

Job Description

NIHR Academic Clinical Fellowship

One post in General Surgery Research is available for a candidate wishing to apply for an Academic Clinical Fellowship at ST1-3 level

Theme Multiple long-term conditions ST1-3 (1 post)

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

Applications are now invited for an Academic Clinical Fellowship in General Surgery research at ST-1-3 levels for trainees in general surgery. This new post has been created as part of the NHS England (NHSE)/National Institution for Health Research (NIHR) programme of Integrated Academic Training and offers candidates a comprehensive experience of clinical academic surgery working alongside internationally renowned clinicians and researchers.

Please note:- Applicants looking for an ST2 post are encouraged to apply to this vacancy at ST1. If successful your experience will be assessed upon commencing in post enabling you to work at the appropriate level.

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 part of the next generation of academic clinicians.

This Academic Clinical Fellowship (ACF) programme in General Surgery Research will be run by the University of Sheffield, the Sheffield Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust and Doncaster and Bassetlaw Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust.

Academic Clinical Fellowships (ACFs) are 3-year fixed-term national training posts. They attract an NTN(A) and trainees undertake 75% clinical and 25% research training over the term of the post. They are employed by the NHS Trusts and have an honorary contract with the University at whose Medical School their academic research is supported.

The trainees undertake a 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).

The Clinical Academic Programme at Sheffield has a competitive ACF pump-priming award. Trainees can apply for up to £2000 for initial costs for work aimed at achieving a research fellowship.

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) in General Surgery following the completion of their ACF fixed-term post, which would be completed as Out-of-Programme-Research (OOPR).

POST DETAILS

Job Title

NIHR Academic Clinical Fellow (ACF) – General Surgery

Duration of the Post

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

Lead NHS Hospital/Trust in which training will take place

Sheffield Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust and Doncaster and Bassetlaw Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust (50:50 split).

Research institution in which training will take place

The School of Medicine and Population Health

One of the three Schools in the Faculty of Health at The University of Sheffield, The School of Medicine and Population Health has hosted Academic Clinical Fellowships in over 35 specialties. In previous years all those appointed as Academic clinical fellows have gone on to undertake doctoral training to successful completion.

The school has a track record of NIHR support for ACFs and ACLs with good career progression in interdisciplinary health service research teams. Furthermore, there is rich experience of innovative interdisciplinary training in NIHR priority themes such as in Older Adults with Complex Care and Dementia for ACFs; and ACLs in Oncology, GP and Surgery. The faculty boasts a number of flagship institutes such as the Healthy Lifespan Institute and you will benefit from the multidisciplinary research teams who are working on projects of international importance such as improving understanding of the global epidemic of multi-morbidity and frailty with a mission to prevent or delay multi-morbidity and improve resilience to surgery in older age. There is a very active theme of research focused around breast cancer, geriatric oncology and psychooncology, and decision support. There is also an active research team exploring inflammatory bowel disease and emergency surgery, endocrine surgery and the use of novel intraoperative technologies.

The clinical academic training programme at Sheffield has recently introduced an ACF pump-priming scheme. Trainees can apply for up to £2,000 to fund work directly related to research aimed at a fellowship application.

General Surgery Research

Clinical academic training is provided at all levels of surgical career progression:

- Medical student SSC modules alongside established projects
- One-year intercalated BMedSci and BSc in Surgical Sciences degrees
- 4-month foundation year 2 attachments (AF2)
- Three-year academic clinical fellow posts
- Full-time MD/PhD research fellowships
- Four-year clinical lecturer posts

Research Protected Time:

The post will be split so that 9 months (25%) are spent undertaking research-related activities and 27 months (75%) in clinical activities. The precise split is flexible and by negotiation with clinical and academic supervisors.

Research Activities of the Unit

The ACF is based in the Department of Oncology and Metabolism of the University of Sheffield. The research areas of interest within the Unit relate to the clinical specialties of breast cancer, endocrine malignancies, colorectal diseases, geriatric oncology and the role of the tumour microcirculation in the development, progression and treatment of cancer.

Significant research areas include the management of older patients undergoing surgery, emergency surgery decision making and outcomes, senescence, healthy ageing, psycho-oncology and decision making in surgery patients, prehabilitation, intraoperative imaging technologies, quality of life in surgery patients, inflammatory bowel disease and new technologies in the management of endocrine cancers and primary hyperthyroidism. A key theme is the management of older patients with cancer and how decision making can be optimised. The department supported the National Audit of Small Bowel Obstruction, and has continued to develop work in this, including early investigations into biomarkers that might help decision making in this area, as well as beginning to examine related areas such as malignant obstruction. We are supporting a cohort study on the management of acutely symptomatic hernia (MASH), and have recently completed a cohort looking at how cholecystostomy is deployed in cholecystitis. One of the major developing threads is investigating how we deal with nutrition in the acute setting.

The unit has an active programme of surgical research which engages with the University and two large regional teaching Hospitals, strong links to the Surgical Trainees Research Collaborative (White Rose Surgical Collaborative) and an excellent track record of higher degree success. We collaborate with anaesthetic, and perioperative researchers, and have good links with the Clinical Trials Unit.

The group has access to well-equipped and well-staffed laboratory facilities to support laboratory based projects, clinically focussed projects including translational studies, cohorts, qualitative studies, and clinical trials as well as extensive expertise in clinical trials and clinically focused research. A wide range of research interests and methods can be catered for depending on the career aspirations of the candidate.

The unit currently has 6 clinical doctoral students and usually several masters degree and B.Med.Sci degree students each year, 1 senior lecturer and 1 clinical lecturer and 1 academic clinical fellow.

Academic Clinical Fellowship Training Programme: Clinical Component

South Yorkshire has 2 major teaching hospitals based in the region's two cities: Sheffield and Doncaster.

Sheffield Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust, which incorporates the Northern General Hospital, the Royal Hallamshire Hospital, the Jessop Wing, Weston Park Hospital and Charles Clifford Dental Hospital, is now the fourth largest NHS Trust in the country. It was granted Foundation Status in 2004. As a Trust, Sheffield Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation trust is responsible for the planning and delivery of the highest quality patient

care, providing services for patients not only from Sheffield but all parts of the North Trent region and UK. Nearly one million patients come to us for treatment each year. It has 2 honorary Professors of Surgery (1 colorectal, one endocrine) working to support academic placements.

Doncaster and Bassetlaw Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust is a large teaching Trust providing outstanding clinical training in all aspects of general surgery. It includes Doncaster Royal Infirmary, Bassetlaw and Mexborough Hospitals. It has a large and well staffed academic breast unit providing the highest quality Oncoplastic breast surgery training and delivering care to 500 new breast cancer diagnoses per year between 6 consultant Oncoplastic surgeons. It has an excellent GI surgery unit with a very high rate of laparoscopic GI surgery and provides excellent, high level training for both laparoscopic, GI, vascular and bariatric surgery. It has invested in new academic research facilities with the recent opening of the Reach research centre for academic training and is committed to developing and expanding clinical academic activity in partnership with the University of Sheffield over the next 5 years.

The ACF post will rotate between these 2 units.

Academic Clinical Fellowship Training Programme: Research Component

The research component will be based in the Division of Clinical Medicine, where the fellow will be supervised by one of the Academic General Surgeons: Professor Lynda Wyld (Breast), Professor Steven Brown (Colorectal and IBD), Professor Balasubramanian (Endocrine and novel intraoperative technologies) and NIHR Senior Fellow, Jenna Morgan (Breast). The trainee will have access to methodological expertise in all aspects of academic programme development, with access to trial methodologists and statisticians based at the research support unit in SchARR. There is also the option to undertake laboratory based research using a range of technologies linked to this fellowship. The fellow will have the opportunity to work within an existing general surgery projects or develop their own area of research interest. Example research opportunities include a range in clinical studies exploring decision science in surgery (breast cancer, IBD), clinical trials relating to a range of GI, endocrine and Breast general surgery projects, laboratory research into the biology of ageing and frailty and how this impacts on surgical resilience.

The research element can be completed flexibly and agreed upon with your speciality lead. A number of options are possible such as a concentrated block of 9 months full time in the second year, or dividing this over three years, or a day release per week. You will have the opportunity to undertake a masters degree. This will provide grounding in programme development, assessment design and educational principles. Ultimately it is expected that the programme of research will develop pilot data and background support for a fully funded doctoral degree which will dovetail with the end of the ACF and provide a strong grounding of research skills for a successful academic career in surgery

Post Details

JOB TITLE: NIHR Academic Clinical Fellowship in General Surgery Research

BRIEF OUTLINE:

The clinical programme is designed to provide training at the ST1-3 level for General Surgery for a period of 3 years. Further details of the Specialist Registrar rotation for South Yorkshire are provided in the attached document.

Objectives of the Training Programme:

1. To undertake General Surgery core or specialist training
2. To undertake a generic programme in General Surgery Research.
3. To identify an area of academic and clinical interest upon which to base an application for an externally-funded PhD programme.

Successful candidates:

The exit from this post will typically be to an externally-funded research fellowship, leading to the award of a PhD and subsequently application either for a Clinical Lecturer post or a Clinician Scientist Fellowship.

Unsuccessful candidates:

If the post-holder does not achieve the expected clinical competencies, this will be handled in the same way as for all other trainees in speciality medicine.

If the post-holder fails to achieve academic competencies or is unsuccessful in obtaining research funding, they would be anticipated to return to a clinical training post. This will be discussed in good time with the Training Programme Director (TPD) through the system for appraisal and mentoring of academic trainees. Whilst no guarantee of an appropriate post is possible, every effort will be made to accommodate such individuals within the local training schemes.

CONTACTS

Academic Leads and Supervisors:

Prof. Lynda Wyld

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Honorary Professor

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Prof Steve Brown

Honorary Professor of Surgery

Dr Jenna Morgan

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Training Programme Director (clinical):

Mr Nehemiah Samuel nsamuel@nhs.net

Academic Training Programme Director

Professor Janet Brown j.e.brown@sheffield.ac.uk

Further Information

For more information on Sheffield see <https://www.sheffield.ac.uk/medicine-dentistry-health/study/clinical-academic-training>

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 (National Institute for Health Research) Integrated Academic Training (IAT) page on <https://www.nihr.ac.uk/explore-nihr/academy-programmes/integrated-academic-training.htm#one>