

GP SCREDS clinical fellowships webinar

Quick recap

This webinar was an information session about SCREDS (Scottish Clinical Research Excellence and Development Scholar) posts, featuring representatives from five Scottish universities discussing the program structure, application process, and opportunities available. Frank Sullivan provided an overview of SCREDS program structure and career pathways, followed by department heads from Aberdeen, Dundee, Edinburgh, Glasgow, and St Andrews who outlined their specific research strengths and educational opportunities. Peter Hanlon and Lauren Ng shared their personal experiences as former SCREDS fellows, describing how the posts helped them develop research skills and prepare for future academic careers. The session concluded with a Q&A where participants discussed practical aspects including time commitments, location requirements, and balancing clinical training with academic work, with speakers emphasizing the supportive environment and flexibility available to candidates.

Follow up point from meeting

- Would SCREDS applicants need to be based in the same region as the institution they apply to? Would relocation be required or if commutable/remote arrangements are permitted?
- Advice in this case would be that candidates speak to the University concerned; it seems likely that they would need to move practice but this would need to be agreed with NES /PSD and the relevant University.

Summary

SCREDS Information Webinar Overview

Lindsey Pope, a GPS professor at the University of Glasgow, hosted a SCREDS information webinar with colleagues from various Scottish universities. The webinar featured introductions from participants including Kate O'Donnell (U. of Glasgow), Kevin McConville (U. of Dundee), Peter Murchie (U. of Aberdeen), Frank Sullivan (U. of St Andrews), David Weller (U. of Edinburgh), Ian Jamieson (NES), Karena Hanley (NES), Lauren Ng (former SCREDS), and Peter Hanlon (former SCREDS). Lindsey outlined the agenda, which included an overview of SCREDS presented by Frank Sullivan, departmental presentations, and insights on applying for SCREDS posts from Peter Hanlon and Lauren Ng, followed by a Q&A session (not included in meeting summary).

SCREDS Program Overview

Frank Sullivan provided an overview of the SCREDS (Scottish Clinical Research Excellence and Development Scheme) program, explaining its evolution from a hospital-focused research program to one that now includes general practice and education components. He outlined

the program structure, which typically starts in ST3 or ST4 with a split between clinical and academic work, and described the support available including both clinical and academic supervision. Frank also covered the application process, which is managed separately by each of the five universities, and provided tips for applicants including the importance of demonstrating potential for academic success, having realistic project plans, and engaging with the chosen university before applying.

SCREDS at University of Aberdeen

Peter Murchie (Aberdeen) provided information about the institution's support for SCREDS lecturers. Peter highlighted Aberdeen's strengths in early cancer diagnosis, rural and remote health, digital and AI-enabled primary care, and medical education, emphasizing their supportive environment and opportunities for research and academic development. Aberdeen offers geographical links across the north of Scotland including Inverness and the Highlands.

University of Dundee: General Practice and Primary Care at Faculty of Health

Kevin McConville (Dundee) discussed Dundee's flexibility in supporting and encouraging trainees to explore research interests, noting the institution's collaborative links across research divisions and educational opportunities leading to integrated, translational research.

Both Peter Murchie and Kevin McConville encouraged interested candidates to contact them for further discussions about potential opportunities.

University of Edinburgh General Practice

David Weller provided an overview of the University of Edinburgh's General Practice department, which operates within the Usher Institute as a multidisciplinary research grouping. He highlighted key research themes including multi-morbidity, ageing research, data-driven projects, cancer and primary care, pharmacoepidemiology, and respiratory health. David also mentioned their university clinic, McKenzie Medical Centre, and educational programs including a Masters of Family Medicine, while noting that interested candidates should contact him, Bruce Guthrie, or Alix Rolfe for further information.

University of Glasgow Primary Care Research Overview

Kate O'Donnell presented an overview of General Practice and Primary Care research at the University of Glasgow, highlighting their focus on health inequalities, equity, and inclusion, as well as work on multi-morbidity and treatment burden. She emphasized the group's multidisciplinary approach and strong policy links, including their involvement in the "GPs at the Deep End" program in Scotland. Kate also noted their collaboration with patient involvement groups and encouraged attendees to reach out for further discussions.

SCREDS Education Opportunities in Glasgow

Lindsey Pope presented opportunities for education-focused SCREDS in Glasgow, highlighting research projects around GP workforce, health inequalities, and technology-enhanced medical education. She mentioned their involvement in developing virtual primary care and incorporating lived experience through initiatives like the human library.

Research Topics for SCREDS at University of St Andrews

Frank Sullivan introduced four proposed topics for SCREDS (2 educational and 2 research), including research on walk-in centres led by Margaret McCartney and Lloyd Hughes, and novel teaching interventions led by Kathryn Steven and Zoe McElhinney.

Frank finished by publicising the annual scientific meeting of the Society for Academic Primary Care to be held in St Andrews, 24th – 26th June 2026.

SCREDS Post Program Discussion

The meeting focused on discussing the SCREDS post, a research and clinical training program for general practice trainees. Peter Hanlon and Lauren Ng shared their experiences with the program, highlighting its flexibility, opportunities for skill development, and support from departments across Scotland. They discussed how the program allows trainees to explore different research areas while balancing clinical responsibilities, with options for a hybrid approach between research and clinical work. The speakers emphasized the importance of in-person time at universities for building relationships and getting the most out of the program, though remote work is also possible. The session concluded with an invitation for interested trainees to reach out to the presenters and departments for further discussions about joining the SCREDS program.

End of transcript: general Q & A from participants not included.

Replies from chat by webinar hosts

Lauren Ng: lauren.ng@ed.ac.uk

K. McConville: The relationship building is best done by being onsite in the academic dept.