

Academic career pathways in Scotland – General Practice 2009.

Until recently there has been no clear pathway to a career in academic general practice. That situation is now changing, partly because of the rising demand for undergraduate medical education and the long list of unanswered research questions which demands increased research activity. Deciding on such a career need not begin as an undergraduate or even in the early postgraduate years but [Vishnu Madhok's description](#) about how to engage at that early stage provides useful insights. All Scottish deaneries offer academic experience in their foundation programme. http://www.nes.scot.nhs.uk/medicine/postgraduate_training/foundation/.

For those who will never enjoy their foundation years again there are a variety of options depending upon whether their principal focus will be research or education, though some will wish to combine elements of both.

In **research** there are posts available at increasingly senior levels described for all clinical specialties in <http://www.mmc.scot.nhs.uk/documents/SCREDSFINALRevisedGuidetoScheme16thJanuary09.pdf>. The way in which the scheme applies to general practice is described in the [Securing the Future](#) document.

In education each **undergraduate** medical school employs tutors who may undertake further training in methods of teaching and learning and assume greater responsibilities in an academic career focused in teaching. Making contact with your local undergraduate lead for teaching would be the best place to start for those with such an interest:

Aberdeen: Blair Smith

<http://www.abdn.ac.uk/capc/staff/smith.shtml>

Dundee: Jon Dowell

http://www.dundee.ac.uk/cmdn/staff/johnathan_dowell

Edinburgh: Donald Thomson

<http://www.chs.med.ed.ac.uk/people/staffProfile.php?profile=dthomso2>

Glasgow: Phil Cotton

<http://www.gla.ac.uk/departments/generalpracticeprimarycare/ourstaff/philipcotton/>

St. Andrews Cathy Jackson

<http://medicine.st-andrews.ac.uk/staffProfile.aspx?sunID=cj21>

Postgraduate academic activities careers are co-ordinated by the directors of postgraduate education in each of the regional offices <http://www.nes.scot.nhs.uk/offices/default.asp>.