

Job Description for NIHR Academic Clinical Fellowship in Haematology ST3

1. Job Title.

Academic Clinical Fellowship in Haematology

2. Duration of post.

3 years

3. Research institutions in which training will take place

Barts and The London, Queen Mary University of London, Faculty of Medicine and Dentistry
Barts Cancer Institute, Queen Mary University of London

4. Timetabling of clinical and research time

The provisional plan is for 9 months of continuous research time once the trainee has completed 15 months of clinical training. This will allow them to achieve a solid core of knowledge within the specialty before moving into the lab. This will also allow some time to agree on the most appropriate project with their academic supervisors. A continuous period of laboratory time will allow them to focus completely on their research. On their return to training, there will be 12 months remaining to ensure part 1 is attained, consolidate core knowledge and look ahead to applications for a higher degree at the end of the ACF post.

5. Description of research component of programme

This proposed Haematology ACF will undertake laboratory research in the Okosun laboratory at the Barts Cancer Institute. The Okosun lab investigates the biological mechanisms underpinning disease initiation, progression, transformation and the differing clinical behaviours of specific B- and T-cell non-Hodgkin lymphomas (NHL). NHL represents the fifth commonest cancer in the UK, with clinical courses ranging from indolent to highly aggressive. We use a range of cellular and molecular biology, spatial, liquid biopsy and computational techniques; including patient-derived organoids and multi-modal bulk and single-cell sequencing — to characterise lymphoma heterogeneity and clonal evolution, with the aim of improving prognostication, predicting treatment response, and uncovering novel therapeutic targets. As translational science lead on several lymphoma clinical trials (PACIFICO, PETReA, OptiMATE, PRiZM, ZEBRA), we have access to primary patient material alongside our own Barts Haem-Onc Tissue Bank. We have broad collaborations across the UK and internationally, offering both a deep and a broad introduction to research into lymphoma biology. The specific project to be undertaken will be designed together with the successful applicant during year 1. During this period, the ACF will be expected to generate preliminary data with the aim for the successful exit point for the ACF trainee to be the award of an externally funded clinical research training fellowship to pursue a PhD, prior to re-joining the academic career path as a Clinical Lecturer.

6. Description of clinical training component of programme

This will comprise 27 months of clinical training split into 2 periods within the 3-year ACF post and include posts at St Bartholomew's Hospital, Royal London Hospital and one of our district general hospitals (Whipps, Newham, Queens and Homerton)

At the Royal London Hospital the trainee will gain core knowledge in general haematology, haemoglobinopathy, SIHMDS and haemostasis/ thrombosis

At St Bartholomew's Hospital the trainee will gain core knowledge in haemato-oncology, and stem cell transplantation, as well as time spent in clinical trial activity and in developing project ideas with their academic supervisor and the team at the Barts Cancer Institute.

The dedicated research period of 9 months is included for the ACF to undertake laboratory-based research studies at Barts Cancer Institute (as above) to continue developing academic interests in NHL biology and management. There are established links through the CRUK City of London Cancer Centre with the Crick Institute, UCL and Kings. BCI haemato-oncology has a strong track-record in mentoring ACFs, with the last 5 gaining competitive external PhD-fellowships. The academic supervisor and Centre for Haemato-Oncology will provide the candidate with a conducive environment to successfully perform their research.

The ACF trainee will have access to the full educational opportunities within each site, the rotation and the London Deanery. Widespread use of e-learning platforms within the rotation. Support provided to attend the NHSBT 1+3 week transfusion programme while in their first 3 years.

Educational supervisors are assigned to them for the whole of their training time, in addition to their academic supervisor. ARCP process followed as required by the Deanery. Clinical supervision will be provided locally at each site.

On-call commitments to be discussed and agreed on a local basis.

7. Academic Programme Director name

Professor Silvia Marino s.marino@qmul.ac.uk

8. Clinical Programme Director name

Dr Shamzah Araf Shamzah.araf@nhs.net

9. Programme contact for further information (phone or email)

- *Academic Lead*
 - Professor Jessica Okosun, Email j.okosun@qmul.ac.uk
- *Clinical Lead*
 - Dr Shamzah Araf, Email: shamzah.araf@nhs.net
- *Academic Supervisor*
 - Prof Jessica Okosun, Email: j.okosun@qmul.ac.uk
- *IAT Leads at Queen Mary*
 - Dr Upkar Gill Email: u.gill@qmul.ac.uk
 - Dr Sasha Howard Email: s.howard@qmul.ac.uk

10. NHSE contact:

Specialty Team <https://lasepgmdsupport.hee.nhs.uk/support/home>

Recruitment Enquiries - <https://lasepgmdsupport.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>

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

Yes.

This job description was prepared on 4th August 2026.