Job Description for NIHR Academic Clinical Fellowship in Medical Oncology (Clinical Therapeutics & Pharmacology & Industry) ST3

1. Job Title.
Academic Clinical Fellow in Medical Oncology

2. Duration of post.
The post is for a maximum of 36 months. The post holder is expected to prepare a successful application for a research training programme leading to a higher degree (MD/PhD), during the ACF post. Progress will be monitored but in the event that an individual is unsuccessful in obtaining a research training fellowship/educational training programme within three years, the post holder will join the standard medical oncology clinical training programme.

3. Research institutions in which training will take place
The Institute of Cancer Research (ICR)

4. Timetabling of clinical and research time
The post holder will spend 75% of their time in clinical training and 25% of their time undertaking research. The way this time is formulated will be dependent on the successful candidate and their clinical and academic requirements. It could potentially be with alternating blocks of 9 months clinical and 3 months academic work per year or a full 9 months at some point during the 3 years. It is anticipated that the dedicated research time will be used to develop a specific project, leading to a higher degree (MD/PhD) funded by a specific research grant.

5. Description of research component of programme
The ICR and The Royal Marsden NHS Foundation Trust (RM) have worked in partnership for over a century and together are ranked as one of the top comprehensive cancer centres worldwide. The RM/ICR NIHR Biomedical Research Centre (BRC), the only one to specifically focus on cancer, was established in 2006 and continually funded since then, renewed for a further five years in 2022The BRC supports a large portfolio of world-leading experimental medicine, translating cutting edge laboratory research to innovations in patient care whilst offering a highly supportive training environment for clinical academics and an exceptional translational research culture.

The Royal Marsden and the Institute of Cancer Research are co-located at two sites, one in Chelsea and one in Sutton. The post-holder would be expected to be based in a research team on one site, but may be expected to move between sites for this and for the clinical component of training.

The planned laboratory research will depend on the research background and interests of the applicant. There are over 80 research teams based at the ICR within 8 Research Divisions:

1) The Division of Breast Cancer Research
2) The Division of Cancer Biology
3) The Division of Cancer Therapeutics
4) The Division of Clinical Studies
5) The Division of Genetics and Epidemiology
6) The Division of Molecular Pathology
7) The Division of Radiotherapy and Imaging
8) The Division of Structural Biology

The research component will align with the Clinical Therapeutics & Pharmacology & Industry theme. This theme builds on the ICR's track record in drug discovery and the ICR/RM track record in conducting hypothesis testing, biomarker-driven trials. We defined an entirely new way to treat patients with DNA damage response (DDR) defects (Farmer, Nature, 2005) and led the body of research (Fong, NEJM, 2009; Kaye, J Clin Oncol 2012; Mateo, NEJM, 2015, Hussain NJEM, 2020), which has underpinned the approval for five PARP inhibitors across four cancer types, ovarian, breast, prostate and pancreatic. We have strengths in drug development in paediatrics, eSMART, led by RM in the UK is evaluating multiple targeted drugs and treatment combinations not previously available for children and young people. Moreover, ICR and RM have strong links with industry to support this theme.

This theme benefits from our clinical trials infrastructure which enable RM/ICR investigator-initiated trials from first-inhuman to phase III and power novel, robust, efficient trial design. Research projects could include research to support the validation of potential drug targets or new treatment approaches, translation of insights into cancer development and drug resistance to clinical trials, development of clinical trials that incorporate novel technologies, therapeutic strategies, and innovative approaches in patient.

6. Description of clinical training component of programme

The clinical programme will be organized through the Royal Marsden NHS Foundation Trust. There will be rotation of the post holder around tumour-specific teams in order to complete clinical training in Medical Oncology as per the Medical oncology curriculum requirements and depending on what, if any, specialist registrar level training the post-holder has already completed. The Tumour focused units for medical oncology training include the Breast, Lung, Gastrointestinal, Gynecological, Urology, Skin and Intensive (Sarcoma, Lymphoma, Haematology) tumour units. In addition, trainees have an opportunity to train in the Drug Development Unit which recruits over 300 patients a year to early phase clinical trials including first-in-human studies. Some teams are based at both locations of the hospital.

The post holder will receive generic and tumour focused training in the management of oncology patients in both an in-patient and out-patient settings including planning disease-specific care and treatment. They will be expected to develop competency in prescribing and managing the side effects of systemic anti-cancer therapies and in managing the complications of cancer and its treatment. This includes acute oncology. The post-holder will be expected to understand the principles and processes of clinical research and to manage patients within clinical trials in accordance with the principles of Good Clinical Practice. They will also be expected to contribute to the Trust's quality improvement programmes and/or undertake regular clinical audit activity. They will be expected to participate in regular team meetings including multi-disciplinary tumour boards and there will also be a commitment to postgraduate teaching and/or teaching of a multi-professional workforce including junior doctors and nursing staff. Depending on the training needs of the lecturer there may be some emergency out of hours experience managing urgent clinical problems in patients with cancer. Clinical training will follow the most recent curriculum in Medical Oncology. There are weekly educational meetings in medical oncology and regular seminars by local and visiting speakers at both the ICR and the RM. The post-holder will be expected to fully engage with the Annual Review of Competence and Progression process of trainee appraisal and to progress appropriately.

A tailored training programme, taking into account the clinical training requirements of the successful candidate, will be devised and this will be planned with the Training Programme Director at the start of the post and may be adjusted during training on further discussion.

7. Academic Programme Director name

Dr Adam Sharp

8. Clinical Programme Director name

Prof Naureen Starling

Prof James Larkin

9. Programme contact for further information (phone or email)
Dr Adam Sharp: adam.sharp@icr.ac.uk
Prof Naureen Starling: naureen.starling@rmh.nhs.uk
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Dr Deepti Raj: deepti.raj@icr.ac.uk (Clinical Research Career Development Manager)

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

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

This job description was prepared on 4th August 2026.