A Study of Patient Centred Outcomes and Concerns Following Nasal Reconstructive Surgery for Skin Cancer & Trauma

Patients who have cancer of their nasal skin or have had major trauma with significant tissue loss require complex surgery to restore function and give them as normal an appearance as possible. To achieve a favourable result, surgery frequently involves multi-stage reconstructive surgery using facial flaps from the cheek or forehead and cartilage grafts. For patients with nasal skin cancer, the need for this type and extent of surgery is often unexpected with significant social and psychological implications. Currently there is significant literature describing surgical technique, but little relating to patient-centred concerns and outcomes. This PhD will examine patient concerns about undergoing and living with the consequences of surgery; the findings will have implications for supporting patients before, during and after surgery and for developing patient-reported outcome measures to inform studies of the effectiveness of different management approaches.

It is envisaged that the study will follow a group of patients though the treatment pathway from diagnosis, to surgery and discharge using qualitative methods, e.g., semi-structured interviews/patient diaries, and quantitative methods, e.g., measures of generic health-related quality of life measures, patient compliance, stigma/body image, in order to understand the patient’s experience and their concerns. Choice of methods may be informed by undertaking a systematic review of the literature relevant to the purpose of the study, patient focus groups and discussions with clinicians and other practitioners who work with the patients. This PhD provides an exciting opportunity to work with academics with clinical, psychology and public health backgrounds. The clinical input is from Professor Woolford, a Consultant ENT Surgeon based at Manchester Royal Infirmary who has 20 years’ experience in this field, and leads the busiest nasal reconstruction service in the UK. The student will be expected to travel to recruit patients for the study.

Informal enquiries should be addressed to: Professor Paola Dey (Faculty of Health and Social Care) deyp@edgehill.ac.uk

References:


Duties and Responsibilities:

Students will be expected to:

- Successfully undertake an initial programme of accredited research training.
• Undertake a PhD programme of research under the supervision of an appointed supervisory team.
• Enhance the research culture of the Department in which they are located, the Research Institute to which they are attached, and the University by participating in events, conferences and training.
• Successfully complete a programme of teacher training.
• Undertake up to six hours teaching a week or working with the Institute to which they are attached alongside University Departments or external agencies or organizations as directed by their Head of Department/Research Institute Director.

Eligibility:

• Candidates should have, or be expected to obtain, a good undergraduate honours degree level (2:1 or above) and/or a Masters level qualifications in a relevant subject area achieved within the last three to five years. If their most recent qualifications were obtained outside this period and/or they do not possess a Masters level qualification there needs to be convincing evidence that they will be able to make the transition to doctoral study.
• Although it is possible for candidates to apply for the GTA scheme more than once candidates who have applied unsuccessfully on two or more occasions are unlikely to be shortlisted for interview.
• International candidates who require a visa to study in the UK will need to demonstrate that they meet the requirements for a Tier 4 visa and possess appropriate English Language skills (IELTS Level C1/C2 or equivalent).
• Applications are not normally accepted from candidates who already possess a PhD, unless there are compelling reasons for doing so. If a PhD has been obtained in the UK as a Tier 4 (General) Student Visa holder, further sponsorship cannot be offered under the Tier 4 (General) Student Visa category, as this will not meet the academic progression requirements set by the UKVI.

How to apply

Applicants must complete the online application form, attaching one document containing:

• A ‘Research Proposal’ which should not exceed 2,000 words in length
• A full academic curriculum vitae

Selection Criteria:

Selection will be based on the following:

• Your curriculum vitae
• The synergy between your qualifications, research experience and declared research interest
• Performance at interview
• Supervisory capacity in the declared area of research
• Previous tutoring/teaching experience and related subject based qualifications
• The strategic and developmental needs of the Faculty

The Recruitment Process

Shortlisted candidates will be invited to interview and asked to give a presentation related to their research proposal. Successful candidates at interview will be put forward to a final selection panel which will make the decision on the award of the studentships. Candidates will not have to attend the final panel.