

Academic Clinical Fellowship in General Practice 2027

Description of ACF Programme:
Title: General Practice Duration: 4 years, with ST1 and 2 as other GP Programmes, ST3 takes place over 2 years with 3 days in GP in ST3.1 and 2 days in GP in ST3.
Lead NHS Hospital/Trust and contact details:
Southampton General Hospital Southampton University Hospitals NHS Trust Southampton SO16 6YD Tel: 023 8077 7222
Research Institution in which training will take place:
Primary Care Research Group, Primary Care and Population Sciences University of Southampton Aldermoor Health Centre Aldermoor Close SO16 5ST
Arrangements for protected research time:
The Primary Care Research Group at the University of Southampton Faculty of Medicine, in association with the NHS England Wessex GP training scheme, offers a four year training programme including two years comprising 24 months of hospital posts and 6 months in General Practice, followed by two years of integrated academic general practice, with time divided equally between academic work in the department and clinical training in a practice in the Wessex region.
Research Objectives:
1. To undertake the equivalent of 3 years full time specialist training in General Practice in an accredited post in the Wessex Rotation, 2. To undertake generic research methods training through the Postgraduate School/Clinical Academic Training Scheme (SoCATS). 3. To gain relevant training and experience in research design, methods and data interpretation. 4. To pilot a research project (clinical or laboratory-based) or perform a systematic review in order to generate preliminary data for development of a proposal for a doctoral fellowship 5. To submit a competitive application for a doctoral fellowship to the NIHR, MRC, Wellcome Trust, or other external funder.
Description of research component of programme:
The trainee will undertake generic research methods training. This will be through both the programmes run by the Postgraduate School/Clinical Academic Training Scheme or through training courses appropriate to their specific learning needs in Southampton or elsewhere, in both quantitative and qualitative research methods. This will normally lead to an MSc in research methods. The formal taught postgraduate research training programme includes epidemiology, statistics, research governance and study design. In addition transferable skills courses are available to Academic Clinical Fellows including Good Clinical Practice, time management, leadership, grant writing, and presentation skills. There is also the opportunity to attend the highly regarded annual Epidemiology for Clinicians course jointly run by the

University of Southampton MRC Unit and the University of Cambridge. There is an annual conference for academic trainees in Southampton as well as dedicated funds for pilot work, training courses and attendance at scientific conferences.

The trainee will also conduct a systematic literature review or a pilot/exploratory research project to help inform and develop a proposal for an externally funded research training fellowship, and will be given opportunities to be involved in ongoing research in the group. The academic supervisor will be a senior academic in the University's Primary Medical Care (PMC) Research Group.

Strengths of the programme including research track record and markers of esteem

The Primary Care Research Centre (PCRC) has 19 senior staff (11 professors, 9 associate professors) 2 ACFs, 28 other postdoctoral researchers, 2 senior research assistants, 11 PhD students and 25 research staff (trial staff, PPI officers and research nurses). We have particular strengths in supporting self-management of long-term conditions, infections and antimicrobial stewardship, mental health, communication, cancer and integrative medicine (see <https://www.southampton.ac.uk/primarycare/research/index.page>)

Our excellent showing in the 2014 RAE was recognised by inclusion as one of only nine departments nationally in the NIHR School for Primary Care Research (SPCR).

We work in collaboration with other SPCR departments, particularly UCL, Oxford, Bristol, Nottingham and Keele and with many other research groups locally, nationally and internationally. We lead numerous multicentre studies and have a strong track record of delivering high quality primary care research that has patient benefit.

Potential supervisors/mentors

We have 9 potential GP academic supervisors: Prof Paul Little (RCGP John Fry awardee, Fellow of the Academy of Medical Sciences, NIHR Senior Investigator and previously Director of the NIHR Programme Grants Board) who works on acute infections, cancer survivorship and dementia; Prof Hazel Everitt (RCGP John Fry awardee, previously NIHR CL and MRC Doctoral Fellow) who works in gastroenterology, insomnia, communication and empathy; Prof Nick Francis works on antimicrobial stewardship, particularly in respiratory infections; Prof. Miriam Santer who works on primary care dermatology; Prof Kay Wang who works on asthma management and acute respiratory tract infections. Associate professor Hajira Dambha-Miller who leads the cross-faculty Data Science Research group. Clinical Lecturer (CL) Mark Lown who is working on atrial fibrillation and acute infections; CL Merlin Willcox who is developing global health initiatives in Uganda, and China; and CL Sara McKelvie who is working on community-based alternatives to hospitalisation for older people with complex health and social needs.

Other potential supervisors include: Professor Geraldine Leydon, a medical sociologist with qualitative research expertise and special interests in communication in the consultation. Associate Professor Adam Geraghty is an academic psychologist and has interests in the self-management of pain and other long-term conditions. Professor Ingrid Muller is a health psychologist with interests in self-management of long-term conditions and digital interventions. Associate Professor Nazrul Islam, is an epidemiologist and statistician and works with big data investigating inequalities in morbidity and mortality. Professor Helen Atherton research expertise is in digital primary care, exploring digital access through to delivery of healthcare using remote approaches. Associate Professor Kinda Ibrahim is working in Academic Geriatric Medicine at the University of Southampton with a pharmacy background and has research interests in medicines optimisation and deprescribing in older adults. Professor Tracey Sach is a Professor in Health Economics within the School of Primary Care, Population Sciences and Medical Education at the University of Southampton.

Description of clinical component of programme:

The trainee's clinical GP training will take place in a research active practice local to the School of Medicine, supervised by an experienced trainer. The ST3 year will be divided over 2 years, the ACF spending 3 days per week in clinical training in year one and 2 days of clinical training in year 2. This has proved to be a successful format.

Milestones and timing of achievement of academic and clinical competencies

The following milestones will be applied:

Year 1

1	Initial clinical training in General Practice will be assessed using the national measures (Directly Observed Procedural Skills, mini Clinical Evaluation Exercise, Multi-source Feedback, Case-Based Discussions, etc.) and by quarterly meetings with the educational supervisor
2	Attendance at relevant programmes run by the Postgraduate School/Clinical Academic Training Scheme.
3	Identification of research question to be addressed in pilot study or systematic review through an iterative process of discussion and planning with the academic supervisor(s)
4	Identification of specific learning needs for the project and appropriate courses and identification of ongoing projects to be involved with
5	Obtaining ethical committee and NHS Research & Development approval for exploratory project as appropriate and initial generation of pilot data
6	Attendance at relevant internal and external training courses and attendance at annual national/international conferences of relevance to the project

Year 2

1	Continuing clinical training in General Practice, with the relevant competency based assessments (CEPS and miniCEX) and the knowledge-based assessments
2	Continued work to identify project and data collection for pilot study as appropriate
3	Attendance at relevant internal and external training courses and attendance/presentation of data at annual national/international conferences of relevance to the project
4	Preparation and submission of clinical research fellowship application to external funding agencies

Years 3 and 4

1	Continuation of General Practice component of clinical training
2	Data collection and presentation at national/international conference(s)
3	Writing up and submission of pilot research project, and/or other research for publication as appropriate
4	Preparation for research training fellowship interview

How post links in to the NIHR approved Research Training Programme at your locality:

It is envisaged that a successful fellowship application will lead to a further three years in full-time clinical research, culminating in a PhD. There would then be a natural progression to a clinical lecturer position within the Medical School.

Trainee centredness:

The training will be centred on the trainee's own learning needs, identified early during the first year, and by dedicated supervision during the post. Mentorship is provided through the Faculty of

Medicine which has set up a programme currently directed by a Reader within the Faculty of Medicine and which actively engages trainees to select and regularly meet with a mentor from a list of senior clinical academics who have mentoring experience. The fellowship will be tailored towards achievement of successful external funding to enable progression to a PhD.

Quality assurance of the programme:

The research methods training will be provided through the established Postgraduate School/Clinical Academic Training Scheme at the University of Southampton Faculty of Medicine. The academic supervisors have completed the postgraduate research supervision training provided by the University.

Mentoring arrangements :

Mentorship will be provided by the academic and clinical supervisors to the fellow. This will be co-ordinated by Assoc Prof Everitt (academic lead). Further mentorship and supervision can be undertaken through the normal governance arrangements for postgraduate research at the University of Southampton's Faculty of Medicine. This will include mentorship through supervision of the emerging PhD programme and of research fellowship applications to major funding agencies.

Academic Lead (University) for the IAT Programme:

Professor Elaine Dennison
Professor of Rheumatology University of Southampton
Southampton General Hospital
Southampton SO16 6YD
Tel 023 8077 72
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Academic Supervisor (University) Details:

Points of contact:

Dr Mark Lown
Clinical Lecturer in General Practice
m.lown@soton.ac.uk

Education Supervisor (Trust) Details:

Email: england.GP.wx@nhs.net

Clinical Supervisor(s) Details:

This will be confirmed once the appointee is in post.

NHS England - Wessex Training Programme Director Details:

This will be confirmed once the appointee is in post.

NHS England- Wessex Programme Contact Details:

General Practice Programme Team
NHS England- Wessex
Explorer House,
Adanac Drive,
Southampton, SO16 0AS
Email: england.GP.wx@nhs.net

Confirmation that ACF posts attract an Academic NTN (ACA):

This post will attract a National Training Number with a specialty component of ACA to identify as an Academic.