



## **British Association for Sexual Health and HIV**

*Established 2003 through the merger of MSSVD (est. 1922) and AGUM (est. 1992)*

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### **The British Association for Sexual Health and HIV (BASHH) and the Health Protection Agency**

#### **Honorary Joint Training Fellowships for Physicians Taking Higher Specialist Training in Genitourinary Medicine**

The British Association for Sexual Health and HIV (BASHH) and Health Protection Agency run a programme of honorary joint Fellowships for physicians in higher specialist training in genitourinary medicine. This document and the appendix explain the background, how the Fellowships will work, and how those interested should apply.

#### **Higher Specialist Training in Genitourinary Medicine**

Physicians in higher specialist training (HST) in genitourinary medicine have to undertake four years of structured training according to the curriculum laid down by the JCHMT Royal Colleges of Physicians. In this, there are periods of time towards the end of the four years when optional work can be undertaken and these Fellowships would fit into such periods. It is also possible that other grades of staff (e.g Associate Specialists) may undertake this fellowship, if arrangements to protect their time can be agreed with their NHS employer and manager.

#### **The Health Protection Agency**

The Health Protection Agency (HPA) has a remit to protect, prevent, and prepare for various threats to health. Visit the HPA web-site to find out more ([http:// www.hpa.org.uk](http://www.hpa.org.uk))

The HPA, with its reference laboratories and epidemiology and emergency preparedness function, is engaged in, or contributes to, a wide range of activities relating to genitourinary medicine. These include screening and surveillance, laboratory work, out-break response, mathematical modelling, economic analyses, infection control in hospital, schools, nurseries and the community, and sexual health. It does not do this alone, but works in partnership with NHS microbiologists, clinicians, consultants in communicable disease control (CCDC's), NHS public health specialists, Environmental Health Officers, as well as academics. It is primarily engaged in public health work, but also has a strong series of applied research programmes supporting this. Hence, there are opportunities for clinicians to develop interests in epidemiology or public health in collaboration with the HPA for part of their higher specialist training.

#### **How will fellowships work?**

It would be preferred if Fellowships and their associated attachment could be for a year, but they could be made on a shorter-term basis. In most cases the attachments would be a day per week. Each person with a Fellowship would be allocated a "mentor" in the Centre for Infections (CfI) or another part of the HPA. That person might be, for example, in CfI – an epidemiologist or microbiologist, but equally could be a regional epidemiologist or a senior scientist or medical microbiologist in a HPA laboratory, Regional Unit or Local Health Protection Unit which are located across the country. The Fellow would be expected to undertake a project either with the relevant epidemiologist, laboratory director, or reference laboratory director. As indicated above, this might involve laboratory work, outbreak

investigations, or analytic work and would depend on the interests of the Fellow and what is agreed with the "mentor". The Project should be of interest to the Fellow and relate to some aspect of genitourinary medicine, but it should also be of use and value to the "mentor" and public health in general. The Fellow would also attend either an introductory course or an intensive epidemiology course at Cfl. It is important to appreciate that although the HPA is waiving bench fees and costs of courses at this time, no additional funding is available for these Fellowships and that costs of travel and support (eg: when attending courses at Colindale) would need to be identified by the candidate, for example from local training budgets.

## **How to apply?**

### **Candidates will need to submit:**

- Short (2 pages A4) summary of the project with the agreement of the proposed mentor (only one project should be submitted)
- Concise CV (2-3 sides)
- Short document (not more than 2 sides of A4) entitled 'Importance of this placement at the HPA to my training and future career'.

**The applicants should identify a mentor by approaching an HPA member of the steering group for guidance regarding the appropriate person, if they are not already in touch with an appropriate HPA based mentor.**

**This fellowship should be considered competitive as in previous years the HPA has been overwhelmed with interest and can only provide a limited number of places. However, we will attempt to accommodate as many applicants with suitable applications throughout the HPA as possible.**

**Applications should be received by the end of January 2010.** Successful candidates will be informed before the end of March with a view to starting in the summer of 2010. It is important that the candidates' Head of Department, Regional Speciality Training Committee and Regional Dean have all been consulted and given written approval.

### **Steering Group (HPA members)**

- Cathy Ison, BSIG and HPA (Catherine.ison@hpa.org.uk)
- Jackie Cassell, HPA South East Region (J.Cassell@bsms.ac.uk)
- Sarah Alexander, HPA Cfl Microbiology (Sarah.Alexander@hpa.org.uk)
- Kathy Lowndes, HPA Cfl, STI Surveillance ([catherine.lowndes@hpa.org.uk](mailto:catherine.lowndes@hpa.org.uk))

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