

Elective at Royal National Orthopaedic Hospital, Stanmore – Leanne Cleaver, 3rd year STP trainee in Clinical Microbiology

In my second year of training I started to think of ideas for my MSc dissertation project, which is when I decided that I wanted to research biofilms further. I applied this to prosthetic joint infections, and this is where I came up with my research model. Whilst undertaking my literature review I became more interested in the clinical aspect of orthopaedic infection, and the treatment and management of complicated infections where foreign material was *in situ*. At the Royal Free Hospital (where I train) there is a consultant-led bone infection team at the RNOH, so I liaised with the consultants and arranged with them a 6 week period of elective training which would allow me to cover a range of different areas whilst on my elective.

I arranged to go to outpatient clinics, on antimicrobial ward rounds, OPAT meetings, MDT meetings, and to see patients on the wards. I also put myself forward to perform a clinical audit to determine compliance to surgical prophylaxis guidelines. There was also a very interesting case which I have the opportunity to write up as a clinical case, which will eventually be presented at a bone and joint conference in the future.

I think mine is an example of where you don't necessarily have to go far afield to complete an elective period of training in a subject that you have a real interest in.