

RSB Bioscience Careers Day

Helen Patrick

Final year STP trainee (genomics)

Supporting training, Maintaining standards, Improving outcomes

My background



- BSc (Hons) in Biochemistry from the University of Southampton
- PhD in Regulation of Gene Expression from the University of Southampton
- Postdoc Research Contract at University of Sheffield – mRNA export / DNA repair
- Covid-19 Testing, Diagnostics Lab
- STP (genomics)
- Other experiences:
 - Teaching - undergrad labs / supervising students / tutorials
 - Presenting at conferences
 - Outreach
 - Sports clubs

Supporting training, Maintaining standards, Improving outcomes

Healthcare scientist specialisms



- Andrology
- Audiology
- Cancer Genomics
- Cardiac Science
- Clinical Biochemistry
- Clinical Bioinformatics (Genomics)
- Clinical Bioinformatics (Health Sciences)
- Clinical Bioinformatics (Physical Sciences)
- Clinical Engineering
- Clinical Immunology
- Clinical Microbiology
- Clinical Pharmaceutical Science
- Critical Care Science
- Gastrointestinal Physiology
- **Genomics** (formerly Genetics)
- Genomic Counselling (formerly Genetic Counselling)
- Haematology and Transfusion Science
- Histocompatibility and Immunogenetics
- Histopathology
- Medical Physics
- Molecular Pathology
- Neurophysiology
- Reproductive Science
- Respiratory and Sleep Sciences
- Urodynamic Science
- Vascular Science

Can only apply for one specialism

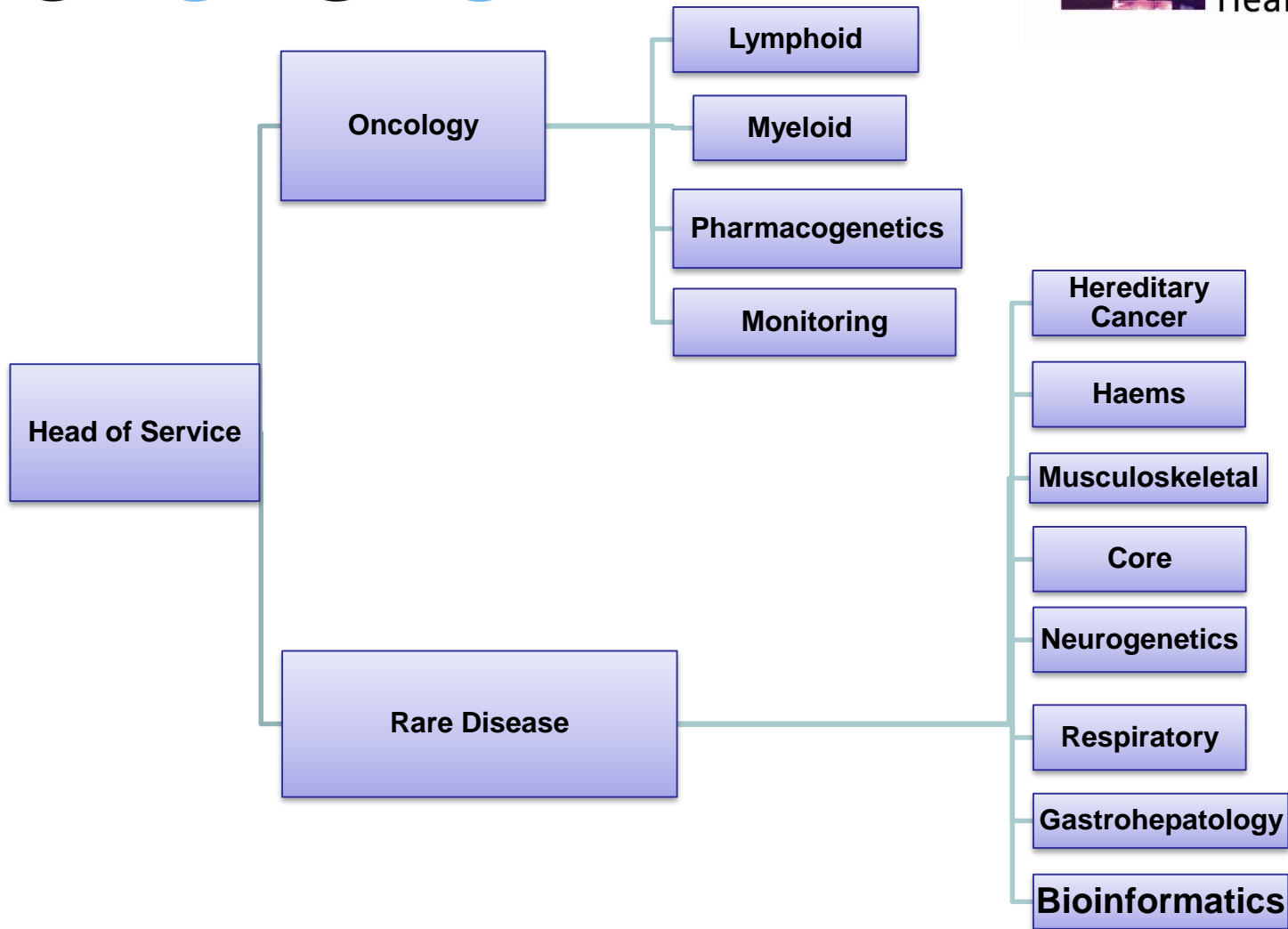
Supporting training, Maintaining standards, Improving outcomes

Healthcare Scientist role



- Analysis and diagnosis / prognosis of genetic disorders (sequencing, chromosome karyotyping, DNA variants, PCR)
- Report writing
- Book on new referrals – decide which test & priority
- Develop new assays / services
- Manage a diagnostic service – liaise with clinicians and counsellors, responsible for services performance (turnaround times, troubleshooting)
- Management – e.g. manage year 1 STPs
- Quality – audit, competence records, errors
- **Very little lab work!**
- Continuing professional development – continue own training, train others, maintain registration
- Registered with Health Care Professionals Council = responsibility!

Supporting training, Maintaining standards, Improving outcomes



What is the STP?



- Scientists Training Programme
- Graduate entry training programme
- Incorporates an MSc
- The award can then be transferred to gain professional registration
- Employed by the NHS for a period of three years
- Band 6 (starts at £33,706)
- Fully funded university fees
- No guaranteed role at the end

Supporting training, Maintaining standards, Improving outcomes

STP Progression



NSHCS
National School of
Healthcare Science



Supporting training, Maintaining standards, Improving outcomes

STP Structure

Year 1

- 4x rotations

Year 2 & 3

- Specialist modules
- Project

Genomics		
Year 1	Year 2 & 3	Core Modules
<p>4x 4-8 week rotations Compulsory</p> <p>Genetics & Molecular Science</p> <p>Intro to Cancer Genomics</p> <p>Genetic Counselling</p> <p>Bioinformatics</p>	<p>Specialist modules:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Paediatric Genomics• Prenatal Genomics• Adult Genomics• Cancer <p>STP Project</p> <p>Research Skills in HCS</p>	<p>Professional Foundations of HCS</p> <p>Individual Professional Development</p>

MSc component – university



- Provide theoretical training at the university and online
- Equates to approximately 1 day per week
- Considered a ratio 80:20, Work based : Masters
- Exams carried out through the university
- University of Manchester provides the training (genomics)

Supporting training, Maintaining standards, Improving outcomes

OneFile system



- Online e-Portfolio system
- Records all assessments within the e-portfolio
- Allows evidence to be uploaded to record all competencies

The screenshot shows the "Portfolio Dashboard" interface. On the left is a blue sidebar menu with options: Portfolio (dropdown), My Portfolio, Reviews, Timesheet Sessions, Reflective Log, Expert Witness, Download Portfolio, Submissions (dropdown), Pending Submissions, Completed Submissions, Start New Submission, Upload Evidence, Progress (48%), Overall Progress, Gap Analysis, Learning Journey, and Resources. The main content area is titled "Portfolio Dashboard" and includes a section "You are working towards:" with a link to "Scientist Training Programme (STP)". Below this are three panels: "OVERALL AND TARGET PROGRESS" with a circular progress gauge at 48%; "CALENDAR" showing "Today" with "No activity has been planned yet" and a "View calendar" button; and "TASKS DUE" with a bar chart showing 0 tasks due immediately, 0 this week, 1 next week, and 0 in 2 weeks. At the bottom are four action cards: "My Profile & CV" (upload CV, change email, etc.), "My Portfolio" (access submissions, training plans), "Upload Evidence" (upload evidence and link to submissions), and "Tasks" (1 new task) and "Messages" (no new messages).

Supporting training, Maintaining standards, Improving outcomes

Work-based Assessments



- Competencies
- Case-Based Discussion (CBD)
- Direct Observation of Practical skills (DOP)
- Observed Clinical Event (OCE)
- Multi-Source Feedback (MSF)

STP entry requirements



- Applicants must have an honours degree (First or upper second) in a pure or applied science area relevant to the specialism
- Evidence of research experience is considered desirable
- 2:2 degrees will be considered with an MSc or PhD
- Complete an online situational judgement test (SJT) - It is based on how you would respond in particular hypothetical situations. There are no right or wrong answers.

Application timeline



➡ The applications are managed centrally

➡ Applicants can be direct or in service (direct focused on here)

JANUARY

- Advertised on the NHS Careers Website
- Situational judgement test

MARCH/APRIL

- Shortlisting of applications occurs

MAY

- Interviews

SEPTEMBER

- Start the course!

Supporting training, Maintaining standards, Improving outcomes

The interview

- Those applicants who get through shortlisting will be offered an interview with prospective host lab
- Will be online
- Interview format and questions set by NSHCS –same for all candidates
- Will be a reserve candidates list also
- Same process as 2021 – this was different from previous years due to COVID



Competition rates

2018 data

Specialism	Number of applications	Number of direct entry posts	Competition ratio 2018
Cancer Genomics	339	2	17.5
Clinical Bioinformatics (Genomics)	261	17	15.4
Genomic Counselling	382	24	15.9
Genomics	366	22	16.6

Resources



➡ NSHCS website

<https://nshcs.hee.nhs.uk/programmes/stp/applicants/>

➡ New scientist website <http://jobs.newscientist.com/en-gb/>

➡ NHS careers website <https://www.healthcareers.nhs.uk/> search using STP

➡ Google Modernising Scientific Careers or Scientists Training Programme

Thank you for listening!
Happy to answer any questions in
the Q&A session

Supporting training, Maintaining standards, Improving outcomes