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Postgraduate Diploma in Head and Neck Ultrasound, Glasgow Caledonian University

Jamie's Background

I am a Specialty Doctor in Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery at Aberdeen Royal Infirmary, where I have worked for 13 years. I am writing to share my positive experience of applying for and receiving funding through the SAS Development Programme.

Three years ago, I applied for funding to undertake a Postgraduate Diploma in Head and Neck Ultrasound. The support I received has been invaluable for both my professional development and the advancement of clinical services within our department.

Impact on Service Delivery

The skills and qualifications gained have enabled me to help establish a One-stop Neck Lump Clinic within the Oral and Maxillofacial/ENT service, where I now perform same-day ultrasound scanning and biopsy. This has improved efficiency, reduced patient waiting times, and streamlined the diagnostic pathway.

In addition, I have applied these ultrasound skills to support the creation of a one-stop Vasculitis clinic in collaboration with the Rheumatology team, as well as a Rapid On-Site Evaluation (ROSE) Ultrasound and FNA clinic with the Thyroid team. These initiatives have strengthened multidisciplinary working, enhanced patient care, and broadened my clinical expertise across multiple specialities.

Future Development

Following the success of this first qualification, I have recently been awarded further funding to pursue a Postgraduate Diploma in Dermatology, which I am confident will further enrich both my current and future clinical practice.

Advice and Acknowledgements

I strongly encourage other SAS-grade doctors to explore this excellent funding scheme. It provides an outstanding opportunity for career progression, service development, and personal growth, while ultimately delivering significant benefits for patient care.

I would like to thank Mr Mark Burrell, Clinical Lead in OMFS and Dr Graham Wilson, SAS Education Adviser at NHS Grampian for their invaluable support with my application. I am also deeply grateful to Dr Dymna McAteer, Consultant Head and Neck Radiologist for her mentorship and guidance throughout my training.

