ACF Plastic Surgery Programme Details in conjunction with The University of Manchester

Overview

You can find generic information about Academic Clinical Fellowships in the North West plus links to the National Institute for Health Research's guidance via https://www.nwpgmd.nhs.uk/nihr-academic-clinical-fellowships-glance

Academic Plastic Surgery in Manchester is nationally leading with a strong clinical-academic consultant body undertaking clinical and laboratory-based research. There are opportunities for research in all fields of soft tissue reconstruction.

Academic Training

ACFs will undertake a clinical or laboratory-based research project to produce data towards a compelling PhD proposal. All projects will offer interdisciplinary training (utilising cutting edge new technologies) spanning from engineering to cell-matrix biology. PhD projects are co-supervised by scientists and clinicians (from an interdisciplinary pool of >50 internationally leading researchers) in clinical fields aligned with Plastic Surgery: wound healing/burns, musculoskeletal tissue regeneration, regulation of inflammation and fibrosis, nerve injury/repair, tendon repair, vascular repair, 3D bioprinting, vascular tissue engineering, and tissue transplantation. With this approach, the research component will be tailored to specific academic/clinical interests of ACFs with world-class scientific supervision.

Research Areas / Research Environment

Our clinical research is undertaken at the regional clinical unit in Wythenshawe Hospital, Manchester University NHS Foundation Trust where there are current clinical trials on peripheral nerve and tendon injuries, complex wounds, trauma, rehabilitation and burns. These are funded by the NIHR, allied charities or industrial links.

Our laboratory-based research is undertaken at the Blond McIndoe Laboratories at the University of Manchester examining new approaches to soft tissue reconstruction including cell-based therapies incorporating stem/progenitor cells and tissue-engineering with novel materials developed alongside collaborators

based in the national facility of the Royce Institute at the University of Manchester. We are integrated with the Division of Cell Matrix Biology and Regenerative Medicine which contains >30 leading academics and clinicians undertaking pioneering fundamental science and translational research in a world-class environment, supported by a collaborative and interdisciplinary culture, and excellence in training.

Research Facilities

The Blond McIndoe Research Laboratories employs scientists and surgeons side-by-side allowing this combination of clinical-academic training to explore the various scientific and clinical problems with complementary skill sets. Research facilities in the labs include *in vitro* cell culture, molecular biology, histology and bioimaging. Our Biological Services Facility support cutting edge *in vivo* experimentation with fully equipped surgical suites. There is access to the world class FBMH/University of Manchester core facilities (Bioimaging, Bioinformatics, DNA sequencing, Genomic Technologies, Histology, Protein Expression and Transgenic Technologies) alongside provision of training in specific techniques or methodologies. More widely, our collaborations with Materials experts at the Royce Institute provides access to state-of-the-art equipment and industrial links to drive projects to translation.

Clinical Training

NHS England, North West (East sector) plastic surgery training programme provides experience within major teaching hospitals in Manchester (Wythenshawe Hospital, Manchester University NHS Foundation Trust, The Christie Hospital and Royal Manchester Children's Hospital) and Lancashire (The Royal Preston Hospital and Chorley & South Ribble Hospital). Rotations through these units enables trainees to gain excellent experience of all core areas of plastic surgery as well as complex reconstruction.

Our teaching hospitals offer major trauma (Manchester Royal Infirmary and the Royal Preston Hospital) and major burn care (Wythenshawe Hospital and The Royal Manchester Children's Hospital). Wythenshawe Hospital specialises in hand and wrist surgery, breast and other major reconstructions, skin oncology, complex lower limb, and major nerve surgery. The Christie Hospital is a world-renowned cancer centre and offers the full practice of oncological services including skin oncology, sarcoma, breast reconstruction, facial reconstructive plastic surgery and holds a regional pelvic service. The Royal Manchester Children's Hospital delivers the regional cleft lip and palate as well as general paediatric plastic surgery. Royal Preston Hospital is a large district general

hospital which offers a broad general plastic surgery experience, and specialised services in head and neck cancer, skin oncology (including Moh's surgery), breast reconstruction, hand surgery, perineal reconstruction, and paediatric plastic surgery (including hypospadias surgery).

The programme is focussed in providing high quality training in all areas of plastic surgery. There are further opportunities for training within the North West Deanery (West sector eg. Liverpool Craniofacial) and unique to many training programmes is an integrated aesthetics rotation.

Our trainees are also supported to participate in the BAPRAS / SAC / PLASTA National Teaching Programme.]

You can find out more about the clinical training programmes in the North West via the following link - https://www.nwpgmd.nhs.uk/specialty_schools

Clinical person specifications can be found via the following link - https://medical.hee.nhs.uk/medical-training-recruitment/medical-specialty-training/person-specifications/person-specifications-2026

Useful Links

https://www.oriel.nhs.uk/Web/Vacancies
https://www.nwpgmd.nhs.uk/nihr-academic-clinical-fellowships-glance
https://medical.hee.nhs.uk/medical-training-recruitment/medical-specialty-training/person-specifications/person-specifications-2026
https://www.nwpgmd.nhs.uk/specialty_schools
https://research.manchester.ac.uk/en/organisations/division-of-cell-matrix-biology-regenerative-medicine
https://www.royce.ac.uk/research-areas/biomedical-materials

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