

Job Description for NIHR Academic Clinical Fellowship in Paediatrics (Prevention and Public Health research theme) ST1-4

1. Job Title.

NIHR Academic Clinical Fellow (ACF) – Paediatrics (Prevention and Public Health research theme), ST1-4

Successful candidates will be expected to be able to demonstrate their commitment and potential for a clinical academic career, and alignment of their research interests with research strengths at LSHTM.

2. Duration of post.

The ACF post is for the equivalent of three years whole time equivalent (WTE), or until transfer to a research fellowship, whichever comes first. Thereafter, trainees will continue with Paediatric training.

3. Research institutions in which training will take place

The post-holder will be affiliated with the relevant Institute(s) of City St George's, University of London (CSGUL), and St George's University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust (SGH) and, as for all ACF positions, will be employed by the NHS Trust providing training in each part of the programme.

4. Timetabling of clinical and research time

The post starts at ST1 – ST4 level of Paediatric training

The ACF training time is divided between:

- 25% of the time is in academic training (ie equivalent to 9 months full-time)
- 75% of the time is in clinical paediatric training

There is flexibility to organise the clinical component to suit the specific training needs of the successful applicant which is coordinated by the clinical academic training programme director. The appointee will have on-call clinical commitments which will vary depending upon the varying shift systems and training/service requirements. The exact division of research time will be guided by the proposed research project however, typically, these posts are divided into a 6-month research block and a 3-month research block which can be taken together or as two separate blocks. Academic training time must be agreed, prior to the commencement of training, with the training programme director as well as the academic supervisor. Academic blocks are undertaken in ST2+. This research period will be used to obtain specific experience and knowledge in the prevention and public health research area of interest, obtain pilot data and apply for an external doctoral research fellowship (see below).

5. Description of research component of programme

It is our objective to exploit the unique combination of clinical and research excellence at SGH and CSGUL to train academic leaders in Paediatrics with a focus on prevention and public health, capable of developing further centres of excellence. The Academic Clinical Fellows (ACF) programme will combine paediatric training with formal academic studies at SGH/CSGUL. Trainees will gain clinical competence comparable with their non-academic peers whilst developing a competitive academic edge that will increase their chances of success in higher training fellowship applications. These are key elements in the pathway to long-term academic success.

The Centre for Neonatal and Paediatric Infection (CNPI) at CSGUL is an internationally recognised centre leading global paediatric infectious diseases research, with a substantial portfolio in disease prevention and child public health. This includes the epidemiology, prevention and treatment of vaccine-preventable diseases (Professor Paul Heath and Professor Shamez Ladhani), global antibiotic resistance, stewardship and

prescribing (Professor Julia Bielicki, Dr Louise Hill, Dr Aislinn Cook), global neonatal and maternal health and vaccination and vaccination policy (Professor Kirsty Le Doare and Dr Kostas Karampatsas), global maternal and infant infection and immunity, including vaccine immunology, communication and equity (Dr Anja Saso), congenital infections, health inequalities and migrant health (Dr Nuria Sanchez Clemente), infant feeding, the gut microbiome and antimicrobial resistance (Dr Rosie Crane), neonatal infections and neurodevelopmental impact (Dr Eva Loucaides), cell-mediated immunity and placental immunobiology (Dr Marie O'Brien).

The aim of this themed ACF programme is to enable trainees to prepare for and secure a clinical research training fellowship in prevention and public health. This will be achieved by focusing on the core skills required for applied health, epidemiological and laboratory research relevant to prevention, and by linking to one of the research groups within the Institute for Infection and Immunity, according to the research interest of the successful candidate. ACFs will have the opportunity to contribute to and complete research projects prior to their fellowship application, which should result both in presentations at national and international meetings and publications in peer-reviewed journals.

The ACF would be able to develop a prevention and public health research interest in one or more of the research active clinical areas within CSGUL. These include but are not limited to the following:

- Paediatric Infectious Diseases and Immunology
- Neonatology
- Microbiology
- Paediatric Intensive care

The ACF will be allocated an academic supervisor in keeping with their area of research interest, together with an academic mentor. Supervision will be provided by members of the CNPI and the Institute for Infection and Immunity, and available supervisors include Dr Eva Loucaides, Dr Anja Saso, Professor Kirsty Le Doare, Dr Nuria Sanchez Clemente, Dr Kostas Karampatsas, Dr Marie O'Brien, Dr Louise Hill, and Dr Rosie Crane. The supervisor will help the ACF formulate a programme for their research time and develop a suitable prevention or public health project for a fellowship application. The ACF could spend time in any of the above research areas.

Trainees will participate in specialist clinical work, which will allow them to complete RCPCH competencies and develop skills that will support their academic research.

There will be research training on the design of research studies, including epidemiology and statistics, writing of ethics applications, writing of grants and writing of original research papers and review articles. Most of this training will be from senior colleagues. Academic progress will be further monitored by utilising well established mechanisms, under the Research groups' and BRC's Postgraduate Co-ordinators, who will ensure that all targets are met and that the trainees receive appropriate educational experiences.

The ACF will meet regularly with their academic supervisor for support in planning, carrying out and writing up research, and preparing funding applications, as well as to identify career development needs and training opportunities. Institutional support for ACFs includes an active weekly programme of divisional research meetings featuring internal and external speakers, and regular research theme and institutional research days.

Research-focused academics will be encouraged to contribute to teaching to ensure these academic skills are not neglected.

6. Description of clinical training component of programme

The Paediatric ACF will undertake training in the London School of Paediatrics (LSP).

ACFs will undertake the same clinical programme as other Paediatric trainees. Progression is competency-based, which means that ACFs are expected to incorporate the academic blocks without falling behind their non-ACF peers in clinical progression. The paediatric curriculum (Progress + <https://www.rcpch.ac.uk/education-careers/training-assessment/progressplus>) developed by the Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health (RCPCH) consists of 11 curriculum domains, such as procedures, communication, leadership and team working. There is a learning outcome for each domain, with learning objectives defined for the core and specialty stages of paediatric training. These define the standard the trainee must meet to progress satisfactorily. It captures the skills, knowledge and behaviours required, including the General Medical Council's (GMC) Generic Professional Capabilities for all doctors in training. The standards of assessment at each level of training are all mapped to Good Medical Practice. The RCPCH Trainee toolkit is written for trainees by trainees and covers the essential elements on what to expect from a training post. Less than fulltime training guidance can be found [here](#).

The purpose of the assessment system is to reassure the individual, the profession and the public as well as employers and regulatory bodies that a trainee is fit to practice. Workplace based assessments (also known as supervised learning events) will be used at regular intervals throughout training. Attainment of the MRCPCH theory exam will be mandatory for progression beyond ST3, with attainment of full MRCPCH (passing the clinical exam) by the end of ST4. Individual trainee e-portfolios and trainer reports must also be provided. RCPCH requires all new specialty registrars (StRs) to register as junior members of the RCPCH in order to access the new GMC approved Assessment System for Paediatric Training, which is mandatory for progression through training, and to be able to use the e-portfolio.

There are 30 training sites in London, divided into 3 sectors – NW, NE and Central, South. For LSHTM ACFs their Level 1 training will be based in the South London sector. More information in training in London can be found on the [LSP website](#):

Please note – these posts offer only general paediatric training and do not guarantee progression into specialty training. This is particularly relevant for those wishing to train in areas such as Paediatric Cardiology or Genetics – candidates still have to compete for these places, because the ACF offers academic rather than clinical training in these specialties.

ACF applicants need to either hold a National Training Number in paediatrics, or if they do not currently hold an NTN to successfully complete benchmarking.

7. Academic Programme Director name

Professor Kirsty Le Doare, Professor of Vaccinology and Immunology, Centre for Neonatal and Paediatric Infection, City St George's, University of London; kiledoar@sgul.ac.uk

Professor Nidhi Sofat, Integrated Academic Programme Lead for St George's, University of London (nsifat@sgul.ac.uk)

8. Clinical Programme Director name

Professor Cally Tann, Academic TPD, Cally.Tann@lshtm.ac.uk

Professor Chris Gale, Academic TPD, christopher.gale@imperial.ac.uk

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

Professor Kirsty Le Doare, Professor of Vaccinology and Immunology, Centre for Neonatal and Paediatric Infection, City St George's, University of London; kiledoar@sgul.ac.uk

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>

<https://londonpaediatrics.co.uk>

<https://www.rcpch.ac.uk>

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

Yes

This job description was prepared on 13 August 2026