

Neurology

Of the 633 consultant neurologists in the UK, 242 (38%) contributed to the 2009 census. There has been an improvement in the expansion of the number of consultant neurology posts, which is above the national average for consultant physicians as a whole (13.4% vs 10.2%). It is not clear whether this increase is targeted, for example at greater involvement of neurology in acute stroke management. About one-third (28 out of 82) of the youngest consultants (ie those aged younger than 39) are women, and this proportion is going to increase as the number of women in training posts nears 50%. Opportunities for new posts from retirements will remain limited until 2012.

Consultant neurologists work on average 12 programmed activities (PAs) per week. There is no information on less-than-whole-time working or the exact number of consultants holding posts with academic sessions. However, neurology continues to have a strong academic component, with 13.5% of PAs allocated to academic work (the national average for physician specialties is 7.2%), and the pursuit of academic excellence needs continued encouragement, as it underpins improvements in clinical practice.

The challenge ahead for clinical neurology is to expand its role in the acute setting in both neuroscience centres and district general hospitals. In the majority of hospitals, the number of neurologists is still too few to take on acute neurology intake, but neurologists can support acute physicians and stroke physicians to improve care for patients with neurological conditions. At the same time, the specialty needs to be vigilant in the clinical setting that the needs of patients with long-term neurological conditions are not compromised as the pressure continues, at least for now, to concentrate on new patient targets.

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Neurology

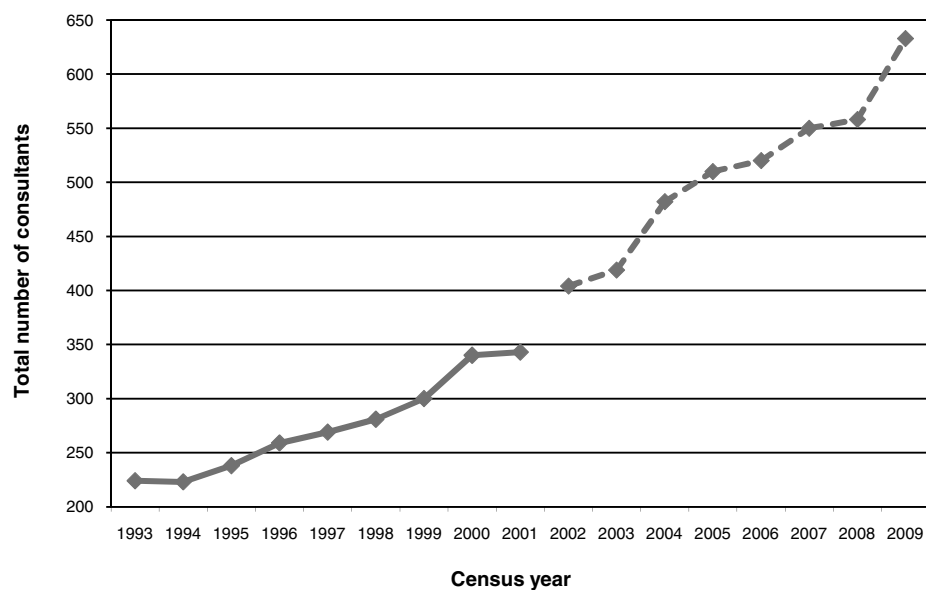
Consultant expansion

	England	Wales	N Ireland	Scotland	Total 2009	Total 2008	Expansion since 2008
Neurology	545	22	15	51	633	558	13.4%
All specialties	8,734	490	289	1,009	10,522	9,545	10.2%

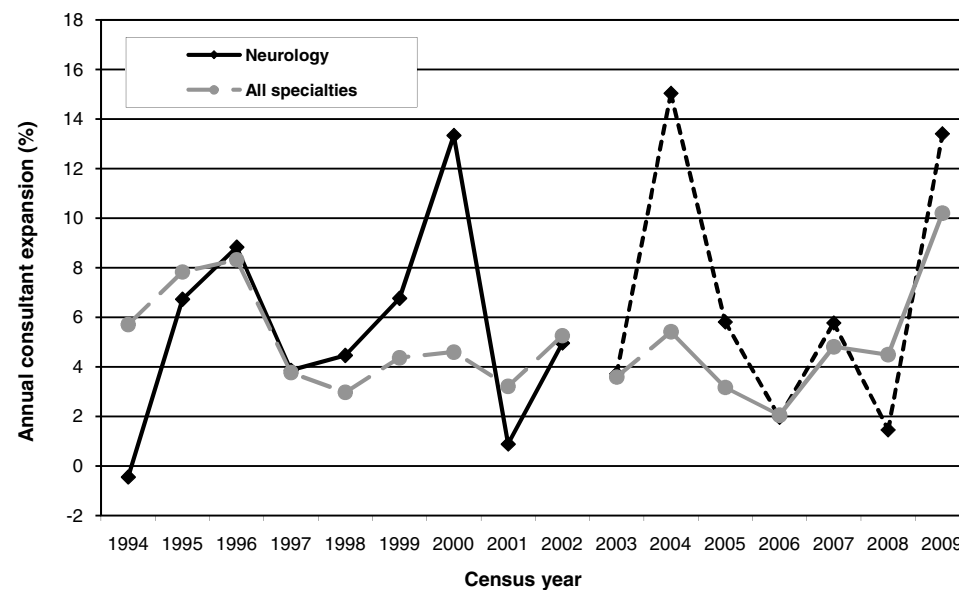
Retirement plans

Consultants reaching 65	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	Total	% of consultant body
Neurology	3	7	5	14	19	15	63	10.0
All specialties	71	133	179	231	235	264	1,113	10.6

**Total numbers of consultants in neurology
England, Wales and Northern Ireland 1993–2001**



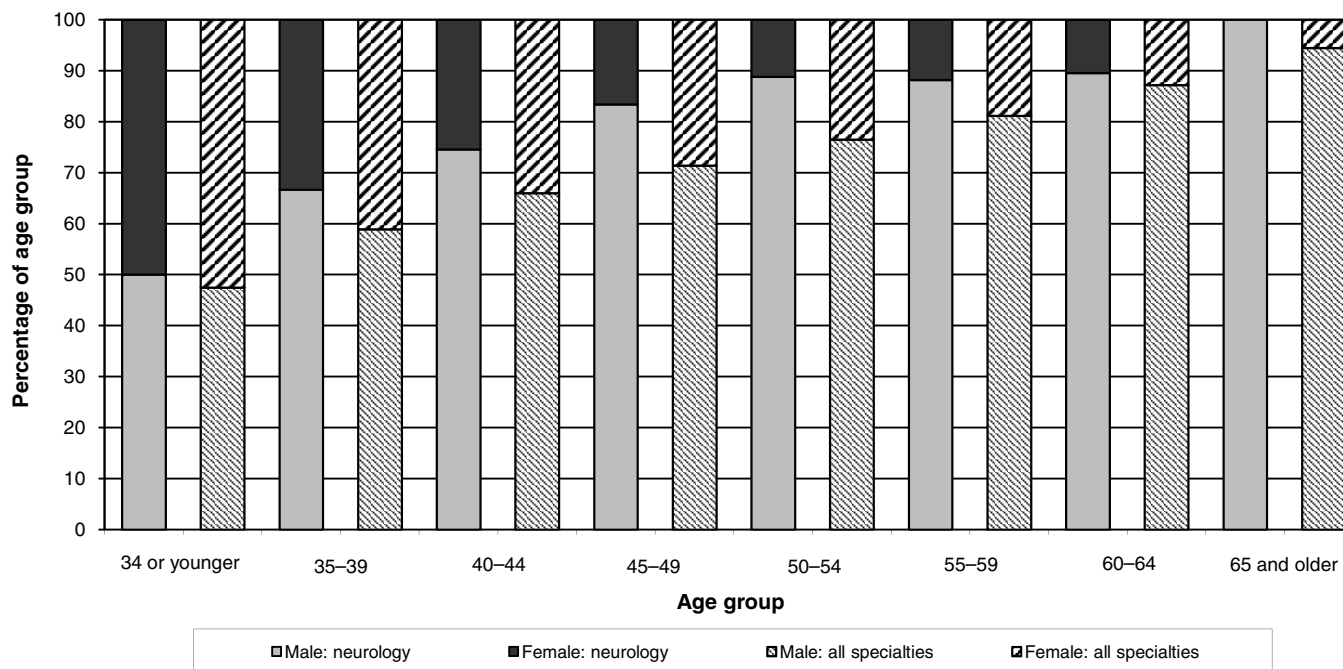
**Consultants expansion in neurology vs all specialties
England, Wales and Northern Ireland 1994–2002**



Neurology consultant workforce by age and gender
United Kingdom

Age	Male			Female			Total
	% gender	Actual nos	% age group	% gender	Actual nos	% age group	
34 and younger	0.4	2	50.0	1.6	2	50.0	4
35-39	10.2	52	66.7	21.3	26	33.3	78
40-44	25.8	132	74.6	36.9	45	25.4	177
45-49	23.7	121	83.4	19.7	24	16.6	145
50-54	18.6	95	88.8	9.8	12	11.2	107
55-59	8.8	45	88.2	4.9	6	11.8	51
60-64	8.4	43	89.6	4.1	5	10.4	48
65 and older	3.1	16	100.0	-	-	-	16
Unknown	1.0	5	71.4	1.6	2	28.6	7
Total		511			122		633

Age distribution of neurology workforce vs all specialties
United Kingdom



Neurology

Working patterns and contracts

Contract type

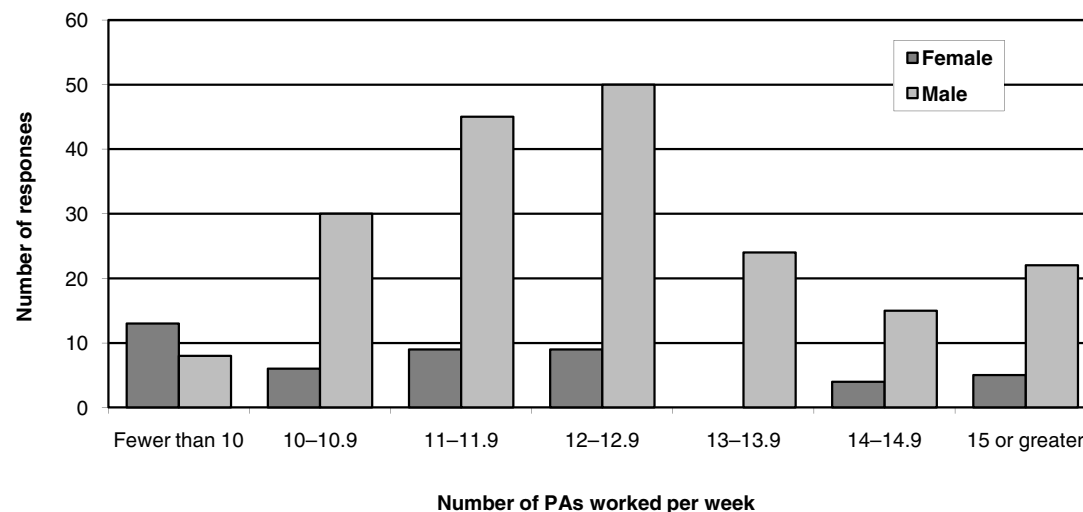
Specialty	All consultants in specialty	Responses		Whole time		Less than whole time	
		Nos	%	Nos	%	Nos	%
Neurology	633	242	38.2	220	90.9	22	9.1
All specialties	10,522	4,364	41.5	3,747	85.9	617	14.1

Contract funding

Specialty	All consultants in specialty	Responses		NHS		NHS (with academic component)		Pure research		Other	
		Nos	%	Nos	%	Nos	%	Nos	%	Nos	%
Neurology	633	245	38.7	189	77.1	54	22.0	2	0.8	–	–
All specialties	10,522	4,420	42.0	3,861	87.4	494	11.2	14	0.3	51	1.2

Average PAs worked per week for neurology – by gender	Female	Male
Fewer than 10	13	8
10–10.9	6	30
11–11.9	9	45
12–12.9	9	50
13–13.9	–	24
14–14.9	4	15
15 or greater	5	22
Total	46	194

Average PAs worked per week – by gender
UK – neurology



Neurology**Working patterns and contracts (continued)****Programmed activities contracted per week (for whole-time consultants)**

Specialty	Responses	Mean PAs contracted per week	of which			
			Clinical PAs	Academic PAs	Supporting PAs	Other PAs
Neurology	195	11.1	7.2	1.5	2.0	0.3
All specialties	3,442	11.4	7.9	0.8	2.2	0.5

Programmed activities worked per week (for whole-time consultants)

Specialty	Responses	Mean PAs worked per week	of which			
			Clinical PAs	Academic PAs	Supporting PAs	Other PAs
Neurology	199	12.6	8.2	1.8	2.4	0.2
All specialties	3,473	12.5	8.7	0.9	2.7	0.2

Commitment to acute/general (internal) medicine work

Specialty	Responses	Yes %	No %
Neurology	211	7.1	92.9
All specialties	3,942	42.2	57.8

Comparison of neurology working with RCP recommended standards for post-take ward rounds*

Specialty	Year	Always %	Often %	Sometimes %	Rarely %	Never %
Neurology	2008	9.4	21.2	28.8	28.8	11.8
Neurology	2009	14.7	12.8	32.7	30.1	9.6
All specialties	2008	30.4	27.7	22.5	13.8	5.6
All specialties	2009	33.9	25.3	22.6	13.6	4.7

Comparison of neurology working with RCP recommended standards for outpatients and follow-up clinics*

Specialty	Year	Always %	Often %	Sometimes %	Rarely %	Never %
Neurology	2008	28.9	27.0	24.1	14.8	5.2
Neurology	2009	30.1	26.3	22.5	16.7	4.3
All specialties	2008	35.3	23.9	20.9	14.4	5.4
All specialties	2009	34.8	22.4	22.1	15.0	5.7

*The RCP recommends at least 15 minutes per patient on post-take ward rounds, and 30 minutes per new patient (with 15 minutes for follow-up) in outpatient clinics.

Royal College of Physicians. *Consultant physicians working with patients: the duties, responsibilities and practice of physicians in medicine*, 4th edn. London: RCP, 2008

Neurology:
Population served by each whole-time equivalent consultant
 Note: RCP recommendation $\leq 40,000$

