

Cleft and Craniofacial South Australia Fellowship

Program outline:

Cleft and Craniofacial SA (CCSA) is the tertiary referral center in South Australia and the Northern Territory for all paediatric patients with cleft lips and palates, craniofacial abnormalities and trauma. CCSA also shares cover of adult craniomaxillofacial trauma at SA's largest trauma center. CCSA works across the Women's and Children's Hospital and the Royal Adelaide Hospital as well as outreach clinics in regional and remote locations including Berri, Mount Gambier, Darwin and Alice Springs. Members of CCSA also participate in surgical missions overseas providing teaching, supervision and direct surgical care.

History:

The unit was established in 1975 as the Australian Craniofacial Unit and has played a role in training and developing surgeons from all over the world.

In September 1988 the Australian Health Ministers' Advisory Council officially designated the Unit a National Centre of Excellence.

In 2020 the unit's clinicians identified a need to rename the service to better encompass the service's current role and reflect its contemporary practices.

The clinicians felt that Cleft and Craniofacial SA was a modern interpretation of the existing brand and better encompasses the unit's position as one of a number of highly regarded units across Australia.

Fellowship details:

The Cleft and Craniofacial SA unit offers two fellowship positions per year. Fellows will gain a broad experience across all aspects of craniomaxillofacial surgery in both paediatric and adult patients. The fellowship has a strong educational focus with regular audits,, aimed at reviewing and improving practice,, monthly journal clubs, radiology meetings and protected time for fellow teaching. There will also be opportunities for research and professional development as well as teaching of medical, nursing and allied health staff.

The unit provides longitudinal, multidisciplinary care and fellows will receive valuable experience working closely with a highly skilled team that includes plastic surgeons, neurosurgeons, ENTs, dentists, orthodontists and speech pathologists, to name a few specialties.

There will be exposure to all elements of care of including but not limited to perioperative assessment and care, surgical techniques, longitudinal planning and wholistic treatment of all conditions.

Key areas of surgical practice include:

- Cleft lip and palate
- Craniosynostosis
- Craniofacial syndromes such as Treacher Collins and hemifacial microsomia as well as Tessier Clefts
- Craniomaxillofacial trauma - paediatric and adult
- Paediatric facial soft tissue and bony tumours and vascular malformations
- Facial transgender surgery
- Orthognathic surgery for cleft, craniomaxillofacial abnormalities, occlusal abnormalities and obstructive sleep apnoea correction
- Facial aesthetic work, such as septorhinoplasty, principally after trauma and processes covered under public health care
- Paediatric facial plastic surgery such as otoplasty, tongue ties, lesions and congenital soft tissue abnormalities

There is also an opportunity to assist in private practice with the surgeons attached to the unit.

Application process:

Fellowship positions are open to both Australian and overseas plastic surgeons who have completed FRACS or equivalent.

The process is via the South Australian careers website and typically opens around May of each year. Prospective applicants are encouraged to get in contact with the unit and check the SA careers website to avoid missing the application period.

Remuneration:

Remuneration will be based on the current enterprise bargaining agreement for South Australian Salaried Medical Officers and is a full time position with overtime and on call elements.

Contact: Dr Mark Moore AM is the Head of Unit and can be contacted via the unit secretary

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