

About Me

I'm Selina Tsim and I'm a Macmillan Consultant Respiratory Physician working in the Queen Elizabeth University Hospital in Glasgow. My post is funded 50% by Macmillan Cancer Support and 50% by the NHS Greater Glasgow & Clyde health board. I have specialty interest in pleural disease, mesothelioma and lung cancer. I did my respiratory and general internal medicine specialty training in the West of Scotland deanery. In 2013, I took 3 years 'out of programme' to undertake a clinical research fellow post at the unit I am now a consultant in.

My Job Plan

At present, I work 10PA, this is divided into 9 sessions Direct Clinical Care (DCC) and 1 session Supporting Professional Activities (SPA). At present, all new full time NHS Greater Glasgow & Clyde consultants are given this contract. 1.8 PAs of DCC in my current job plan are allocated to acute medical receiving and the remainder are allocated to ward rounds on a general respiratory ward; general respiratory, pleural/mesothelioma and lung cancer clinics, a thoracoscopy list, mesothelioma and lung cancer MDTs and DCC admin time. You need a minimum of 1 SPA to revalidate so if your department require you to be an educational supervisor then you will need additional SPA time to do so (typically 0.25 SPA per trainee).

What I Wish I'd Known About Becoming A Consultant

When considering where to apply for a consultant post, be honest with departments that you are considering or have dismissed as

options. All other consultants will have been through the same process so they will know that it is not always an easy choice and sometimes it is useful to hear their thoughts and experiences too.

Get to know the department that you are applying to for a consultant post. It is likely to be useful for your interview and for preparing you for your new post when you are successful.

Don't hesitate to ask for advice from other consultant colleagues because it is common practice and they will soon ask you for your advice.

Think carefully about what you agree to take on, particularly when you start your post. You may be tempted to be agreeable and take on new projects but you will still be learning how to be a consultant and manage the new responsibilities and workload that come with the post.

Your initial job plan is likely to change over time so don't worry if it's not 'perfect' or if you develop new interests or skills as it can always be reviewed in the future.

Developing good working relationships with the nurses and allied health professionals within your department and the staff in other departments, e.g. radiology, pathology, palliative care, critical care is hugely important and this collaborative working is key to ensuring a smooth patient journey and good patient care.

Your secretary is your new best friend. He/she will be a huge help keeping you organised.