

## **Cleft Surgery**

The pathway to becoming a Cleft Surgeon in the UK is typically via the parent specialty training pathways of Plastic Surgery, Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery (OMFS) or Ear Nose and Throat (ENT). The diagram below shows the main stages of training, although there is a large amount of variation for each individual trainee dependent upon their parent specialty and the opportunities that individuals take to veer away from the standard training route along the way.

## Undergraduate Degree

- 5-6 year medical degree (MBChB or MBBS)
- OMFS trainees dual specialise in medicine and dentistry which are both 5-6 year degrees but the second degree may be fast-tracked and shortened to 3-5 years

## Foundation Training

- 2 year rotational programme immediately following completion of medical (F1/F2) or dental school (DF1/DF2).

## Core Surgical Training

- 2 year (CT1 and CT2) rotational programme in surgical specialties.
- Must have full GMC registration and completed foundation year training to be eligible to apply.
- Must complete **MRCS** examination by the end of core training to be eligible to apply for specialty training.
- Prospective OMFS trainees may also secure the **MFDS** and **DOHNS** exams

## Specialty Training

- Specialty training in Plastic Surgery, OMFS and ENT is 5-6 years (ST3 - ST7/8)
- Recruitment is run annually and nationally coordinated. It is a competitive process.
- Trainees are eligible to sit the **FRCS** exam in the latter stages of training which contributes to the Certificate of Completion of Training (CCT) being awarded.
- Training time can be extended for various reasons including personal events, less than full time training and research.
- Once a CCT is awarded, trainees can be entered onto the GMC Specialist Register which enables them to be appointed to a consultant post.

## Cleft Subspecialty Training

- To become a Cleft Surgeon in the UK, further focused cleft training is required beyond that experienced in specialty training. This involves undertaking a fellowship cleft lip and palate surgery.
- Fellowships can be undertaken in the UK or abroad and should last at least 1 year. They can be undertaken pre- or post-CCT.
- The gold standard in the UK is the Training Interface Group (TIG) Cleft Lip and Palate Fellowship, this lasts 1-2 years and is now post-CCT. Recruitment is co-ordinated nationally and fellows can work at a number of different approved centres across the UK.

You are now eligible to be appointed as a Consultant Cleft Surgeon in the UK