

ACF in General Surgery Programme Details in conjunction with the University of Manchester

Post availability

Overview

You can find generic information about Academic Clinical Fellowships in the North West plus links to the National Institute for Health Research's guidance via <https://www.nwpgmd.nhs.uk/nih-academic-clinical-fellowships-glance>

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These is one post up to three-years. During the post, trainees who are meeting ACF requirements will be expected to apply for an "Out of Programme Research" (OOPR) period (typically PhD) or for an Academic Clinical Lecturer (ACL) post (if they already have a PhD - see NIHR website guidelines). Trainees obtaining an ACF will be expected to complete their relevant general surgery training including any exams during the normal time period.

The ACFs will have 25% protected research time to undertake preliminary work with the aim of acquiring research experience that will be the basis of a strong application for a clinical fellow (PhD) or ACL post. This will be a part of their training programme and will not lengthen their training period.

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Academic Training

Academic General Surgery in Manchester has strengths in the themes of cancer, digital, prevention and public health, clinical therapeutics & pharmacology & industry, and multiple long-term conditions.

The surgical oncology theme includes: colorectal and peritoneal surgery (Renehan, Aziz, Sutton based the Christie); urological surgery (Clarke, Sachdeva based at the Christie); breast cancer (Kirwan based at South Manchester); hepatobiliary surgery (Siriwardena at Manchester Central); and neurosurgery (Coope, King at Salford).

Digital includes existing partnerships between surgery and Data Health Science (Renehan, Sperrin, Martin, working with large-scale data consortia; the Manchester Alan Turing Institute, the UK national institute for data science and artificial intelligence (Jenkins); and with the Division of Informatics, Imaging, and Data Science (van Herk, Price, McWilliams) working on connecting imaging and real-world data at scale. Robotics research is through Harjee.

Prevention & public health research is embedded within the Manchester NIHR BRC (£48M) Cancer Prevention and Early Detection theme (Davidson E, Crosbie P, Evans, Howell S, Martin-Hirsh, Renehan, Kirwan), which focuses mainly on clinically driven research questions.

Clinical therapeutics research is through the CRUK Accelerator Award in peritoneal malignancies (£3.5M) and has established in Manchester a platform of research to prospectively biobank and then integrate rare appendiceal tumours using genomic, transcriptomic, and proteomic analyses coupled with organoid development to identify new treatment options (Aziz, Caswell, O'Dwyer).

Multiple long-term conditions: Many adult cancers are age-related and are chronic conditions characterized by long-term treatment-related and disease-related adverse effects. Surgical groups study the interactions between cancer and prevalent co-morbidities like type 2 diabetes and obesity (Renehan, Sperrin, Rutter). A large-scale research programme to reduce surgery-related morbidity - namely organ preservation after initial rectal cancer treatment - has been led by Renehan, Saunders, Sutton, Arthur establishing the national OnCoRe database (<https://complete-response.com/>).

Research Areas / Research Environment

For example, in the theme of cancer, Manchester has a comprehensive cancer research strategy, created jointly with The Christie Hospital NHS Foundation Trust (The Christie), University of Manchester (UoM) including Cancer Research UK (CRUK) Manchester Institute, and federated as the Manchester Cancer Research Centre (MCRC), bringing together scientists, clinicians, and academic trainees to deliver multidisciplinary world-leading cancer research. We have highly collaborative cancer research initiatives incorporating ACFs/ACLs across the following areas of research.

Research Facilities

The Christie campus is an exemplar facility for surgical research. Across the road from the Christie Hospital is the Manchester Cancer Research Centre (MCRC), led from the Oglesby Cancer Research Building (Director – Professor Rob Bristow). Established in 2006, the MCRC is a partnership between the Christie, Cancer Research UK, and The University of Manchester, acting as a resource multiplier to synergise translational cancer research in Manchester.

The recently completed Paterson redevelopment brings the Cancer Research UK Manchester Institute, MI (new Director - Professor Samra Turajlić), including the world-leading Cancer Biomarker Centre (Director – Professor Caroline Dive). The MI houses world-leading basic and translational cancer scientists co-located with their clinical peers in a cutting-edge Biomedical Research Facility. This facility offers excellent training opportunities for ACFs, and there are many close collaborations with industry.

Of note, the MCRC is a recipient of the Cancer Research UK Clinical Academic Training Programme award, providing early career clinician scientists greater flexibility and a wider range of training options, including PhDs, while providing the highest quality development opportunities.

Clinical Training

Specialty training in General Surgery will be part of the Health Education England training rotation. At the post holder will be based at a choice of several hospitals across Greater Manchester and the North West. The successful applicant would be expected to work alongside consultants and trainees in theatre, on the ward and in out-patient clinics, supporting surgical services and performing audits.

You can find out more about the clinical training programmes in the North West via the following link - https://www.nwpgmd.nhs.uk/specialty_schools

Clinical person specifications can be found via the following link - <https://medical.hee.nhs.uk/medical-training-recruitment/medical-specialty-training/person-specifications/person-specifications-2026>

Useful Links

<https://www.oriel.nhs.uk/Web/Vacancies>
<https://www.nwpgmd.nhs.uk/nih-academic-clinical-fellowships-glance>
<https://medical.hee.nhs.uk/medical-training-recruitment/medical-specialty-training/person-specifications/person-specifications-2026>
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