



BRITISH CONGENITAL CARDIAC ASSOCIATION

The Children's Heart Disease Trust

Sponsorship Scheme for Overseas Cardiologists and Cardiac Surgeons

The Children's Heart Disease Trust, an Edinburgh based charity, has agreed to fund a sponsorship scheme for overseas cardiologists and cardiac surgeons. The scheme will be run from the British Congenital Cardiac Association (BCCA) platform. The charity will support applicants to spend up to four weeks visiting clinical centres in the UK in November, to develop their knowledge and skills. To date the charity supports work and training with children with heart disease and not adults. A sum of up to £5000 per annum will be made available, initially for five consecutive years. Recipients of this award will be encouraged to attend the Annual meeting of the BCCA during their time in the UK. Any UK based consultant cardiologist or cardiac surgeon, who is a member of the BCCA, will be eligible to sponsor a consultant level doctor from overseas.

Guidance note;

1. A UK based cardiologist or Cardiac surgeon will identify /recommend a suitable candidate from overseas.

2. The beneficiary of this scheme must be a practitioner in congenital heart disease at consultant level and an employee of a governmental or non-governmental organisation in their country of origin.

3. It is anticipated that beneficiaries of this scheme will be from countries where services for children are established but not yet well developed e.g. middle-income countries in Asia, Africa and the Middle East. This condition can be relaxed if a well supported case is presented.

4. The visiting doctor will be expected to attend the Annual meeting of the BCCA, in November, and spend 3-4 weeks in cardiac centres of their choice, agreed with their sponsor.

5. The UK based sponsor will organise a program of activities for the visiting doctor at their own centre or any other UK centre if the visitor has a particular interest.

6. The charity will meet the following expenses: return economy class air ticket, travel within UK in standard class, boarding and lodging, registration fee for the BCCA annual meeting, fee for single entry visa to UK

7. The expenses will be paid via the UK sponsor upon production of invoices. A payment of £2000 will be made to the UK sponsor in advance after identification of a suitable candidate. This could be utilised, for example, towards the purchase of air tickets.

8. The beneficiary of this scheme will write a report of their experience, for submission to the BCCA Council and Children's Heart Disease Trust.