

Student Elective Report

Name	Ellen Morrison
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Country visited	Australia
City or town	Perth, WA
Hospital/unit/clinic	Burns Unit, Fiona Stanley Hospital
Dates visited	03/07/17 – 04/08/17
Supervising doctor	Dr Helen Douglas, Burns Fellow
Contact details of your host:	Katherine Edhouse, Elective Coordinator University of Western Australia Faculty of Medicine, Dentistry and Health Sciences 35 Stirling Highway, Crawley, WA 6009

Please give an overview of what you saw / did (200 words max)	<p>Fiona Stanley Hospital is a tertiary teaching hospital in the Murdoch suburb of Perth, Western Australia (WA). Opened in 2015, the State Adult Burns Service receives burns patients from all over WA, 2.6 million km squared.</p> <p>I worked Monday – Friday, with daily ward rounds starting each day at 07:30, followed by theatre lists and clinics. Theatre cases were a mix between both elective and emergency. Procedures included debridement of burns, split thickness skin grafts, 'ReCell' spray on skin, in addition to scar revision using Z-plasty techniques and CO2 laser. I scrubbed in for the majority of cases and was often first or second assistant.</p> <p>In addition to burns surgery I also had the opportunity to see a patient present with necrotising fasciitis. I scrubbed into the emergency surgery and got to see the plastics consultants work efficiently by aggressively debriding and surgically excising all areas of necrotic tissue.</p> <p>I had the opportunity to see patients in clinic and present cases to the consultants and registrars. Each morning there was a 'walk in' clinic which allowed acute burns to be assessed and a decision was made as to whether they should be managed conservatively with dressings or</p>
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	<p>admitted to the burns unit for surgery. Following this was the elective clinic, where patients were seen following their discharge after surgery. They often had dressings changed and follow up from the multidisciplinary team (MDT).</p> <p>There were two weekly MDT meetings. In addition to the occupational therapist, physiotherapist and social worker, the dietician, pain management team, social worker and clinical psychologist all play a major role. I have learned that burns are a life-altering event and cause immediate and long term traumas to the mind and body, therefore the addition of the MDT is crucial in the patient's recovery.</p>
What were the best things about the visit? (120 words max)	<p>One of my highlights was seeing the use of the 'ReCell' spray on skin technology. Developed by Professor Fiona Wood and her team this spray on skin allows skin grafts to be applied much sooner which reduces the risk of infection and results in less scarring. Professor Wood taught me the theory behind the kits, culturing the cells and how to apply directly to the burn. I was fortunate to see the results of this ReCell technology whilst following the patients through their journey from their initial discharge and follow up appointments at clinics.</p> <p>As WA is such a large state, they often use 'Telehealth' which is an appointment with the health professional by videoconferencing. This was also useful to see how the team communicated with their patients over video.</p>
What problems did you encounter? (120 words max)	<p>Perth is a very popular medical elective destination for international students. As a result you have to be very organised and apply early. I applied a year in advance to maximise my chance of getting accepted.</p> <p>Also, the local medical students had clinical placements at the same time as my elective dates which limited other international elective students on their choice of specialty.</p>
What accommodation was provided?	<p>No accommodation was provided. I was very fortunate and stayed with my extended family whilst on placement.</p> <p>The public transport system is very efficient in Perth and I managed to get a travel 'Smartcard' which allowed me to get discounted prices for travelling to the hospital and city.</p>