Cambridgeshire and Peterborough
NHS Foundation Trust

UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE

Academic Clinical Fellowship

In

Old Age Psychiatry

(CT1/CT2/CT3/ST4)

One post

Entry: August 2027

Job title	Academic Clinical Fellow in Old Age Psychiatry
Post(s)	ACF-2027-14-012 – Dementia Post 1 – Old Age Psychiatry OR Neurology OR General Practice
NIHR Priority Research Theme	Post **ACF-2027-14-012** has been awarded under the research theme **Dementia**. The appointee will be expected to develop a research programme in that theme area.

These posts will attract an Academic National Training Number – NTN(a)

Duration and Outcome

This post will be appointed at CT1/CT2/CT3/ST4 level and is funded for three years. The principal aim of the ACF scheme is to allow academically gifted clinical trainees the opportunity for 25% protected research training and during that time to formulate and submit an application for an externally funded Research Training Fellowship (RTF) (e.g. Medical Research Council, Wellcome Trust, British Heart Foundation). If candidates are unsuccessful in obtaining funding for an RTF/PhD, they can transfer into non-ACF ST3+ posts and pursue full-time clinical sub-specialty training. It is anticipated that all successful ACFs completing RTFs would be in a strong position to compete for Clinical Lecturer posts following award of their higher research degree, as per the Integrated Academic Training programme.

NHS Organisation(s) in which training will take place

Eastern Region Psychiatry Core Training Rotation, Cambridgeshire & Peterborough NHS Foundation Trust.

Research Institution(s) in which training will take place

University of Cambridge, Cambridgeshire & Peterborough NHS Foundation Trust and Cambridge University Hospital NHS Foundation Trust.

Day release or block release for protected research time?

It is anticipated that the successful applicant will be available for research on a block basis (e.g. 3-9 months durations) comprising 25% WTE over three years. This will be subject to negotiation.

Description of the Research Component

The academic training will be overseen by the Prof Graham Murray who is the clinical academic psychiatry training director at the University of Cambridge, together with the ACF trainee's

selected research Mentor/supervisor in the appropriate interest field. The objectives of academic training will be i) to complete a module of didactic research training focused on generic research skills (e.g. research governance and ethics, data protection, statistical methods, experimental design); and ii) within an individual, trainee-centred programme, to formulate an original research protocol, undertake a feasibility study / generate pilot data, analyse experimental data, and , for most trainees, write a research report to publication standard as part of the process of developing a training fellowship application. To support this, the post-holder will receive 25% protected research training time during their time as an ACF. Fellows will be supported to select a mentor or supervisor from an approved list of senior academics and this supervisor will provide one-to-one tutorial style support for the Fellow's preparation of a Research Training Fellowship application.

Fellows will be able to meet all key members of the Department and gain an overview of the research structure of the department and available research areas. They will decide upon a project and research supervisor appropriate to their career goal, areas of interest and abilities. In the case of this post, the research project will be in a field with direct relevance to dementia. The programme will then focus on the Fellow's emerging research interests and academic career plans with the development of a Training Fellowship application. These objectives are intended to give Fellows a basic grounding in research methodology and an opportunity to develop a study, including completing pilot work, in an area of personal scientific interest, supporting the development of a strong Research Training Fellowship application.

Didactic training in generic research skills will be delivered through the Department and University educational programmes, including the Graduate School of Biological, Medical and Veterinary Sciences, which include numerous courses in generic research skills. Fellows will also be able to access more specific research training and/or project support through the NIHR Biomedical Research Centre and the MRC Cognition and Brain Sciences Unit. Clinical research studies are well supported by access to the Windsor Research Unit within CPFT Trust, the Herchel-Smith Building Clinical Research Suite, the Wellcome Trust Clinical Research Facility and the Wolfson Brain Imaging Centre.

Fellows will also be encouraged to participate appropriately in a range of programmed educational activities run by the University, Medical School and Department including weekly postgraduate lectures organised by clinical and academic psychiatry departments, weekly journal clubs and clinical case presentations, Fellows will select which programmes to attend at the various stages of their training after consultation with their supervisors.

Mentoring

Each Fellow will be mentored by the Head of Department (HoD) or their nominee in their first year of Fellowship. By the end of this time the Fellow, with the HoD, will have identified a research

supervisor with whom they will then carry out development and feasibility work and prepare a Research Training Fellowship application.

Milestones

Months 1-12: The main aims of this period will be a) to acquire substantial clinical experience in core and appropriate subspecialty post; b) during any protected academic time, to acquire generic, transferable research skills through a didactic course of training on research methodology and to explore possible research interests in depth with potential supervisors; c) to have been supported to have identified, by the end of the first year, the most appropriate research mentor. Months 12-24: During this period the Fellow will spend the majority of their research time in the research group of the research mentor preparing a training fellowship proposal for a funding body. This will include: i) generation of pilot data/undertaking of feasibility study ii) acquisition of more focused training around the chosen project iii) writing of the fellowship proposal with the mentor. Months 24-30: Fellows will use this period to gain further clinical training while finalising their application / awaiting the results of the fellowship application.

Monitoring

This will be conducted in joint academic and clinical appraisals by the Head of Department (or nominee), the Academic Training Programme Director and the Trainee's Educational Supervisor. In addition, there will be at least fortnightly meetings with the research mentor once identified.

The Cambridge Psychiatry ACF programme

This has been a highly successful component of our submission in the Research Assessment Exercises undertaken in 1996, 2001, 2008, 2014 and 2021, gaining top or near top rankings in all of them. In the most recent of these Cambridge's research in Psychiatry, Neurosciences and Clinical Psychology (Unit of Assessment (UoA) 9) was given the third highest ratings amongst its peers in the UK.

The Department of Psychiatry in Cambridge is responsible for the development, delivery and examination of Psychiatry in the Clinical School and is particularly well placed to train academic psychiatrists in research and teaching that can support the critically important goals of enhancing the practice and application of both type 1 (bench to bed-side) and type 2 (bed-side to health-service) translational research. We have strong links with both NHS and academic structures. The establishment of Cambridge University Health Partners (CUHP; the academic health sciences centre for Cambridge) and recent changes in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Foundation Trust (a Mental Health and Community Trust) will further consolidate close collaboration between the NHS and the University Department of Psychiatry.

The Department has international expertise in several fields of psychiatry. Dementia research is led by Professor John O'Brien, with Assistant Professors Dr Ben Underwood and Dr Leo Chouliaras

also leading dementia research groups. The Head of Department is Professor Tamsin Ford who is a widely respected expert in the field Child and Adolescent Psychiatry. There is considerable expertise in a variety of research techniques, including electronic health record research, immunopsychiatry, genomics,neuroscience, trials, epidemiology, pharmacology and health services research.

The Old Age Psychiatry Section is an integral part of the Department of Psychiatry and is led by Professor John O'Brien who is also the NIHR National Specialty Lead for Dementia. Associate Professor consultant Ben Underwood leads a dementia research group and directs R&D at CPFT. Assistant Professor Shahid Zaman studies dementia in the context of Down Syndrome.

The Section undertakes a variety of research studies investigating imaging biomarkers in cohorts of people with dementia and at risk groups including the use of 3T and 7T multi-modal MRI, various ligand PET studies and studies of CSF and blood biomarkers. Major new awards in dementia include a grant from MRC supporting Neuroimmunology Experimental Medicine studies within Cambridge as part of the Dementias Platform and the Centre for Parkinson's Plus. There is also a strong Dementia and Neurodegeneration theme within the NIHR Cambridge Biomedical Research Centre and very close links with a variety of NIHR portfolio studies within the Clinical Research Network. The Department has interests in all main types of dementia, but a particular area of expertise is in Lewy body and associated dementias. There are also a number of studies in "at risk" groups, including in those with prodromal dementia and in asymptomatic at-risk subjects with the national PREVENT-Dementia study.

There are excellent active collaborations locally with investigators in other departments within the Clinical Medical School including Clinical Neurosciences, the MRC Cognition and Brain Sciences Unit and the Wolfson Brain Imaging Centre. There are also close links with other University departments including the Departments of Experimental Psychology, Mathematics and Engineering. We have close external collaborations with other UK dementia sites both nationally through the CRN network and internationally through the European DLB consortium, the Vas-Cog Society and the International DLB Consortium.

We also undertake randomised controlled trials in dementia funded by commercial and non-commercial partners, most in close association with the Windsor Research Unit within Cambridgeshire and Peterborough NHS Trust. There are also mental health and dementia contributions to applied health research via the NIHR East of England Applied Research Centre (ARC) with a particular emphasis on frailty and end of life care. There are a number of postgraduate research associates and doctoral students in the Department working on dementia and mental health research.

Description of the Clinical Training Component

As well as an academic mentor, each Fellow will have an educational supervisor who will be a Consultant Psychiatrist with experience in postgraduate clinical training in Core psychiatry.

Cambridge offers excellent and broadly based clinical training placements within the countywide CPFT Trust. CPFT is a leading site nationally for the integration of physical and mental health care. Trainees will be able to experience working in services and systems that are truly multidisciplinary, provide holistic care, work across the life span and provided in primary, secondary and tertiary care setting.

In addition to training in Adult, Old Age and Developmental Psychiatry providing an excellent foundation, there are opportunities to gain experience in specialist settings. Speciality posts include Forensic Psychiatry, Learning Disabilities, Liaison Psychiatry, Substance Misuse, Eating Disorders, Personality Disorder Services and Early Intervention for Psychosis. The scheme is highly regarded for its access to evidence-based psychological therapy training and medical leadership programmes.

Trainees will have access to training in cutting-edge services working alongside leading clinical academics. Some examples are listed below;

- Cambridge has a number of innovative services for people suffering from psychotic illnesses. CAMEO an internationally renowned, research-active and award-winning Early Intervention service for psychosis, Treatment Resistant Schizophrenia Service and the Psychoneuroimmunology Clinic
- CPFT provides a range of specialist in-patient services (Eating Disorders, Borderline Personality Disorder)
- The Cambridge Centre for Paediatric Neuropsychological Rehabilitation (CCPNR) provides care and treatment for children with acquired brain injury closely aligned with neuro rehabilitation services.
- CUH hosts a multidisciplinary memory clinic with neurology, psychiatry and psychology input and an award-winning older people's liaison psychiatry service.

Old Age Psychiatry

CPFT Trust provides innovative integrated community and mental health care and offers a variety of clinical placements with excellent supervision providing rich clinical experience in in-patient, outpatient and community work as well as liaison old age psychiatry, with experience in both generalist and specialist (e.g. Memory Clinic) settings. The Trust has an excellent teaching programme with weekly case conferences and academic lectures. We have a strong reciprocal training relationship with Medicine for the Elderly and Neurology. Trainees have the opportunity

to gain clinical experience in these specialties and are very welcome to attend their local teaching programmes. Old Age Psychiatry is part of a multidisciplinary memory clinic with CUHT alongside neurology and psychology.

Further Information and Contacts

Clinical Academic Training Office (CATO) at the University of Cambridge

CATO Director	Professor Alasdair Coles Email: ajc1020@medschl.cam.ac.uk
ACF Programme Director	Dr Virginia Newcombe Email: vfjn2@cam.ac.uk
Academic Training Lead	Prof Graham Murray Email: gm285@cam.ac.uk
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NHS England East of England	2-4 Victoria House, Capital Park, Fulbourn, Cambridge, CB21 5XB Email: england.recruitment.eoe@nhs.net
NIHR	http://www.nihr.ac.uk/IAT