

Report on Paediatric Ophthalmology Fellowship, University of Auckland, August 2019-July 2020

Sarah Hull

My fellowship year in Auckland has provided an excellent final year of training to prepare me for becoming a consultant and I would highly recommend it to other trainees.

Highlights

- Hugely friendly and supportive department providing an excellent level of care
- Great team to work with including very experienced orthoptists
- Excellent training from supervising consultants
- Broad exposure to all aspects of paediatric ophthalmology including strabismus surgery, congenital cataract, retinopathy of prematurity, retinoblastoma, paediatric glaucoma as well as adult strabismus
- Two theatre lists a week
- Starship Hospital inpatient reviews providing interesting exposure to complex cases from across New Zealand
- Teaching opportunities at Senior Nurses' study days and final year optometry student teaching sessions
- Dedicated research time with publications actively encouraged and supported
- Presented at RANZCO, Sydney, 2019 and the Australian and New Zealand Strabismus Society Annual Meeting, Adelaide, 2020. Other meetings (ARVO and Paediatric Special Interest Group) were cancelled for COVID-19

Challenges

- COVID-19 meant a near cessation of clinical practice for 4 weeks with reduced clinics following on from this. I was grateful it was only such a short time before surgical training resumed and felt grateful to be in NZ and looked after by the department.

Future directions

My future plans are still to be confirmed but hopefully I will be staying on in a senior role with Auckland District Health Board and with the University.