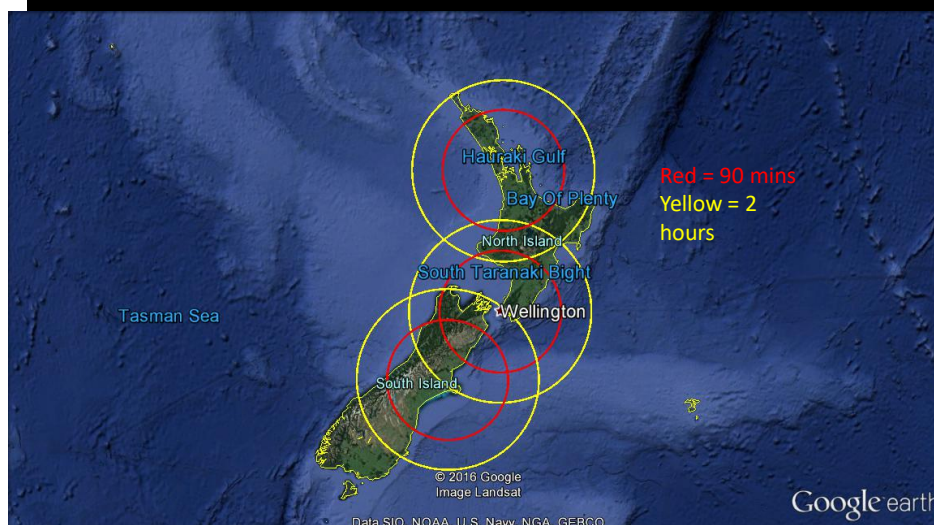
The high volume service at Auckland City Hospital provided me with a highly informative experience of patient pathways and assessment within a relatively short timescale.

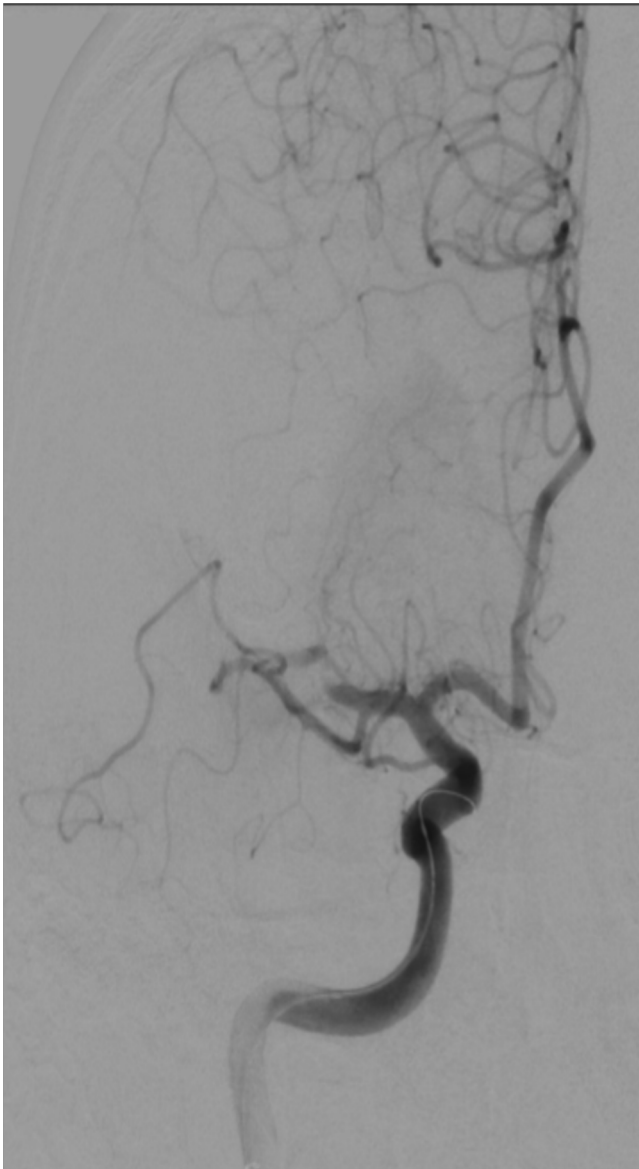
In totality, I gained insights into methods to maximise equity of access to high quality emergency care irrespective of geographical location, something very relevant to the development of thrombectomy services in Scotland.

Through observing specific practices that varied between the centres I gained a greater understanding of adapting and individualising services to the local demand where appropriate whilst maintaining best practice and highly evidenced value based healthcare.

SECTION 3 | IMAGES

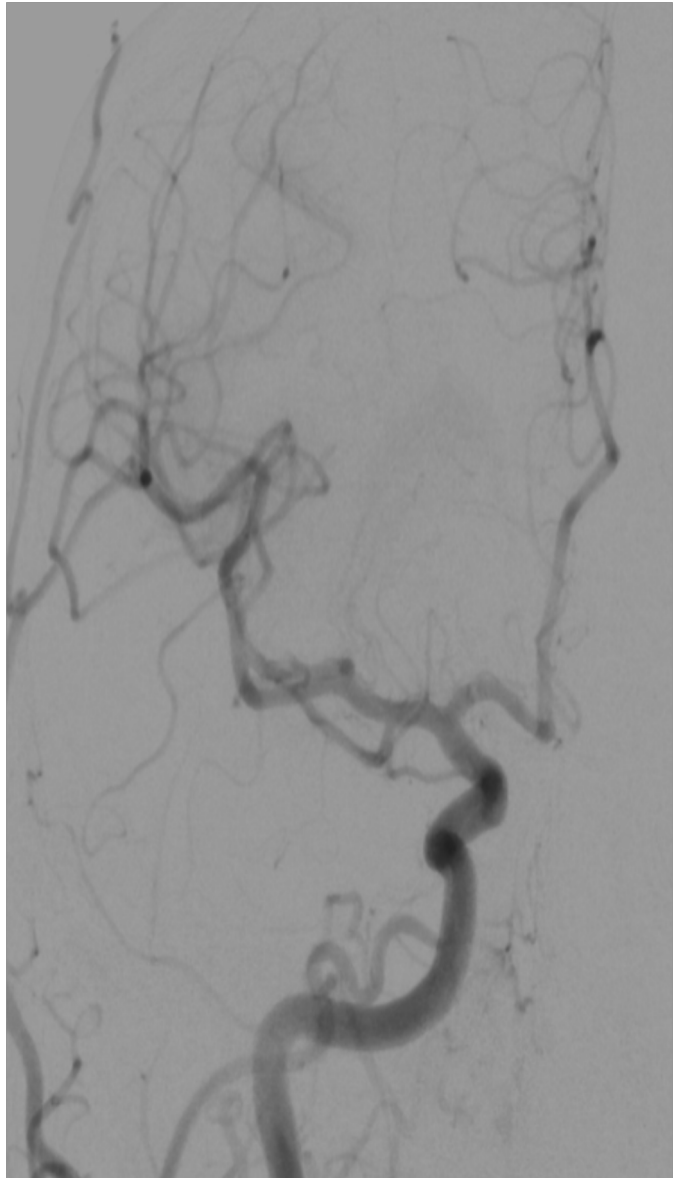
Helicopter flight times for Major Thrombectomy centres





middle cerebral artery

Pre-thrombectomy angiogram demonstrating occluded right



Post thrombectomy angiogram demonstrating patent vessel



artery

Fresh clot extracted from the occluded middle cerebral

SECTION 4 | EXPENDITURE

Breakdown of expenditures

Please demonstrate how the scholarship/award funding was used to support your project/visit

£1000 towards international and domestic flights whilst travelling between Thrombectomy centres within New Zealand

£1000 towards the cost of accommodation for the 12 week period.

SECTION 5 | PUBLICATION

Scholarship/award reports may be published in College News. Please tick here if you agree to your report being published.

☒ I give permission for my report to be published in College News

If your report is selected for publishing, the editor of College News will be in touch to discuss this with you.

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