



Portsmouth Hospitals
University
NHS Trust

Join us as a Consultant Anaesthetist





About the Department

We are a large and friendly department with over 65 Consultants, 11 SAS's, up to 40 Residents and post CCT Fellows. We are very proud to be a MDHU (Ministry of Defence Hospital Unit) with 4 Military Consultants and a variable number of Military Trainees of various grades. We have 4 qualified AA's in a bespoke programme designed for the benefit of, and led by the department. The department also hosts 3.5 WTE Acute Pain Nurses, Peri-Operative team, 20 WTE Pre Operative Assessment Nurses and 5 Administrative and Clerical staff



As a department we have a reputation for being cohesive, innovative and providing excellent education and support to our Resident Doctors, Trust Grades and Consultants. We were delighted to be one of the first Departments in the UK to achieve ACSA accreditation from the RCOA and reaccredited again in 2023. We have also had a successful “Getting it Right First Time” (GIRFT) visit and were particularly commended for our Surgery School and our Surgical High Care Unit.

The hospital has 30 operating theatres and 5 remote suites where anaesthetic services are delivered. The department provides anaesthetic services to all sites in the Trust and supports subspecialties including:

- Major General: Colorectal, Upper GI (including Oesophagectomies), Bariatrics, Gynaecology, Urology. Including robotic surgery (4 robotic theatres)
- Major Head and Neck and ENT (including free flap surgery)
- Orthopaedics, including significant amount of regional anaesthesia
- Renal transplant and Renal Vascular access surgery- Plastics
- Paediatrics
- Obstetrics- Pain
- Non-theatre: Interventional Radiology, CT/ MRI, Gastro/Endoscopy and Cardiology.
- Periop Medicine: Anaesthetic Pre-assessment clinic, dedicated Bariatric/Upper GI clinic and MDT, CPET, daily Surgical High-Care Ward round and Surgery School(www.surgeryschool.co.uk)

The department runs numerous courses and particularly prides itself on its reputation within the region for teaching. We run a nationally-recognised difficult airway course (PAWS), numerous simulator courses (we have a high-fidelity Simulation Suite on site), Regional Anaesthesia courses and exam preparation courses.

Our Intensive Care Unit is a separate 24 bedded department within the same Care Group and 7 of the 14 Consultant Intensivists have anaesthetic sessions.



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“The anaesthetics department at Portsmouth Hospital University (PHU) is very unique in terms of its ability for us to dev flourish in our sub-speciality, but at the same time mai cohesiveness of a single department”

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Obstetric Anaesthesia:

At PHU, we have one of the largest maternity units in the region, with around 4800 deliveries per year. Our patients are complex, with high levels of deprivation, obesity, and comorbidity. We have two theatres (one elective and one emergency) and perform around 1600 caesarean sections.

As a department, we are expanding our elective working, and have recently put forward a proposal to become our regional placental accreta service. We are also in the process of expanding our obstetric anaesthetic clinic service to reflect the complexity of our patients. There are opportunities in teaching locally, with regular MDT teaching (our local PROMPT equivalent), and a yearly MDT high fidelity sim-mum session, and the annual combined obstetric/anaesthetic/midwifery CGM. We also contribute to regional educational meetings, including hosting the WOA (Wessex Obstetric Anaesthetists) annual scientific meetings, and WOADS (Wessex Obstetric Anaesthesia Day in the Simulator).

We have a focus on service improvement, with the introduction of an enhanced recovery pathway for elective caesarean sections, and the new improved portfolio of analgesic options, with the addition of a sterile water injection service and Remifentanyl PCA.

Regional Anaesthesia:

At PHUT, we offer advanced training for regional anaesthesia. We have had regional anaesthesia fellows for more than 15 years from at least 5 different countries. We run a regular awake hand list and do regional anaesthesia for complex hip, knee, shoulder and foot and ankle surgery. We also have a very well established Acute pain service and see about 250 rib fracture patients every year giving vast opportunity to specialise in rib fracture blocks.

The Portsmouth Regional Anaesthesia Course has been running for nearly 15 years. It is designed to enhance the skills and confidence of experienced anaesthetists (ST5 level and above) in ultrasound-guided regional anaesthesia. The course focuses on upper and lower limb blocks, as well as techniques for rib fractures. It typically involves pre-course study material, supervised hands-on practice on models in small groups, and needling and catheter insertion practice. Run by experienced faculty, the course aims to provide practical skills and knowledge relevant to everyday anaesthetic practice and often offers CPD credits.

Airway Anaesthesia:

The airway anaesthetist at Portsmouth run the Portsmouth Airway Workshops (PAWS), which is a one-day course aimed at experienced anaesthetists (post-FRCA). It focuses on providing practical skills and building confidence in managing difficult airway scenarios, particularly the "Can't Intubate, Can't Oxygenate" (CICO) situation. The course utilizes small group workshops with a high faculty-to-delegate ratio, allowing for extensive hands-on practice on mannequins using equipment found in operating theatres. While presentations offer an overview of difficult airway management across anaesthetic sub-specialties, the emphasis is on practical skill development in advanced airway techniques like tube exchanges and fiberoptic intubation.





The Hospital

Portsmouth Hospitals University NHS Trust provides a range of acute services at Queen Alexandra Hospital (QAH). QAH is a very large, busy district general hospital and has gone through a major redevelopment in 2009, when three pre-existing hospitals were brought together to create a modern and spacious new block, where Anaesthetics, Obstetrics and Intensive Care departments are now all housed. There are over 7,500 full time equivalent staff, including Ministry of Defence employees, who are fully integrated into the activities of the hospital. The Emergency Department is one of the busiest in the UK, treating in excess of 180,000 patients each year. Similarly maternity services are responsible for the delivery of around 6,500 births per year, making it one of the largest maternity services on the south coast. The Trust is also home to the Wessex Renal and Transplant Unit and it holds prestigious Cancer Beacon Status for the Head and Neck Cancer Services. Queen Alexandra Hospital has around 1,200 beds, including cots (NICU), 30 theatres and superb critical care facilities with a 24 bedded ICU.

With a turnover of £600m, PHU provides comprehensive secondary care and a number of specialist services to a local population of 675,000 people across South-east Hampshire. We also offer some tertiary services (including the Wessex Renal and Transplant Unit) to a wider catchment in excess of two million people.

Most services are provided at Queen Alexandra Hospital in Cosham. Included within the

- modern buildings are: 34 theatres - with eight dedicated endoscopy theatres and
- surgical robotic systems.
- Four state-of-the-art linear accelerators.
- Two purpose built interventional radiology suites, two MRI scanners, four CT scanners
- and a PET scanner. State of the art pathology laboratory.
- Neonatal Unit, Level 3.
- Hyper Acute Stroke Unit supporting the third largest stroke service in the country.
- Superb critical care facilities.

Second generation surgical robots – we have one of the largest robotic surgical programmes in the UK.

We also offer a range of outpatient and diagnostic facilities closer to patients' homes in community hospital sites and at local treatment centres throughout Southeast Hampshire:

- St Mary's Portsmouth - midwifery, dermatology, disablement services and Amulree Day Elderly Health.
- Gosport War Memorial Hospital – a range of services including the Blake Maternity Unit, Urgent Care Centre, rehabilitation services and diagnostics.
- Petersfield Community Hospital – we manage and run the Grange Maternity Unit, as well as a diagnostic imaging department.
- Fareham Community Hospital – rehabilitation services, renal home dialysis unit and outpatient clinics as well as a renal dialysis
- unit separate to the hospital. Havant Community Services – diagnostics and outpatient clinics.

Research and innovation thrives within the Trust which plays a key role in developing multi-disciplinary research and strengthening nursing research ambitions. There are 150 research staff across clinical specialties, increased participation in clinical trials and we receive £8 million in major grants for our research activity

PHU is a major provider of undergraduate and postgraduate education, working with three universities (Southampton, Portsmouth and Bournemouth). Our hospital also hosts the largest of five Joint Hospital Groups in England. Personnel from all three-Armed Services are fully integrated within the Trust, working alongside their civilian counterparts, helping to treat and care for patients from the local and surrounding communities. Recruiting and maintaining a high-quality workforce is a major priority. This includes the workforce associated with the Joint Hospital Group, South. This has been essential to maintain safe services, with recruitment overseas playing its part. Investments have been made to increase staffing levels and we have had a significant focus on improving retention of staff. Increased non-elective activity has resulted in a further increase in nursing and medical staff working in the organisation, specifically within the Emergency Department and medical specialties. The Trust has been highly successful in apprenticeship schemes and has achieved national recognition for this. This is proving to be a great source for future recruitment and the vast majority of apprentices that have been trained have gone on to full time employment. This is an area of increasing focus as we aim to grow a local workforce for the future



The Location

The South Coast is a great place to live and work, benefiting from easy access to London by rail and road. Whether it's the tranquillity of the Isle of Wight, the historic naval character of Portsmouth, Southampton or the New Forest, the area has much to offer. Southampton Airport is close by with flights to both domestic and international destinations and direct cross-channel ferry services to France and Spain are also just moments away.

Portsmouth is the second largest city in Hampshire on the south coast of England. Notable for being the United Kingdom's only island city, Portsmouth is located mainly on Portsea Island. It is a most appealing location, with stunning sea views from the Southsea seafront, where the four miles of beach are backed by the green spaces of Southsea Common. Adding to the "feel good" factor, Portsmouth receives more sunshine per annum than most of the UK and is much milder, with Portsdown Hill to the North deflecting cold winds.

The City of Portsmouth has a population of over 238,000 and the Portsmouth Urban Area, which includes Fareham, Portchester, Gosport and Havant is the 14th largest urban area in the United Kingdom, Portsmouth combines with Southampton to form a single metropolitan area with a population of over a million. Portsmouth is situated 64 miles (103 km) south west from London and 19 miles (31 km) south east of Southampton.



As a significant naval port for centuries, Portsmouth is peppered with fascinating architecture portraying its rich history and inspiring characters like Admiral Nelson and Charles Dickens. England's naval reliance on Portsmouth led to the city becoming the most fortified in Europe. Many of the city's impressive former defences now host museums or events and are popular city attractions. In the historic dockyard lies HMS Victory, the Mary Rose and HMS Warrior.

Although smaller than in its heyday, Portsmouth provides a major dockyard and base for the Royal Navy and Royal Marine Commandos whose Headquarters resides there. The city also hosts the headquarters of BAE Systems Surface Ships.

Bringing it right up to date Portsmouth has benefited from major investment, widespread redevelopment and a buoyant local economy. Portsmouth now offers impressive new locations, proving highly attractive for relocations. The Spinnaker Tower is a most striking recent addition to the city's skyline and emblematic of just how much Portsmouth has revitalised. It is located in the redeveloped 'stone frigate', which is now a thriving area of shops, restaurants, clubs and bars known as Gunwharf Quays.

Port Solent is the south coast's premier destination marina. Boat lovers of all kinds are drawn to this marina and its unique atmosphere of bars, restaurants and boutiques. The city has two theatres with wide ranging programmes including an increasing number of national tours. The Portsmouth Guildhall hosts numerous musical events along with various other established music venues.



Portsmouth offers the most impressive range of activities for sports enthusiasts. The city is home to a professional football team and rugby club. Water sports are very popular here, particularly sailing, yachting and rowing. The Southsea Common

is a popular focus for a wide range of leisure activities throughout the year including a kite festival, running events and live music.

Enrolling Children in School

Portsmouth City Council manages school admissions. You can find information on enrolling your children in local schools, catchment areas, and available places on their website:

<https://www.portsmouth.gov.uk/services/schools-learning-and-childcare/>





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