

Job Description for NIHR Academic Clinical Fellowship in Genitourinary Medicine (Prevention and Public Health theme) ST4

1. Job Title: Academic Clinical Fellow (ACF) in Genitourinary Medicine

2. Duration of post: 3 years

ACF posts are for 36 months (FTE) and support academic residents to undertake specialty training at the same time as developing their research and education skills with the aim of submitting a fellowship funding proposal. With external funding secured, the ACF can apply to take time out of their training to complete a PhD. The post starts at ST4, after the completion of internal medicine stage 1 training. At the end of the 3 years, the ACF will resume full-time clinical training in a non-academic post for the final year of their training. This applies whether they have been successful in obtaining a research fellowship/funding (or they decide they do not wish to pursue this course), or after they return from out of programme experience. Potential candidates who have already started GUM training are also eligible to apply but should bear in mind the level of entry.

3. Research institutions in which training will take place

University College London based in the Institute for Global Health, Faculty of Population Health Sciences Based at UCL and the Mortimer Market Centre (Central and North West London NHS Foundation Trust - North Central London Training Programme).

4. Timetabling of clinical and research time

Over the course of the ACF programme 25% of the time will be reserved for academic/research training. We operate a flexible system to ensure that the needs of the resident are met allowing, for example, for a 6-month block of full-time research in a two-year period, or for 50% research time for 6 months in a one-year period. This ensures that the time for research matches the type of project/training being undertaken.

5. Description of research component of programme

The research training will be based in the UCL Centre for Clinical Research in Infection and Sexual Health in the Department of Infection and Population Health, part of the Institute for Global Health. The academic programme lead, Professor Maryam Shahmanesh, is also Deputy Dean of UCL Faculty of Population Health Sciences. The training programme is structured to have an induction period during which the trainee will have time to learn about the range of research being undertaken and then choose a topic around the NIHR Prevention and Public Health theme, to focus on and develop their own project. The project supervisor will be agreed according to the area of interest. Throughout their time as an ACF they will have office space and support in the Centre and be part of the clinical research team providing a broad training in research methodology through contributing to the design, set-up and delivery of the 15-20 studies active at any one time across HIV, viral hepatitis, sexually transmitted infections, and other emerging infections.

Centre for Clinical Research in Infection and Sexual Health

The Centre for Clinical Research in Infection and Sexual Health, led by Professor Fiona Burns, has over 30 staff and PhD students. There are 6-7 clinical research fellows. The work of the Centre is focused on alleviating the population impact of infectious diseases, and promoting improvements in population health, particularly sexual health, as broadly defined by the WHO. This includes a major focus on the prevention and treatment of sexually transmitted infections. We investigate a wide range of interventions, from the use of antiviral agents, antibiotics, and vaccines to behavioural interventions that may improve individual and population

health. There are expanding programmes of work on other STIs and HIV/STI prevention. The Centre possesses broad expertise including clinical medicine, trials, statistics, and qualitative and mixed methods. There are strong links with the institute for Clinical Trials and Methodology at UCL with two joint posts (Prof Pett and Dr Arenas-Pinto). There are multiple international links, particularly with collaborators in Europe and South Africa. Prof Shahmanesh is senior faculty member at the Africa Health Research Institute in South Africa. There are strong links to the UK Health Security Agency and the NIHR Health Protection Research Unit in Blood Borne and Sexually Transmitted Infections hosted at UCL. We also work closely with colleagues within the department of Infection and Population health who work in the National Survey of Sexual Attitudes and Lifestyles, carried out every 10 years since 1990, and the principal source of population-based epidemiological data in the UK, used to inform national policy and guidance on sexual health and HIV.

The UCL Institute for Global Health (IGH) is one of 82 Departments at UCL. Our mission is to improve health worldwide through research and education. We comprise 160 research, teaching and professional services staff, and have an annual research income in excess of £21M.

We focus on conducting impactful research that informs health policies and practices, tackling the biggest health challenges facing the world. We have strong long-standing partnerships with researchers, patients, communities, health care providers and policymakers in the UK, other parts of Europe, across Asia, sub-Saharan Africa, and South America.

We foster a culture of critical thought and continuous learning and believe that equality and diversity make us better at our work and promote these in all dimensions. Building the capacity of early career staff is central to our mission and we have multiple supportive schemes ranging from mentoring to funding for small grants.

In Education, our aim is to train the next generation of health and research leaders. Our postgraduate programmes include the MSc Global Health and Development, the MSc Health Economics and Decision Science, and the MSc Applied Infectious Disease Epidemiology. We have 50 students on PhD programmes and contribute to teaching medical students.

IGH comprises three Departments:

The Department of Infection and Population Health brings under one roof all the infection, clinical and population health, including sexual health, molecular epidemiology, and tuberculosis. It has one of the largest cohorts of people living with HIV and includes groups skilled in statistics, mathematical modelling and evaluation. It is home to Natsal, one of the largest and most detailed studies of sexual behaviour in the world.

The Department for Environmental and Community Health conducts research on health and climate change, migration and conflict. It houses among the largest groupings in the UK of researchers working on non-communicable diseases, mental health and global health economics. It supports pragmatic global health trials including research on new methods.

The Department of Global Health Equity and Social Justice conducts research on the health of women, children and adolescents, on gender-based violence and on the wellbeing of minoritised people. The Department has critical mass in social epidemiology, anthropology, gender and feminisms, paediatrics, community psychology, and political science and has been at the forefront for developing participatory research methods

We arrange regular events to bring staff together across different themes for closer collaborative working. Team science is encouraged and valued so that staff from different disciplines work together in partnership to tackle the bigger health challenges.

Equality and diversity are integral to our approach to our work. We hold an Athena SWAN Charter Silver award, are committed Friends of Out@UCL, and champion all aspects of equality.”

The three IGH departments are further organized into research groups or centres, any of which can accommodate the ACF. Those centres with which we have the most collaborations that the ACF can take advantage of are:

Centre for Population Research in Sexual Health and HIV

This Centre is also based at the Mortimer Marker Centre and delivers world-leading multidisciplinary research on sexual health, including, but not limited to, STIs and HIV, that impacts policy and practice, locally, nationally and internationally. Researchers in the centre lead the National Survey of Sexual Attitudes and Lifestyles, carried out every 10 years since 1990, and the principal source of population-based epidemiological data in the UK, used to inform national policy and guidance on sexual health and HIV.

Centre for Clinical Research, Epidemiology, Modelling and Evaluation

The Centre applies multi-disciplinary research methods to generate an in-depth understanding of problems and their solutions in order to inform improvements in population health and guide policy. For several years this has largely been based around studies of the risk of HIV acquisition, studies of people living with HIV, and models of HIV transmission, progression and the effect of ART to inform policy in high, middle and low-income settings. Recently, research has expanded into other infections and chronic conditions. There are multiple collaborations with national and international policy making bodies such as the Health Security Agency and the World Health Organization. The Centre also runs the International Workshop on HIV and Hepatitis Observational Databases (IWHOD) annually.

Centre for Molecular Epidemiology and Translational Research

This Centre was created to focus on transdisciplinary global health research using high-impact whole systems epidemiological approaches, incorporating molecular and ‘omic’ technologies. The centre staff apply these to large-scale population and clinical studies. The centre includes programmes on TB and the impact of the microbiome in mothers and babies on future patterns of disease.

Centre for Pragmatic Global Health Trials

The Centre supports the methodological development and conduct of pragmatic trials in global health. Pragmatic trials inform clinical and policy decisions with evidence about the effectiveness of interventions in real-world community or clinical settings. The Centre works with Institute of Clinical Trials and Methodology at UCL and other researchers working on complex interventions, including infectious diseases, sexual and reproductive health, non-communicable diseases, maternal and child health and nutrition, and the prevention of violence against women.

The fellow can choose to work with any of the groups above or, if they are primarily interested in a laboratory-based project, to work with one of the laboratory departments linked the Institute. The main laboratory collaborations are with UCL Division of Infection and Immunity, including groups in the Research Department of Infection, and the Institute of Immunity and Transplantation.

The research training programme will be tailored to the needs and interests of the ACF. They will be supported in preparing applications for research training fellowships or other sources of research support which, with a period of out of programme experience, will enable them to complete a research degree (PhD) before returning to complete their clinical training.

6. Description of clinical training component of programme

Over the period of the ACF post, 75% of the time will be devoted to clinical training. The clinical training programme will comprise the same components and attachments as the non-academic specialty residents in the North Central London training programme. The host organisation for the clinical training is Central and North West London NHS Foundation Trust which runs a large integrated sexual health, HIV and hepatitis service based at the Mortimer Market Centre (MMC), adjacent to UCLH in central London. There are additional clinic sites at the Archway Centre (AC - Holloway Road) and others in north central London.

Residents rotate in blocks of 6 months (February and August) and can expect to spend a total of 18 months at MMC, 12 months at AC, 3-6 months on the HIV inpatient units and 9-12 months of GIM within the local acute trusts. The sequence of attachments varies according to educational need, service requirement, examination timetable, individual residents' interest and any change of curriculum requirements. The timing of GIM is dependent on Acute Trust capacity. At least 3 months of GIM will be in the final year to fulfil the curriculum requirements.

During the clinical training period all residents will do integrated sexual health (ISH) clinics and a general HIV clinic. With over 5000 patients living with HIV currently receiving care in the service, and more than 40,000 attendances in the ISH service this is one of the largest combined HIV and sexual health services in the country providing outstanding clinical training experience. There are specialist clinics include viral hepatitis clinics (HIV co-infection and mono-infection), complex PreP clinics, complex sexual health and genital dermatology referral clinics run by consultants. HIV specialist clinics include antenatal clinics linked with UCLH and a young person's HIV service (TEAM) to provide support for newly diagnosed young people and those transitioning from paediatric to adult services. We provide outreach clinics for people who inject drugs in conjunction with our local drug dependency unit, people experiencing homelessness, and we also provide services for commercial sex workers with CLASH, a project for vulnerable people in London. Residents gain experience in this during a MMC block in the last 2 years of training. Specific opportunities exist for gaining experience in genital dermatology in men via a UCLH clinic, and general dermatology at the Whittington Hospital. Experience in SRH is included in ISH and opportunities to do LOC implants and IUS/IUD depending on interests of the resident

Whilst at MMC & AC there is currently no on-call requirement. Requirement for on call in relation to attaining and keeping up GIM skills will vary through the rotation according to requirements in the GIM slots. There is a requirement to cover 1-2 evening clinics a week in the GUM/HIV service.

The ACF will gain organizational and management experience and will be encouraged to be involved in quality improvement and audit projects throughout their training. There will be a commitment to teaching medical students, and junior doctor teaching. They attend the weekly HIV MDT meetings, and academic/educational sessions on Wednesday mornings at the Mortimer Market Centre, and monthly regional training days.

For a more detailed description of the clinical training programme please see the North Central London GUM/HIV Training Programme and Job Description (available from Prof Shahmanesh— contact details below)

7. Academic Programme Director:

Prof Maryam Shahmanesh

8. Clinical Programme Director:

Dr Angela Robinson

9. Programme contact for further information:

Professor Maryam Shahamanesh - m.shahmanesh@ucl.ac.uk
Dr Angela Robinson - angela.robinson11@nhs.net

10. NHSE contact:

Specialty Team <https://lasepgmdesupport.hee.nhs.uk/support/home>
Recruitment Enquiries - <https://lasepgmdesupport.hee.nhs.uk/support/home>

11. Useful websites for further information [IAT Guide | NIHR](#)

<https://www.nihr.ac.uk/explore-nihr/academy-programmes/integrated-academic-training.htm>

Further information on the GUM curriculum and the implementation of dual training can be found here:
<https://www.jrcptb.org.uk/specialties/genitourinary-medicine>

12. Confirmation that the post attracts an NTN (A) - YES

The post attracts a GUM/GIM NTN (A)

This job description was prepared on 14th of August 2026