

CURRICULUM VITAE

Dr David Abankwa MSc, FRCP Edin

Consultant in Rehabilitation Medicine

GMC registration number 4597559 (on Specialist Register)

Educational/Professional Qualifications

MB, ChB (University of Ghana) December 1994

MRCP (UK) October 1999

MSc. in Rehabilitation Science (University of Southampton), June 2003

Certificate of Completion of Specialist Training (CCST), Rehabilitation Medicine, October 2004

Fellow of the Royal College of Physicians Edinburgh 2010

MSc Medical Education (Cardiff University) 2012

Membership of Professional Bodies

British Medical Association

British Society of Rehabilitation Medicine

British Association of Stroke Physicians

Society for Research in Rehabilitation

Association for the Study of Medical Education

Current positions

Consultant in Rehabilitation Medicine, Swansea Bay University Health Board (appointed in October 2004).

Honorary Senior Tutor, College of Medicine, Swansea University

Duties in current post

Clinical:

Neurological Rehabilitation:

I lead a multi-disciplinary team managing patients who have had a recent onset of neurological illness or injury based at the Neurological Rehabilitation Unit in Neath Port Talbot Hospital, South Wales. Conditions managed on unit include traumatic brain injury, subarachnoid haemorrhage, hypoxic brain injury and cerebral infections such as meningitis and encephalitis. The team uses comprehensive assessment and a thorough goal planning approach to optimise functional outcomes in patients with complex neurological disability.

My other responsibilities in Neurological Rehabilitation include running Outpatient and Spasticity management (Botulinum toxin) clinics, community visits and working with the community based brain injury team. I have been involved in setting up services such as the Functional Electrical Stimulation (FES) service for patients with drop foot.

Amputee Rehabilitation:

I run an Amputee Rehabilitation clinic for patients following a major limb amputation.

Teaching & Training

Honorary Senior Tutor, Swansea University Medical School

Other activities

I regularly organise teaching and training for doctors, nurses and other health professionals involved in Neurological and Amputee Rehabilitation. I am involved in the organisation of the annual South West Wales Brain Injury Conference which has been running since 2011. I am the Vice Chair of the South West Wales Brain Injury Group (www.swwbig.co.uk).

I am active with Headway Swansea, a voluntary group that supports survivors of brain injury and their families

Research & Publications

A study of the ability of trans-tibial amputees to walk and perform a cognitive task simultaneously and its relationship to functional ability (April 2003): dissertation submitted in partial fulfilment of the requirements of obtaining an MSc in Rehabilitation Science (University of Southampton).

This paper was presented at the European Congress of Physical & Rehabilitation Medicine in May 2004 and was awarded a prize for being one of the 10 best papers.

An exploration of Swansea medical students' experiences of active involvement in an international health student link: A dissertation submitted for the MSc Medical Education, Cardiff University, July 2012

Abankwa D, Llewellyn A (2006): Orthoses in the management of spasticity in the lower limb: *Advances in Clinical Neuroscience & Rehabilitation*: 6: 2; 35-36

Experience & training for Medico-legal work

I have attended the following training courses for expert witnesses:

- Bond-Solon training course for Expert Witnesses in 2005
- Medico-legal training day organised by Irwin Mitchell Solicitors April 2011
- BMA Medico-legal conference April 2015
- Expert Witness seminar (organised by Headway and Spinal Injuries Association) April 2016
- Medico-legal training by NRC Medical Experts – December 2019

I have been undertaking medico-legal work since 2006, mainly for personal injury and clinical negligence cases. I am happy to receive instructions from Solicitors representing the Claimant, Defendant or as a Single Joint Expert. I have also prepared reports for the Family and Criminal courts.

Timescales and arrangements for appointment

I am able to complete most reports within six weeks of receipt of instructions depending on the complexity of the case and amount of documentation to be reviewed.

I am happy to visit the person for whom the report is required at their home or other convenient venue or I can arrange to see them at my hospital.

Areas of Expertise

Rehabilitation of patients following traumatic and other acquired brain injuries

Rehabilitation of patients with multiple sclerosis/ brain inflammation

Rehabilitation following spinal cord injury/ paraplegia/ tetraplegia/spinal infarction/ spinal tumours

Rehabilitation following major limb amputation

Management of cerebral palsy/ birth anoxia in adulthood

Rehabilitation needs assessment following acquired brain injury

Rehabilitation following cerebral infections eg meningitis/ encephalitis

Management and prevention of pressure ulcer formation

Management of complex neurological disability & general disability
