The Trainee Interface Group (TIG) fellowships have been recruited to since 2008, as pre-CCT Out of Programme Training (OOPT) in subspecialties which are fed into by more than one parent speciality (i.e. Cleft Lip and Palate, Hand, Oncoplastic Breast, Head and Neck Oncology, Major Trauma, Mohs and Spinal Surgery). The aim is that a combined training year across the parent specialities, tailored to the fellow and approved by JCST, will produce a well-rounded surgeon with a multifaceted perspective to their consultant practice.

Alongside Alex Goubran and Sheweiden Aziz, I was recruited to the pilot Spine TIG (STIG) last December. The application process involves online application via [Oriel](https://new.oriel.nhs.uk/Web/PermaLink/Vacancy/E8F3AAE5), with NHS Jobs advertisement ([here](https://www.jobs.nhs.uk/xi/vacancy/916305041)) and ([here](https://www.jobs.nhs.uk/xi/vacancy/916305036)). This was followed by shortlisting, an interview process with multiple stations at Health Education England in Bristol, with subsequent matching between candidates and centres.

The fellowships run for 12 months, starting on August 4th. Hosting centres have their own application process and need to be able to provide joint neurosurgical and orthopaedic training. My STIG is at University Hospital of Wales, Cardiff. For 2021/22 there are 10 centres across England and Wales, and funding for 3 STIG fellows. It is a fantastic opportunity, and hopefully will set standard with how Spinal fellowships are structured in the UK.