

REPORT ON GRAHAM FRASER MEMORIAL FELLOWSHIP
(Prof. WPR Gibson) ; University of Sydney, Australia

Jaydip Ray MS, FRCS(ORL-HNS)
ENT SpR, University Hospital Birmingham

This paper has also been submitted for publication in ENT News

Sun, sea, sand, surf and SURGERY. This is one of the few otology fellowships where you will get an abundance of all these. The fellowship is funded by the Graham Fraser Memorial Foundation and supports the fellow to work with Professor William Gibson for six months.

Preparation :

The interviews are held an year in advance to allow time for all formalities to be completed. The paper trail is long and painstaking. So plan early and if selected allow at least four months to prepare the necessary documents. You will need to produce your original medical degrees, GMC certificate of good standing and satisfactory references. You may need to attend for a physical examination.

The Fellowship itself

This is a clinical fellowship with abundant opportunity, material and support for research.

Surgery: Surgery is performed both in the state (RPAH and Westmead Children's) and private (Mater) hospitals and the fellow operates on all sites under close supervision of Professor Gibson. In six months I had exposure to a wide array of otological procedures including cochlear implantation, middle ear surgery, stapedectomy, tympanoplasty and bone anchored hearing aids.



Dr. H. Sanli, Prof. Gibson and J. Ray

Professor Gibson is a world leader in the management of Meniere's Disease and therefore surgery for balance disorders occupies a special place in this fellowship providing the fellow with a rational approach for what is to many a complex issue

There are additional opportunities to spend time in the theatres of other otologists like Professor Paul Fagan, Dr. David Pohl and Dr. Cathy Birman who are very welcoming.



The Sydney Cochlear Implant Team

Clinics: The main clinic experience includes assessment of cochlear implant patients and the management of the dizzy patient. The fellow is encouraged to actively participate in the weekly implant team meetings. There are arrangements to attend special balance clinics under the auspices of Prof Michael Halmagyi.

The weekly schedule is:

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
AM	Clinic / Theatre (Children's)	Theatre (Children's)	Theatre (RPAH)	Clinic / Theatre (Children's)	Theatre (Mater) / Clinic
PM	Clinic / Other Centres	Cochlear Implant Centre	Clinic	Clinic / Other Centres	Theatre (Mater) / Clinic

Research: There is continuing work on auditory electrophysiology, maturation of the auditory pathway and balance disorders. With the enthusiasm amongst all the team members it is hard not to get involved in one research project or the other. Prof. Gibson supports the fellow to attend the Annual Meeting of Australian Association of Otolaryngology.

Other Activities:

Cochlear corporation generously supported a visit to The ***Bionic Ear Institute and Melbourne University*** (research on hearing & speech processing) along with a visit to the ***Cochlear Corporation's*** research and development facilities (Melbourne & Sydney).



Visit to the Bionic Ear Institute & Cochlear, Melbourne



The Royal Flying Doctors trip

Royal Australian Flying Doctors.

A trip in a six seater plane to the back of Burke opened my eyes to the logistics of providing healthcare in remote rural Australia

Cost of living

Sydney is one of the most desirable cities to live in. A lot of the activities revolve around the beach. If travelling with family I would recommend the north shore. We stayed on the Balmoral beach and it was simply fantastic! There are excellent (slightly expensive) suburbs close to the beaches with lots and lots of family oriented activities. Public transport (train, ferry, buses) cover a wide area. Travelling times will be between 15 min to 30 min depending on the hospital. Fortunately with current exchange rates the pound goes a long way in Oz. If coming alone or as a couple an apartment downtown would be ideal. You can pick up excellent deals from the BMJ website (britsabroadexchange). Professor and Alex Gibson are fantastic hosts and made us feel at home from day one. Their hospitality and support, starting from arranging household goods to weekends at the beech house and days out on the boat in Sydney harbour made this the most memorable six months down under.



'Max Wax'



The Gibson's beach house

In summary my experience during this fellowship was enormously rewarding academically, surgically, culturally and socially. I learnt a lot, the family had a great time and we met some wonderful people who will remain friends for life.

Contact addresses

1. The Graham Fraser Foundation
7 Somerset Gardens, Highgate, London,
N6 5EQ.
Tel: 02083401266
E mail:
information@grahamfraserfoundation.org.uk

2. Professor W P R Gibson,
The Sydney Cochlear Implant
Centre,
PO Box 188, Gladesville, NSW
2111, Sydney, Australia
Tel: 00 61 2 95191145,
E mail: gibsonwpr@bigpond.com.