**UK Neuro-Ophthalmology Society: Careers**

**What is neuro-ophthalmology?**

Neuro-ophthalmology is an extremely rewarding, intellectually stimulating specialty, which gives the opportunity to master the complete human visual system and in turn, help save and restore vision.

Would you feel satisfied to use your clinical skills to:

Save a life by diagnosing an intracranial aneurysm at the bedside?

Diagnose a potential brain tumour and save lives and sight by looking in the eyes?

Diagnose a stroke by examining visual fields at the bedside?

Diagnose multiple sclerosis by watching eyes move?

Help a patient with multiple sclerosis who has debilitating double vision?

Save a patient from unnecessary, painful, dangerous scans and tests?

Then neuro-ophthalmology is for you – read on.

**What does a neuro-ophthalmologist do?**

If you are interested in using your keen diagnostic intellect, caring for patients, managing complex and debilitating diseases with good outcomes, teamwork and the latest technology, this career is for you.

You’ll also be a valued and important member of the multidisciplinary team. A neuro-ophthalmologist can manage patients directly, as well as provide specialist opinions on visual function and potential to patients with brain tumours, and other compressive lesions of the visual pathway, to other surgical colleges and multidisciplinary teams.

**Career pathway**

Fortunately, there are 3 ways to become a neuro-ophthalmologist, you can either go through an ophthalmology training pathway, neurology training, or medical ophthalmology.

If you enjoy wearing bowties, then please choose neurology.

More information can be found below:

<https://www.rcophth.ac.uk/training/>

<https://www.jrcptb.org.uk/specialties/medical-ophthalmology>

<https://www.jrcptb.org.uk/specialties/neurology>

**FAQs**

There are limited surgical opportunities, won’t I be able to do surgery?

You can keep up your surgical skills with squint surgical training if you are ophthalmology (RCOphth) trained, which fits hand in hand with neuro-ophthalmology, as well as intraocular surgery like treating cataracts, the commonest cause of blindness worldwide, which can be fixed with a 15 minute operation. Many neuro-ophthalmologists undertake cataract surgery, and can undertake squint surgery if they are interested in this area.

Is there a need? What about career opportunities?

Fear not, this specialty is in high demand and career opportunities are available across the nation. There is also the opportunity to get involved in research, if that is what you’d like, as the field of neuro-ophthalmology sits at the forefront of medical knowledge and technology.

I find it too intimidating when faced with a neuro-ophthalmic complaint in eye casualty on call, how can I do this as a career?

Neuro-ophthalmology is a component of ophthalmology training, but many trainees report feeling underserved by their training in this field and as a result either don’t feel confident to manage neuro-ophthalmic patients nor have the exposure to fully understand the beauty of this specialty. A placement or two in this specialty can easily break down the fear of not knowing what to do when faced with neuro-ophthalmic complaints in the eye casualty.

**I’m interested in learning more**

We recommend this textbook as a great general guide to the field

<https://www.amazon.co.uk/Neuro-Ophthalmology-Survival-Guide-2e/dp/0702072672/ref=asc_df_0702072672/?tag=googshopuk-21&linkCode=df0&hvadid=310973726618&hvpos=&hvnetw=g&hvrand=2811112386743476230&hvpone=&hvptwo=&hvqmt=&hvdev=m&hvdvcmdl=&hvlocint=&hvlocphy=1006524&hvtargid=pla-390611493052&psc=1&th=1&psc=1>

**Regional teaching/observerships**

If you are interested, please email luke.bennetto@nbt.nhs.uk who will be happy to assist with your request

[UKNOSoc@gmail.com](mailto:UKNOSoc@gmail.com) may be used for UK Neuro-Ophthalmology Society queries if needed