# Job Description

# NIHR Academic Clinical Fellowship

# Histopathology ST1 (ST2/ST3) (1 post)

# Digital NIHR Research Theme

The University of Leeds, in partnership with NHS England North East and Yorkshire and the Leeds Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust, has developed an exciting pathway of academic clinical training opportunities.

Applications are now invited for an **Academic Clinical Fellowship in Histopathology at ST1 (ST2/ST3) level** in the **Digital NIHR Theme.** *This is a multi-specialty vacancy, an appointment may not be made in this specialty. There will be 1 ACF post in either Histopathology, General Surgery or Neurosurgery.* Please note: Applicants looking for an ST2/ST3 Histopathology ACF post are encouraged to apply to this vacancy at ST1; if successful your experience can be assessed upon commencing in post enabling you to work at the appropriate ST level. This new post has been created as part of the NHS England (NHSE) and National Institute for Health and Care Research (NIHR) programme of Integrated Academic Training and offers candidates a comprehensive experience of clinical academic medicine working alongside internationally renowned clinicians, researchers and undergraduate medical educators.

We are seeking highly motivated, enthusiastic individuals with the potential to excel in both their clinical and academic training and who have the ambition to be the next generation of academic clinicians.

This Academic Clinical Fellowship (ACF) programme in Histopathologywill be run by the University of Leeds, the Leeds Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust and NHS England North East and Yorkshire. Academic Clinical Fellowships (ACFs) are 3 year fixed-term national training posts. They attract an NTN(A) and trainees undertake 75 % clinical and 25% academic training over the term of the post. They are employed by the NHS Trust and have an honorary contract with the University at whose Medical School their academic research is supported.

ACF trainees will join the vibrant Leeds Clinical Academic Training scheme and undertake the Research Training Programme provided by the University for which funding is provided by NIHR. They also are eligible for a £1,000 bursary per year to support research training activity (e.g to attend academic conferences).

ACF trainees would also normally complete and submit an external funding application for a research fellowship to enable them to complete a higher degree (PhD or research MD) following the completion of their ACF fixed-term post, which would be completed as Out-of-Programme-Research (OOPR).

All Academic Clinical Fellowships are run-through posts, regardless of specialty, with the exception of ‘Medical Education’ ACFs. A trainee entering ACF at ST1 in a specialty with a Core Training period would therefore be guaranteed continued training to CCT in the eventual specialty, as long as they progress satisfactorily through both their academic and clinical training. Run-through status is withdrawn if ACFs do not complete the academic component.

# POST DETAILS

## Job Title

NIHR Academic Clinical Fellow (ACF) – Histopathology – NIHR Digital Theme

## Duration of the Post

Up to 3 years (25% academic/75% clinical FTE).

## Lead NHS Hospital/Trust in which training will take place

Leeds Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust; Histopathology ACFs will be based at St James’s University Hospital (SJUH), Leeds.

## Research institution in which training will take place

The research work will be carried out within **Pathology and Data Analytics** at the **Leeds Institute of Medical Research at St James’s (LIMR)**, School of Medicine, University of Leeds

## Research Protected Time:

ACFs would have day release training to attend and complete an accredited postgraduate programme in health research methodology at the University of Leeds (24 contact days plus additional private study usually completed in one year). Arrangements for research blocks or weekly research days, constituting 25% FTE academic time (and comprising a total of 9 months over the 3 year ACF post), are managed by local agreement with the academic supervisors within the Leeds Institute of Medical Research and clinical training programme director. This period of research will be used to obtain specific experience and knowledge in the research area of interest, obtain pilot data and apply for an external doctoral research fellowship.

## Academic Clinical Fellowship Training Programme: Research Component

Pathology and Data Analytics at the University of Leeds is led by Prof Quirke FMedSci, supported by Prof Nick West, and is the largest academic Histopathology training programme in the UK with an excellent record of attracting and progressing careers of early pathology academics. Research in the department is focused on enhancing our ability to use data to create new wisdom for patient management in the light of the current data explosion in clinical databases, pathology, molecular pathology and digital pathology.

Building on our NIHR [Leeds-BRC-Histopathology-theme](https://leedsbrc.nihr.ac.uk/pathology/) Artificial Intelligence (AI) and the microbiome in GI cancers. ACFs will identify the additional patient benefit generated through multimodal AI (NHS clinical and socioeconomic data, PROMS, patient reported outcomes, multidisciplinary team data compared to, histopathology reports/digital images, and molecular data to optimise prediction of the patient journey on 1500 consented Yorkshire patients with outcome data., Following on from our involvement in the discovery of polyketide-nonribosomal peptide synthase mutagenesis ([Nature-2020](https://www.nature.com/articles/s41586-020-2080-8); [Nature-2024](https://www.nature.com/articles/s41586-024-07747-9)) and its importance in young onset bowel cancer ([Cancer-Cell-2024](https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/38471458/)). ACFs will further investigate the importance of microbial toxin damage in the causation of bowel cancer. Building upon the initial FOxTROT [Phase III](https://pmc.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/articles/PMC10022855/) and [Phase II](https://www.annalsofoncology.org/article/S0923-7534(25)00002-X/fulltext) trials and industrial funding the CL will investigate multimodal AI in the ongoing platform of [FOxTROT-Clinical-Trials](https://ctru.leeds.ac.uk/foxtrot/) aiming to enhance the prediction of the right preoperative therapy in advanced colon cancer, specifically looking at predicting response to anti-EGFR therapy and immune-oncology drugs leading to better AI driven precision therapeutics.

The ACF will join our successful academic histopathology programme of 4 ACFs, 3 clinical PhD, 2 CLs and Associate Prof (previously ACF and CL). Extensive support through supervision from experienced senior histopathology academics ([Quirke](https://medicinehealth.leeds.ac.uk/medicine/staff/700/professor-philip-quirke), [West](https://medicinehealth.leeds.ac.uk/medicine/staff/873/dr-nick-west)).

Supported by >£10M programmatic funding ([NIHR BRC](https://leedsbrc.nihr.ac.uk/), [CRUK OPTIMISTICC](https://optimisticc.org/), [YCR-Bowel-Cancer-Improvement-Programme](https://ycrbcip.leeds.ac.uk/)) in an academic-focussed environment with excellent laboratory space, IT equipment and training in advanced AI in Leeds and Dresden. Strong collaborative (Harvard, Utrecht, Heidelberg) microbiome laboratory and bioinformatics pipeline.

## Academic Clinical Fellowship Training Programme: Clinical Component

The post holder will be based at St. James’s University Hospital (SJUH) Wellcome Trust Brenner building for their academic activities and at SJUH Bexley Wing for their NHS duties as their training demands, but in agreement with the Academic TPD may spend some time in district general hospitals in order to obtain suitable training. These placements are arranged after discussion with the post holder to accommodate their training objectives as much as is possible within the overall West, East & North Yorkshire Histopathology training scheme. The purpose of the clinical training is to enable the trainee to become an independent diagnostic practitioner, as a minimum competent and as an ideal outstanding, with FRCPath qualification, certified completion of training from the GMC as well as all the organisational and interpersonal knowledge and skills required to accomplish that since this is the basis to becoming an outstanding academic.

The post holder will enter into the West, East & North Yorkshire Histopathology training programme, at the appropriate point according to their experience (ST1 to ST3). The NHS Department is sited in purpose built facilities in the new £200M Oncology wing at SJUH opened in 2007. There are >40 consultants organized into teams that deliver site specialized histopathology. Approximately 60,000 surgical and non-gynaecological cytology requests are received per annum making Leeds one of the largest histopathology services in the UK. Approximately 800 adult autopsies are performed per year. Leeds is a major cancer centre providing secondary, tertiary and quaternary services to West Yorkshire and beyond. It hosts a Year 1 Histopathology School and Specialist Foundation Programme academic posts providing the full range of postgraduate teaching. We also run an Academy of Medical Sciences Inspire programme that the ACF’s are expected to facilitate as well as intercalated BSc and MRes students that ACF’s may be required to co-supervise.

The appointees will be expected to participate in the resident surgical and cytology rota and will report cases initially under supervision whilst heading through a staged independent reporting pathway. This includes participation in the surgical cut-up and cancer multidisciplinary team meetings. There is also a rota for post mortems, which include perinatal and neuropathological cases. Participation in the postgraduate training programme is mandatory. In addition, there are a range of research seminars in LIMR at the Wellcome Trust Brenner Building.

Appraisal of progress will be an integral part of the histopathology resident training programme, as per the Gold Guide and the individual will undergo an interim academic review in December each year and a formal academic review as part of their annual ARCP.

# CONTACTS

**Academic Supervisor:**

Prof Nick West

Leeds Institute of Medical Research

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Email: [n.p.west@leeds.ac.uk](mailto:n.p.west@leeds.ac.uk)

## Training Programme Director (clinical):

Dr Peter Ellery, Clinical Training Programme Director, Histopathology

Department of Histopathology, Leeds Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust, St. James’s University Hospital, LS9 7TF

Email: peter.ellery@nhs.net

## Academic Training Programme Director

Prof Phil Quirke [P.Quirke@leeds.ac.uk](mailto:P.Quirke@leeds.ac.uk)

# Further Information

Because of the nature of the work for which you are applying, this post is exempted from the provisions of Section 4 (2) of the Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974 by virtue of the Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974 (Exceptions) Order 1975.

Applicants are therefore, not entitled to withhold information about convictions, which for other purposes are “spent” under the provisions of the Act, and in the event of employment any failure to disclose such convictions could result in dismissal or disciplinary action by the University. Any information given will be strictly confidential and will be considered only in relation to an application for positions to which the Order applies.

For further information about the Academic Clinical Fellowship programme, please refer to the NIHR Integrated Academic Training webpage

[https://www.nihr.ac.uk/explore-nihr/academy-programmes/integrated-academic-training.htm#one](https://eur03.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.nihr.ac.uk%2Fexplore-nihr%2Facademy-programmes%2Fintegrated-academic-training.htm&data=05%7C02%7CL.C.Wallace%40leeds.ac.uk%7C8c663698c201424df43f08dc9f4e27aa%7Cbdeaeda8c81d45ce863e5232a535b7cb%7C0%7C0%7C638560406464737503%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C0%7C%7C%7C&sdata=Vh0hHjCu%2BIO1z4MV5dplncAHQHfHKZIZ3TvMXhU4gf0%3D&reserved=0)