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## Abstract

John Hunter (1728-1793), is remembered today as the founder of “scientific surgery”. He was unique in developing an experimental basis for his surgical practice, emphasising that surgeons should be well rounded and have a scientific approach towards managing pathology. The MCh programme in Otorhinolaryngology acknowledges this need with a strong foundation and emphasis on understanding and encouraging research. The programme stresses that good research goes hand-in-hand with excellent patient care. As an international surgical trainee in ENT, I have a unique opportunity to observe surgical practice on two different continents with a change in paradigm to an unbiased, scientific and patient-centric approach. I hope to share my experience of the MCh programme, a key step in my surgical journey in ENT.

## Programme structure

The MCh(ENT) is a one year full time programme, structured into six modules.

### Regenerative Medicine and Emerging Technologies

This module aims at teaching the fundamentals of regenerative medicine, ethics involved and touches upon advances made in biomedical technology, medical innovation, robotics, patent and trademark protection.

### Research Approaches and Methods

Provides guidance and trains students to develop and structure a focused question to research. Also, the programme focusses on the critical analysis of research articles and their relevance to clinical practice.

### Principles and Practice

1. Paediatric Otorhinolaryngology
2. Ear Pathology (Otology and Neuro Otology)
3. Rhinology and Facial Plastic Surgery
4. Head and Neck Surgery and Voice Management

Each module is structured to critically evaluate and discuss specific patients, procedures and cases. The modules aim to implement an advanced understanding of the relevant anatomy and pathophysiology of relevant specialist pathways. Discussions include emerging technologies, novel interventions and their potential impact.

### Practical Sessions

These sessions are conducted within the simulation suite that include temporal bone drilling, paediatric microlaryngoscopy and bronchoscopy, and an introduction to Functional Endoscopic Sinus Surgery (FESS).

Stem cell lab: isolation, counting and characterisation of cells from tissue, and later the monolayer culture process.



## Experience

The MCh programme is conducted by leading, internationally renowned Consultant Otorhinolaryngologists. Each module involves well-structured discussions complemented by valuable advice ranging from surgical nuances to career choices. The evidence base supporting current ENT management is meticulously explored, and we are familiarised with pivotal studies that have changed paradigms in ENT practice. The programme encourages trainees to challenge, and critically analyse the evidence available. We are instructed to inculcate a practice to approach any study systematically and ascertain its quality. It is empowering to now be able to confidently judge the quality of evidence before applying it to clinical practice. The well-balanced and passionate approach by each specialist consultant has genuinely translated to an impactful experience.

Surgical training in India often neglects the importance of research. The MCh programme reinforces the need for a scientific approach to clinical practice. It introduces trainees to the theoretical and practical facets of regenerative medicine, projects currently at the forefront of medical science and technology, and research avenues we could follow in our careers.

Clinical placement within the NHS for international students perfectly complements theoretical discussions and further reinforces the concepts learnt. GMC registration sponsored by the university extends an opportunity to continue training within the NHS.

Finally, the mix of trainees from different nationalities has allowed for an exchange of varied clinical experiences and insights that have had the most significant impact on my experience here.