Job Description
NIHR Academic Clinical Fellowship
General Surgery ST1-3 (1 post)
Multiple Long-Term Conditions Theme

The University of Sheffield, in partnership with NHS England North East and Yorkshire and the Sheffield 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 at ST1 to ST3 level. This new post has been created as part of the NHS England (NHSE)/National Institute for Health Research (NIHR) programme of Integrated Academic Training and offers candidates a comprehensive experience of clinical academic medicine working alongside internationally renowned clinicians and researchers.

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 General Surgery will be run by the University of Sheffield, the Sheffield Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust, Doncaster and Bassetlaw Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust and Health Education England Yorkshire and the Humber.

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 also undertake a Research Training Programme provided by the University for which funding is provided by NIHR. They are also 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, except '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 Run-through status is withdrawn if ACFs do not complete the academic component.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 – General Surgery

Duration of the Post
Up to 3 years (25% academic, 75% clinical).

Research institution in which training will take place
University of Sheffield, Doncaster and Bassetlaw Teaching Hospitals NHS FT and Sheffield Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust.

School of Medicine and Population Health (General Surgery)
The Academic Clinical Fellow will join a team of clinicians and scientists who share research interests in all aspects of General Surgery and Breast Surgery.

Academic Clinical Fellowship Training Programme: Clinical Component
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 several 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 on breast cancer, geriatric oncology, psycho-oncology, 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.

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 (SFP2)
- 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 negotiated with clinical and academic supervisors.

Research Activities of the Unit

The ACF is based in the Department of Clinical Medicine 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 psychology 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 major developing theme is around flat mastectomy outcomes and decision-making related to timing of symmetrising breast surgery and axillary treatment options.
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 focused 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 master's degree and B.Med.Sci degree students each year, 1 senior lecturer, 1 clinical lecturer and 1 academic clinical fellow.

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 Saba 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. The fellow will have the opportunity to work on a project exploring quality of life and length of life preferences of frail and co-morbid older adults diagnosed with cancer, fitting with the Multiple Long-Term Conditions theme. There will also be opportunities to work on other existing general surgery projects or develop their own area of research interest. Example research opportunities include a range of clinical studies exploring decision science in surgery (including the management of older adults with breast cancer, timing of symmetrising surgery for breast cancer patients undergoing therapeutic mammoplasty, axillary treatment decision making for breast cancer patients), 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, as well as research into how surgeons manage complications, shared decision making and informed consent (with a focus on tailoring these to patients with multi-morbidity).

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. 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 (Multiple Long-Term Conditions Theme)

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 expected 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:

Dr Jenna Morgan

NIHR Senior Fellow in Breast Surgery

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Prof. Lynda Wyld

Professor of Surgical Oncology

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Prof. Saba Balasubramanian

Honorary Professor

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Training Programme Director (clinical):
Miss Antonia Durham Hall (Higher surgical training)

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Miss Emma Collins (Core surgical training)

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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

Person Specifications

Applicants for this post will be required to meet the relevant Clinical eligibility criteria for the appropriate specialty and level listed at:-

Please note - (applicants applying for Surgical, Medical or Psychiatry specialties at ST3 or above may be required to consult the relevant Core Training person specification):-

https://medical.hee.nhs.uk/medical-training-recruitment/medical-specialty-training/person-specifications

AND the Academic eligibility criteria listed at:

https://medical.hee.nhs.uk/medical-training-recruitment/medical-specialty-training/person-specifications