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ACF Job Description – Neurology

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NHS England

NHS England

in partnership with the

University of Nottingham

Academic Clinical Fellow in Neurology
For appointment at IMT1, IMT2 or ST4

Academic Clinical Fellowship in Neurology

This post is designed for a Neurology Resident Doctor who has ambitions to work in academic Neurology. The successful applicant will be awarded an Academic National Training Number (NTN/A) in Neurology.

Please note that candidates applying for this post will be competing with Old Age Psychiatry, in the theme of Dementia.

Applicants to IMT1 and ST4 level must already hold an NTN/DRN in the specialty or apply via national recruitment to this specialty for Clinical Benchmarking. Applicants to IMT2 level must already hold an NTN/DRN in the specialty as there is no opportunity to apply via national recruitment for Clinical Benchmarking.

Academic and Clinical Training in Neurology will be integrated, with focused time for academic development. Training will be provided in research methods including study design, data collection, use of statistics, computer skills, presentation and writing papers.

During the academic components of the post, and in particular during the 9 months of protected academic time within the 3 years, the successful applicant will undertake academic training and original research in an area of their research interest.

Academic Neurology at the University of Nottingham

Academic Clinical Neurology is part of the Mental Health and Clinical Neurosciences Academic Unit in the School of Medicine. Other groups within the Unit comprise Psychiatry, Stroke Medicine, Ophthalmology, Hearing Sciences, Radiological and Imaging Sciences.

This post could include research in neuroscience of dementia syndromes including Early Onset Mild Cognitive Impairment, Magnetoencephalography in early dementia, Alzheimer's Disease and Related Dementias (ADRD), Dementia with Lewy Body, neuroimaging at 3T and 7T MRI, CSF/blood neurodegenerative biomarkers, observational and clinical trials of ADRD.

Current research on dementia and cognitive decline grants are from the Medical Research Council, the National Institute of Health, the NIHR and the University of Nottingham.

More information on neurology is available via the Academic Unit of Mental Health and Clinical Neuroscience website accessible via: Mental Health and Clinical Neuroscience - The University of Nottingham

Academic Clinical Neurology is located in the Queen's Medical Centre, C Floor South Block, one floor below the Neurology and Neurosurgery Wards on D Floor West Block. The section comprises a neurology clinical trials unit, laboratory (of CSF/blood biobanking) and office facilities. The laboratory currently has the biobank facilities and stores plasma, serum, DNA,

and cerebrospinal fluid samples from patients with Early Onset MCI, ADRD and other neurodegenerative disorders and collaborates with international sites.

Neuroscience basic scientists use the shared laboratory facilities on D Floor South Block and C Floor West Block There are also close collaborations with the Jubilee Campus of the University of Nottingham. This research includes studies of music therapy, functional neuroimaging using OPM-MEG hearing, Artificial Intelligence, digital applications and other social care for dementia in the community and care homes.

In addition to its strong research focus the senior academic staff of Neurology supervise PhD students from medical and science backgrounds, train Clinical Lecturers and Academic Clinical Fellows and mentor academic Resident Doctors at all levels. The Academic Unit also supervises undergraduate research and undertakes highly rated undergraduate and postgraduate teaching in Neurology.

Nottingham Young Age Dementia Services

The Young Age Dementia Services provides Specialty clinics at the Queen's Medical Centre and Community Clinics in Mansfield. The service is further supported by Clinical Psychology, Dementia Nurse, Occupational Therapy, Neuroradiology, and functional imaging experts. The diagnostic dementia work up through multidisciplinary meetings includes deep clinical phenotyping by clinical and cognitive assessments, multi-modal MRI, FDG-PET CT of the brain, facilities for Amyloid-PET scan, and diagnostic lumbar puncture for CSF Amyloid and tau studies.

ACF in Neurology

Research opportunities

The ACF in Neurology will be supported by the Academic Programme Director to identify an area of research for the benefit of dementia patients. The Academic Unit of Mental Health and Clinical Neuroscience in Nottingham offers a broad range of research opportunities in basic science, translational medicine, clinical studies, imaging and application of technology to patient care. During the 9 months of protected academic time, the ACF will have to opportunity to generate data, write up data for publication and prepare applications for PhD Fellowship funding with the supervision and mentorship of the senior academic staff of the Academic Unit.

Academic time can be taken as day or block release. The successful candidate will discuss this with their Academic Programme Director at the start of the ACF, taking into account their clinical training requirements and academic project needs.

Research opportunities include:

Currently, dementia research in the neurology department focuses on cognitive phenotypes and trajectory of cognitive decline in Early Onset Alzheimer's Disease and Related Dementias (ADRD), Dementia with Lewy Body, Frontotemporal Dementia Syndrome, precursors of ADRD following COVID-19 using research methodologies including neuroimaging at 1.5T, 3T, and Ultrahigh Field MRI at 7T, OPM-MEG, as well as CSF biomarkers. There are also studies on acute deterioration of function or cognitive decline in the fields of multiple sclerosis, brain trauma, and neurodegeneration using many research methodologies including advanced neuroimaging.

Established projects funded by national and international bodies including the NIHR, and NIH (National Institute of Aging, USA), and MRC examine the development of MRI biomarkers using multimodal MRI at 3T and the Ultrahigh Field MRI at 7T, cognitive decline MS, COVID, dementia and other degenerative conditions, genetic studies of Early Onset Sporadic Alzheimer's Disease (international collaboration), and neurodegenerative

biomarker studies of ADRD and Dementia with Lewy Body. The blood and CSF biobank for dementia at the Queens' Medical Centre facilitates biomarkers studies as well as international collaborations.

The Institute of Mental Health hosts numerous studies in dementia social care, music therapies and singing, hearing studies, dementia in diverse population, digital technology and Artificial Intelligence.

The Neurology Academic Training Programme will provide opportunities to undertake projects using advanced neuroimaging techniques for the study of tissue damage, in vivo detection of pathology, including susceptibility changes (reflective of iron accumulation), and remyelination as well as volumetric assessments of hippocampal subfields and Locus Coeruleus. The Neurology team has published innovative research on the first UK 7T scanner and are planning the next phase using ultra high field scans at 11.7T Tesla, as the University of Nottingham has been awarded £29.1 million to establish the UK's most powerful Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI) scanner as a national facility.

We are also currently initiating studies using the world's first wearable magnetoencephalography (MEG) system, promising unprecedented insights into conditions such as gait ataxia and mild cognitive impairment as for the first time high spacial resolution of brain activation can be localised during naturalistic experiments. Working with the MEG group studying brain trauma and cognitive processing after TBI
MEG, we anticipate exploring the links between brain trauma and late development of dementia.

https://www.nottingham.ac.uk/research/beacons-of-excellence/precision-imaging/our-projects/meg/meg.aspx

The group also conducts study of imaging and biological markers of Early Onset MCI, ADRD and PASC (post-COVID). The 7T MRI studies on precursors of ADRD is in collaboration with other leading international 7T platforms and Glenn Biggs Institute for Alzheimer's and Neurodegenerative Diseases. The studies on neurodegenerative biomarkers are facilitated through the dementia CSF/blood biobank and collaborates with international consortium.

Examples of current research projects include:

- Innovative single, and multicentre, Clinical Trials
- Advanced Imaging
- Long term prognosis and artificial intelligence for outcome prediction
- Cognitive dysfunction, screening and rehabilitation in MS Immunoregulation, cytokines, role of EBV in neurological diseases
- Acute Traumatic brain injury investigated with MEG Cognitive dysfunction
- Biomarkers of neurodegeneration, and hippocampal subfields, Locus Coeruleus, and iron imaging using 7T MRI
- Cognitive profile and trajectory of cognitive decline in MCI and ADRD Precursors of Alzheimer's disease following COVID
- Diagnostic and prognostic assessment of MCI and ADRD by using the Artificial Intelligence
- Studies of Dementia with Lewy Body Neurodegenerative biomarkers of ADRD Diagnostic and prognostic assessment of MCI and ADRD by using the Artificial Intelligence Cognitive profile and trajectory of cognitive decline in MCI and ADRD

Thus, within Clinical Neurology there is expertise in both clinical and laboratory investigations neurological diseases. In addition, members of Academic Clinical Neurology collaborate with senior investigators in other units within the School of Medicine, the School of Life Sciences, within the University Hospital, nationally and internationally.

Teaching and Core Academic Skills

The Academic Clinical Fellow, like other specialty Resident Doctors, will participate in the teaching of Neurology to undergraduate medical students and will contribute to the Neurology journal club and postgraduate programme. The successful applicant will receive training in teaching and learning methods.

Training in core academic competencies will also be provided by access to Masters Courses at the University, particularly Nottingham's N-Trans and MRes Courses. There are also regular multidisciplinary research meetings where research methodology and work in progress are discussed, and a full postgraduate education programme.

Applicants are encouraged to discuss their areas of research interest with the Academic Programme Director Professor Nikos Evangelou nikos.evangelou@nottingham.ac.uk before the interview.

ACF in the Clinical Training Programme

The clinical training programme in Neurology

The successful candidate will undertake the Neurology clinical training programme in the North of the Health Education England area which is centred on Nottingham.

Applicants are invited to commence at IMT1, 2 or ST4.

The clinical training programme is designed to provide clinical exposure to General Neurology in addition to other specialties and 3 months research periods every year of the training.

An example of an ST1 Academic Clinical Fellow's rotations would be:

IMT1: Geriatric medicine (4 months), Gastroenterology (4 months), Diabetes and Endocrinology (2 months), Academic (2 months)
IMT2: Acute Medicine (2 months), Academic (4 months), Neurology (3 months), ICU (3 months)
IMT3: Academic (3 months), Neurology (3 months), Acute Medicine (6 months)

The clinical rotations may be altered to address the Resident Doctor's learning needs, e.g. a Cardiology rotation in preference to Gastroenterology.

Clinical rotations are coordinated by the Clinical Training Programme Directors to address the clinical training needs of the successful applicant. Therefore, an ACF will agree their clinical training needs with the Clinical Training Programme Directors to decide their clinical training attachments.

At the end of the 3-year ACF post, the Academic Clinical Fellow will either move into a PhD post before continuing their clinical training or progress/return directly to the clinical training programme.

This programme is based in hospitals in the North of Health Education England including:

- Nottingham University Hospitals (Queens Medical Centre, City Hospital Campuses, and Kings Mills Hospital)
- University Hospitals of Derby and Burton (Royal Derby Hospital)
- Leicester Royal Infirmary

The Academic Clinical Fellow will gain experience in Neurology, working in both a District General Hospital and the University Hospital and, following satisfactory ARCP assessments, will rotate between posts within the programme. The clinical rotation gives excellent all-round

training with opportunities in many subspecialties within a relatively small geographical area. All the units involved in the rotations are renowned for their excellence in clinical care, teaching and support of their Resident Doctors, as well as for their friendliness.

Extra duty payments will be paid based on the rota associated with each clinical placement. If academic time is taken as block release, clinical out-of-hours duties are not usually undertaken in this time, which would result in cessation of these payments during academic block release.

On completion of the three-year Academic Clinical Fellowship, the post holder will either take up a Clinical Research Fellowship working towards a doctorate (later returning to clinical training) or, alternatively, may continue with full time clinical training to CCT within the clinical rotation.

See: https://www.eastmidlandsdeanery.nhs.uk/medicine/neurology

Mentorship, Appraisal and Assessment

In addition to their research supervisor, the successful candidate will have an academic mentor who will be a senior clinical academic and who will provide support for all aspects of the Academic Clinical Fellowship. In addition, as for all clinical Resident Doctors, educational support for clinical training will be provided by an Educational Supervisor who will provide guidance and support in attaining clinical competencies and in the development of a personal e-portfolio. For each clinical attachment, the Resident Doctor will be allocated a Clinical Supervisor to assist them in attaining their clinical competencies. This will be complimented by the well-established Clinical Training Day Programme.

Completion of clinical training will be contingent on satisfactory appraisal of clinical competencies. Academic Clinical Fellows will undertake regular appraisals and an annual joint academic and clinical and assessment (Joint Clinical Academic ARCP) and competency-based assessments.

Personal Specifications

Applicants for this post should fit the both the academic person specification and the clinical person specification for the level of training. Both the academic and clinical person specifications can be found at https://medical.hee.nhs.uk/medical-training-recruitment/medical-specialty-training/person-specifications

Successful applicants will have **all** of the essential criteria listed in the person specification. Where different essential criteria in academic and clinical person specifications exist, successful applicants will have demonstrated the higher criteria.

Further information can be obtained from:

Academic Programme Director	**Prof Nikos Evangelou**	Nikos.Evangelou@nottingham.ac.uk
Training Programme Director for IMT	**Dr Lindsay Chesterton** **Dr Janson Leung**	Lindsay.chesterton@nhs.net Janson.leung@nhs.net
Training Programme Director in Neurology	**Dr Eizune The**	eizune.the@uhl-tr.nhs.uk
Clinical Academic Training Programme Team	**Harriet Delahoy & Katie Harrison**	ms-iatadmin@nottingham.ac.uk

Enquiries should be addressed to Professor Nikos Evangelou
nikos.evangelou@nottingham.ac.uk

NHS England	**Ms Marcia Reid**	https://nhs-help.freshdesk.com/support/home

The University's Clinical Academic Training Programme Deputy Director Professor David Humes is also available to provide advice, see website: www.nottingham.ac.uk/go/catp

Useful links

NIHR Resident Doctors website: https://www.nihr.ac.uk/explore-nihr/academy-programmes/integrated-academic-training.htm

Life in Nottingham: http://www.nottingham.ac.uk/studywithus/nottinghamlife/index.aspx

About the University of Nottingham and School of Medicine: https://www.nottingham.ac.uk/medicine/documents/school-of-medicine-further-information.pdf

Appendix 1:

Life in Nottingham

Central within the East Midlands, Nottingham is a vibrant and prosperous city with something to offer everyone. It is one of the UK's leading retail centres and has a huge variety of restaurants, bars and nightclubs, which attract people from all over the UK. Culturally, it has good theatres, an arena which attracts both national and international performers and a range of historical interests relating to subjects such as the lace industry, Lord Byron and DH Lawrence. Nottingham is also known for sport, being the home of Trent Bridge Cricket Ground, Nottingham Forest and Notts County Football Clubs, the National Water Sports Centre and the Nottingham Tennis Centre. There is a good network of roads with easy access to the M1 and the A1, a fast frequent rail service to London and other major cities. Nottingham East Midlands Airport is only eighteen miles away.

The city is set within a county of outstanding natural beauty, which includes Sherwood Forest, Wollaton Park, lively market towns and wonderful historic buildings. Housing is relatively inexpensive and, in addition to the two Universities, there are excellent schools and colleges available.

To find out more about Nottingham, use the following links:

Nottingham County Council – Tourism
https://www.visit-nottinghamshire.co.uk/

University of Nottingham
http://www.nottingham.ac.uk

Zoopla (Guide to local properties)
http://www.zoopla.co.uk/

My Nottingham (information on schools, term dates, school transport etc.)
http://www.nottinghamcity.gov.uk/education-and-schools/school-admissions/

Appendix 2: Nottingham University Hospitals NHS Trust (NUH)

Who we are

Nottingham University Hospitals (NUH) became established in 2006 following the merger of Nottingham City Hospital and Queen's Medical Centre (QMC).

We are proud to be part of the community, improving the health and wellbeing of people in Nottingham, Nottinghamshire and beyond.

With more than 19,000 colleagues and 750 volunteers, we are the largest employer in Nottinghamshire and one of the biggest and busiest NHS Trusts in the country. As a specialist centre for a range of national and internationally renowned services, including stroke, renal, neurosciences and cancer services, we care for people from across the East Midlands and beyond.

We deliver district general services to 2.5m residents of Nottingham, Nottinghamshire, and its surrounding communities. Our specialist services allow us to deliver care to 4.5m people from across the East Midlands and nationally for a handful of services.

- QMC is where our Emergency Department (ED), Major Trauma Centre and the Nottingham Children's Hospital are based. It is also home to the University of Nottingham's School of Nursing and Medical School
- Nottingham City Hospital is our planned care site, where our cancer centre, heart centre and stroke services are based, and where some of our emergency admissions units are located.
- Ropewalk House is where we provide a range of outpatient services, including hearing services.

We have a national and international reputation for many of our specialist services, including stroke, renal, neurosciences, cancer services, and trauma.

We are at the forefront of many research programmes and new surgical procedures. In partnership with the University of Nottingham, we host a Biomedical Research Centre carrying out vital research into hearing, digestive diseases, respiratory, musculoskeletal disease, mental health, and imaging.

As a teaching trust we have a strong relationship with our colleagues at the University of Nottingham and other universities across the East Midlands, including Loughborough University, where we are part of the Olympic Legacy project. We play a vital role in the education and training of doctors, nurses, and other healthcare professionals.

We have ambitious plans to improve our hospitals and the services we deliver for our patients. As well as the redevelopment of Nottingham City Hospital and the QMC, we are building a new NHS rehabilitation facility on the Stanford Hall Rehabilitation Estate near Loughborough, National Rehabilitation Centre (NRC) due to open this year.

Our vision and strategic objectives

Our vision for 2026-31 is to be outstanding in health outcomes and patient and staff experience.

Our purpose:

- **Providing high-quality care:** We are here to deliver safe, compassionate, and timely care that improves lives and puts patients first.
- **Educating and developing current and future staff:** We are here to grow and support our people through world-class education, training, and development opportunities.

- **Advancing practice through research, innovation, and quality improvement:** We are here to lead progress by driving research, embracing innovation, and continuously improving the way we care.

How will we get there?

- **Care:** Consistently provide the right care, at the right time, in the right place
- **People:** Deliver an outstanding experience for our people so they can deliver an exceptional experience for our patients
- **Innovation:** Be a centre of excellence where innovation and research shape the future of health and care
- **Resources:** Use our resources wisely and be a streamlined and efficient organisation delivering excellent experience and value

Our values

At NUH, we are committed to creating outstanding care and becoming an employer of choice. To achieve this, our values and behaviours serve as the guiding principles that shape our culture and define who we are. Our four values are:

- Kind – We are compassionate and caring to everyone.
- Inclusive – Everyone is welcome here.
- Ambitious – We continuously improve.
- One Team – We achieve more when we do it together.

Management arrangements in the Nottingham University Hospitals NHS Trust

NUH is managed via a structure of four key care groups:

- Medicine
- Surgery and Associated Services
- Family Health
- Specialist Clinical Services

There are also the Corporate Departments. Each care group is led their respective Clinical Care group leadership teams.

Conditions of service and governance

NUH is committed to the development of Clinical Governance. The approach taken is to develop actions plans at a directorate level. Each member of the medical staff is expected to take an active role in clinical governance activities within their care group, and each care group has a consultant nominated as Clinical Governance lead. The activities include (but are not restricted to) audit, incident reporting, review of complaints, risk management, CPD and Evidence Based Practice.

Professional standards

The Head of Service is managerially responsible for all activity and personnel in their speciality. They are accountable to a Clinical Director. The Medical Director and Responsible Officer Dr Manjeet Shehmar, has overall responsibility for the professional standards of consultants employed by NUH.

All consultants are expected to follow the guidelines on practice laid down by the General Medical Council's "Maintaining Good Medical Practice" and are accountable to the Trust for their actions and for their actions and for the quality of their work. There is annual review of Job Plans and annual Appraisal.

Academic Clinical Fellowships at the University of Nottingham



Enquiries should be addressed to Professor Nikos Evangelou
nikos.evangelou@nottingham.ac.uk