



## AOA-NSA Spinal Surgery Post Fellowship and Education Training Accredited Positions



The spinal surgery PFET program is a joint program administered in conjunction with the Australian Orthopaedic Association.

### Austin Hospital, Melbourne

This position combines Neurosurgical and Orthopaedic spinal surgery in adults. Working closely with both Units, the candidate will experience extensive exposure to all aspects of spine surgery, including complex elective and trauma cases. Patients are referred to this State-wide service and acute cases are admitted directly. There is outpatient follow-up and opportunities for research and teaching.

Duration: 12 months full time  
Remuneration: More than \$50,000 and less than \$75,000  
Supervisor: Mr Gerald Quan, Orthopaedic Surgeon

### John Hunter Hospital

The successful applicant will undergo clinical attachment to the neurosurgical and orthopaedic spinal surgery services. The John Hunter Hospital has a busy trauma service and exposure to a wide range of traumatic spinal disorders is offered. The fellow would participate in the surgical treatment of spinal disorders affecting children and adults. It is anticipated the fellow would develop familiarity with anterior and posterior approaches to the spinal column including techniques of operative fixation and deformity correction. The fellow would be expected to undertake clinical research in association with the spinal surgery service and its prospectively collected data base. The spinal surgery service runs a combined monthly meeting of surgeons, radiologists, allied health professionals and junior medical staff in which operative cases are audited and activity is presented.

Duration: 12 months full time  
Remuneration: More than \$75,000  
Supervisor: Mr Richard Ferch, Neurosurgeon

### Macquarie University Hospital and Nepean Private Hospital

A successful candidate will undergo a 12-24-month fellowship with exposure to all aspects of adult spine surgery. There is a particular emphasis on adult spinal deformity. The fellow will receive education and instruction in conventional open and minimally invasive correction techniques. Appointed fellows will complete a competence-based course in the subspecialty of spinal surgery. The training techniques of the Australian School of Advanced Medicine at Macquarie University allows scholars to develop their technical skills with optimum efficiency while developing other surgical qualities including a commitment to lifelong learning, research, teaching, ethics and professionalism.



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The fellow will be enrolled in the Masters of Advanced Surgery program through the Australian School of Advanced Medicine. This degree program will require the fellow to engage in evidence-based research project in spinal surgery in addition to other elective courses of their choosing. Additionally, the fellow will participate in weekly academic meetings, monthly M&M's, and be expected to present in journal club and on evidence-based searches.

Duration: 12 months full time  
Remuneration: More than \$75,000  
Supervisor: Dr Kevin Seex, Neurosurgeon

### Mater Hospital Brisbane

The Mater Centre for Neurosciences surgical program encompasses general and sub-specialty areas of spinal surgery, together with a broad cohort of cranial neurosurgical patients. The spinal service is provided both within the public and private sector by 8 neurosurgeons and 4 orthopaedic spinal surgeons, and the fellow would have opportunities to work across the whole service. In particular there is a strong emphasis on the management of common spinal pathologies using minimally invasive surgical techniques, with the use of intra-operative CT imaging and navigation as supportive technologies. The neurosurgical team at the Centre for Neurosciences have performed over 3000 minimally invasive spinal surgery procedures, from simple discectomy and decompression procedures through to fusion and tumour resection.

The fellow will gain valuable experience in the field of spinal surgery, with a focus on the development of skills in minimally invasive spinal surgery. The patient cohort is predominantly one of degenerative spinal pathologies. The fellow will have responsibilities in the pre-operative assessment and management of patients in an out-patient setting, together with supervised activities in the operating theatre as assistant and supervised first operating surgeon. Post-operative ward care and outpatient review of operative patients will also be responsibilities of the fellow.

Duration: 12 months full time  
Remuneration: More than \$75,000  
Supervisor: Dr Martin Wood, Neurosurgeon

### Pindara Private Hospital, Gold Coast

The Pindara Private Hospital Spinal Fellowship is a PFET accredited fellowship that transforms general orthopaedic surgeons and neurosurgeons into spinal surgeons. The fellowship is conducted across two locations, Gold Coast Spine and Pindara Private Hospital, and involves exposure to a comprehensive array of pathologies. The early focus will be on the assessment of spinal conditions using modern diagnostic techniques to achieve a precision diagnosis, followed by the development of higher order surgical skills.



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Gold Coast Spine's ethos is to match the right technology with the right pathology, so a wide-ranging experience in approaches to the spine can be expected. There is a particular focus on anterior reconstruction of the cervical, thoracic and lumbar spines. Dr Matthew Scott-Young is widely recognised as a world leader in this area and pioneered total disc replacement in Australia. The fellow will also have major exposure to deformity correction in the aging spine.

Gold Coast Spine has been collecting PROMS for in excess of 20 years and has a partnership with Bond University as part of its longitudinal study into the outcomes of spine surgery. It is anticipated that the fellow will drive several peer reviewed publications during the fellowship year. Gold Coast Spine's one on one mentorship program has a proven track record of producing spine surgeons who are ready for the challenges of practice, based on the treatment of complex disorders of the spine. Our previous fellows, currently in practice around the world, would be happy to share their experiences with prospective applicants.

Duration: 12 months full time  
Remuneration: More than \$75,000  
Supervisor: Associate Professor Matthew Scott-Young, Orthopaedic Surgeon

### Royal Melbourne Hospital and Melbourne Private Hospital, Melbourne

The Spinal Surgery Fellow will be involved in the assessment, investigation and management of patients with all forms of spinal pathology. The exposure will be from basic to complex instrumented spinal fusion surgery encompassing all aspects of the spine. An understanding of the biomechanics and the decision-making process will underpin the essential development in attaining the knowledge base in the management of patients requiring spinal surgery. The Fellow will liaise with the Trauma and Oncology unit when patients with spinal pathology require assessment and management. The Neurosurgical unit has a strong input into the surgical aspects of pain management and Pain Service. The Fellow will be expected to maintain a close association with the Pain Service and enhance the multidisciplinary approach of these complex patients.

The Fellow will be expected to be involved with clinical research and help develop guidelines in the management of patients with spinal pathology in its multifaceted components.

Duration: 12 months full time  
Remuneration: More than \$75,000  
Supervisor: Mr Bhadu Kavar, Neurosurgeon

### St Vincent's Public and Private Hospitals, Melbourne

This position is ideal for a candidate who wishes to further improve on spine management and complex spinal procedures. The candidate will receive extensive exposure to all aspects of spine



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surgery especially degenerative cervical and lumbar disc diseases and their management including complex spinal instrumentation. Complete ongoing management of patient care starting at initial diagnosis made in clinic, admission to the hospital for surgery and finally at outpatient post-operative care clinic. There are also opportunities for research and teaching of junior registrars and residents.

Duration: 12 months full time  
Remuneration: More than \$75,000  
Supervisor: Mr Tiew Han, Neurosurgeon

### Westmead Hospital and Westmead Private Hospital, Sydney

The fellowship provides comprehensive training in all aspects of spinal neurosurgery, including degenerative cervical and lumbar disc disease, spinal trauma, spine tumours (primary, metastatic and intradural), metabolic bone disease, spinal infections, congenital spinal anomalies, failed back syndrome and syringomyelia, with such treatments as endoscopic, microscopic and minimally invasive surgery. The fellowship consists of both inpatient and outpatient experience with primary clinical responsibility. In addition, fellows participate in basic scientific and clinical research to fulfill the requirements of the program.

Duration: 12 months full time  
Remuneration: More than \$75,000  
Supervisor: Dr Andrew Kam, Neurosurgeon

### Royal North Shore Hospital and North Shore Private Hospital

The fellow would be expected to gain a comprehensive exposure to a wide variety of spinal conditions and broad spectrum of surgical techniques across a public and private hospital in adult patients, including emergency presentations. This includes degenerative, tumour, infection and deformity surgeries. There is a focus on trauma and spinal cord injury and post-traumatic sequelae such as syringomyelia. The fellow would develop familiarity with minimally invasive and complex instrumentation techniques, together with anterior and posterior approaches to the spine. The fellowship offers unique experience in navigated and robotic guided spinal surgery. The fellow would work in both an assistant and supervised first operating surgeon role. The fellow would be expected to participate in educational activities and undertake clinical research in association with the spinal surgery service.

Duration: 12 months full time  
Remuneration: More than \$75,000  
Supervisor: Dr Jonathon Ball, Neurosurgeon

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## Prince of Wales Hospital and The Sydney Children's Hospital

To develop independent advanced management skills in spine surgery, including:

- Self-reflection during clinical assessment and formulation of diagnostic possibilities
- Appropriate use of imaging and other investigations
- Full understanding of natural history of clinical syndromes
- Development of detailed management and surgical plan
- Anticipation of obstacles to execution of surgical plan and taking next steps to avoid obstacles
- Mature management of available resources to achieve treatment goals
- Complete explanation to patient and family including expected pathway
- Positive leadership of clinical team and other staff
- To develop advanced skills in complex spinal surgery
- State clear surgical plan
- Arrange for all relevant equipment and imaging to be available in operating theatre
- Ensure Team Time Out (confirm patient identity and procedure) and safe positioning of patient
- Positive team leadership in operating theatre and communication with anaesthetist
- Appropriate post-operative care
- Definitive management of complications
- Range of technical skills
- Posterior decompression; open and minimally invasive
- Safe spinal screw placement in all locations from occiput to iliac wings
- Percutaneous pedicle screw placement
- Posterior interbody fusion
- Deformity or fracture correction and rod contouring and placement
- Vertebrectomy and interbody cage placement by posterior approach
- Transthoracic or thoraco-abdominal exposure of spinal column
- Extra-peritoneal exposure of lumbar spine from direct anterior or lateral approaches
- Anterior exposure of cervical spine from C2 to T2
- Anterior discectomy or corpectomy with or without spinal canal decompression
- Anterior or lateral interbody fusion
- Anterior placement of disc arthroplasty
- Research and self-directed learning
- Complete a small project or contribute to a project based on clinical outcomes or laboratory investigation
- Participate and conduct second monthly spine journal club
- To balance clinical responsibilities with research imperatives

Duration: 12 months full time  
Remuneration: More than \$75,000  
Supervisor: Dr Ralph Stanford, Orthopaedic Surgeon

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