

Job Description
NIHR Academic Clinical Fellow in Clinical Therapeutics & Pharmacology & Industry:
Medical Microbiology and Infectious Diseases (MM or MM/ID) or Respiratory Medicine
University of Bristol

1. Job title & entry level(s):

Academic Clinical Fellow

Medical Microbiology (MM or MM/ID): ST3

Respiratory Medicine: IMT1, IMT2, IMT3, ST4

Please note that there is also potential for an additional Locally Funded ACF post in Respiratory Medicine to be awarded as part of this advert.

2. Duration of post:

3 years (FTE)

Candidates working Less Than Full Time (LTFT) or would like should notify the relevant Local Office/Deanery at point of offer of your intention to work LTFT and this will be considered against the national eligibility criteria.

3. Hospitals in which training will take place:

This training post is based in Severn Deanery. Rotations have not been confirmed at this stage.

For MM/ID, training will be based entirely at Bristol NHS Foundation Trust (formed in July 2026 from the merger of North Bristol NHS Trust and University Hospitals Bristol and Weston NHS Foundation Trust), at Southmead Hospital and the Bristol Royal Infirmary.

For respiratory, the training post is based in Severn Deanery. Rotations have not been confirmed at this stage. Should you wish to explore this in more detail, please get in touch with the Training Programme Director.

4. Research institutions in which training will take place:

University of Bristol - <https://www.bristol.ac.uk/medical-school/study/clinical/>

Recent trainees in ID/MM have undertaken research placements across wide areas of Bristol Medical School including Cellular and Molecular Medicine, the Academic Respiratory Unit, and the MRC Integrative Epidemiology Unit.

Trainees in Respiratory Medicine have been based within the Academic Respiratory Unit (ARU) at Southmead Hospital.

<https://www.bristol.ac.uk/translational-health-sciences/research/respiratory/>

@bristolARU on Twitter

5. Timetabling of clinical and research time:

75% clinical 25% research in a flexible way during the working week or months in accordance with pre-agreed arrangements between the clinical and academic supervisors. In practice the

first year is usually largely clinical, establishing a foundation in the specialty, with the aim of sitting the Combined Infection Certificate Examination (CICE)/FRCPath Part 1 during the second year. A dedicated block of research time is then typically taken, although this is flexible according to the needs of the project and the trainee, and research time may instead be spread across the working week.

For the Respiratory post is divided with 75% clinical time and 25% research time. This is managed flexibly (e.g. 1.25 days per week vs 1 week per month vs 3 month block per year) in accordance with pre-agreed arrangements between the clinical and academic supervisors.

6. Description of research component of programme

Medical Microbiology:

A wide range of research opportunities in clinical therapeutics in medical microbiology and broader infection are available. These range from in-vitro modelling of antibiotics and bacteriophages in dynamic and static systems, to pharmacokinetic modelling of antimicrobials in vivo (e.g. population pharmacokinetics), and testing of novel antimicrobial compounds. These can be performed in the world leading Southmead Antimicrobial Reference Laboratory. Outside of laboratory microbiology, a wide number of clinical trials are ongoing in Bristol across infection and a number of add on studies can be considered for ACF programmes. Finally, across the wider University, there is great interest in using modern methods like genetics, proteomics, and other omics techniques to help with drug development in infection. These are likely to take advantage of the high performance computing cluster at Bristol e.g. Isambard-AI.

Respiratory:

The Academic Clinical Fellowship (ACF) in Respiratory Medicine (Clinical Therapeutics, Pharmacology & Industry) offers an outstanding research environment focused on improving outcomes for patients with lower respiratory tract infection and pleural disease. The research will take place within the Academic Respiratory Unit (ARU), a globally recognised center for observational and interventional clinical trials in infection and pleural medicine.

The candidate will have access to data from flagship ARU projects, including the ASPECT trial (the largest randomized controlled trial of pneumonia ever performed) and AVONCap, (a prospective cohort of >40,000 patients with respiratory infection). These platforms offer rich opportunities for secondary analysis, biomarker discovery, and hypothesis testing of novel therapeutic agents. The ARU has established links with pharmaceutical and biotech partners developing immunomodulatory therapeutics. Close collaboration with the Antimicrobial Reference Laboratory provides the ability to assess drug pharmacokinetics (PK/PD) using established in vivo and dynamic models for pneumonia and pleural infection. This combined with wider University of Bristol strengths in multi-omics (genomics, proteomics, metabolomics) and drug target validation will give the ACF the opportunity to develop a research portfolio aligned with their clinical interest with the goal of securing a competitive doctoral research fellowship (e.g., NIHR, MRC, or Wellcome Trust).

Both posts will be supported by the University of Bristol Infection and Immunity Research Network (<https://www.bristol.ac.uk/infection-immunity/>), which spans the University and the NHS trusts in Bristol. ACFs are encouraged to spend the early part of the fellowship meeting research groups across the network before selecting a project with their academic supervisor, ideally one that can form the foundation of a doctoral fellowship application. The trainee will have a clinical and an academic supervisor throughout, will be supported and guided in applying for PhD funding, and will have access to the training courses and research infrastructure of the University and local NIHR infrastructure, as well as the other benefits of holding a University contract, including IT and library services.

7. Description of clinical training component of programme

Medical Microbiology (MM or MM/ID)

This post is for Medical Microbiology (MM) or combined Infectious Diseases and Medical Microbiology (MM/ID); it is not an Infectious Diseases with General Internal Medicine (ID/GIM) post. Infection training in Severn is an integrated programme delivered jointly by the Department of Infectious Diseases at Southmead Hospital and Severn Infection Sciences (Microbiology), whose laboratories are on the Southmead site and which provides clinical microbiology services across the hospitals of Bristol and Weston. Both are part of Bristol NHS Foundation Trust. Most infection trainees in the region dual accredit in ID and Medical Microbiology, and placements are shared across the ID ward, clinics, consult services and the laboratory. The ACF will join the microbiology on-call rota rather than the acute medical take.

Trainees entering at ST3 undertake Combined Infection Training (CIT) over the first two years, with one year predominantly based in Infectious Diseases and one year attached to the microbiology laboratory and clinical microbiology service, before progressing to higher specialty training in MM or MM/ID. The ACF should aim to complete the Combined Infection Certificate Examination (CICE)/FRCPath Part 1 by the end of the second year.

Infectious Diseases, Southmead Hospital – there is a 38-bedded ward with 6 respiratory isolation rooms suitable for high consequence infectious disease and MDR-TB. Two ID firms run the ward, which looks after complex infection and general medical patients admitted through the take, with occasional transfers from regional hospitals. The site is the regional MDR-TB centre and the regional provider of HIV inpatient care. Clinic opportunities include general ID including travel medicine, HIV, TB and NTM infection. Trainees spend at least 6 months on the ward during CIT, with a minimum of a further 12 months over the remainder of training. There is an active same-day emergency review service (e.g. returning travellers with fever) and a consult team working widely across the hospital and providing liaison to the acute medical unit.

Severn Infection Sciences (Microbiology), Southmead Hospital – a collaboration between Bristol NHS Foundation Trust and the UK Health Security Agency, providing the diagnostic laboratory service for the hospitals of Bristol, Bath and Weston. Southmead-based infection clinicians provide consult services and advice on the management of patients with infection seen by the Trust and its referring GP practices. There is an induction period covering basic clinical and laboratory microbiology, and trainees are supported by a named consultant when on clinical service. Specialties at Southmead include neurosurgery, urology, vascular surgery, plastics, breast, burns, renal transplantation, OPAT, complex orthopaedics, spinal surgery and major trauma. The site also hosts the Antimicrobial Reference Laboratory, closely linked to the research component of this post.

Microbiology, Bristol Royal Infirmary – trainees work with UKHSA and Trust consultants delivering advice, bedside consults, OPAT services and clinics. Specialties include complex upper GI surgery, haematology and oncology, paediatrics, ENT and cardiothoracic surgery. Clinic opportunities include TB, hepatitis and general ID.

There is an active regional teaching programme covering analytical methods and clinical topics, consisting of half-day sessions every 2–4 weeks. Further details of the Severn infection training programme are available at <https://medicine.severn deanery.nhs.uk/about-us/higher-specialty-training/infectious-diseases/>

Respiratory

Clinical training will take place in the Brunel Building at Southmead Hospital. This state-of-the art facility was opened in May 2014 and provides a fantastic environment for patients and staff, forming part of the largest hospital Trust in the Southwest. For ACFs appointed to start at IMT1, 2 and 3, clinical training will be negotiated with the Internal Medicine Training (IMT) Programme Director. ACFs starting at IMT1, 2 or 3 will gain a broad range of experience as part of the IMT rotation which aims to take trainees who have completed the Foundation Programme through to

completion of their training in acute medicine and the medical specialties as outlined in the IMT curriculum. Trainees must meet usual eligibility criteria for IMT 1/2/3. They should also pass MRCP PACES by the end of the IMT3 year. Where possible the rotation will be tailored to the needs of the trainee. During the 3 year ACF, the fellow will have 25% academic time. Trainees starting at IMT2 or 3 will get run-through training into IMT4 In the South-West .

The successful candidate will be part of the South-West regional training programme in respiratory medicine (Severn and Peninsula Deaneries). The post will be based at North Bristol NHS Trust in the state of the art Brunel building Southmead hospital, the largest in the Southwest. Training in EBUS, bronchoscopy, pleural procedures and thoracoscopy is available. Access to specialist clinics (interstitial lung disease, difficult asthma, lung cancer, lung infection, pleural disease) and regional MDT meetings (interstitial lung disease, mesothelioma, complex airways, lung cancer screening) is available and encouraged during the rotation. The regional lung cancer screening/ Targeted Lung Health Check service is led by the Bristol team. There are currently four full-time clinical Specialist Registrar training posts in Bristol, one IMT3, two NIHR Clinical Lecturers and two ACFs. There are also registrar grade Trust clinical fellows.

In the event that the appointee does not secure a research training fellowship, then at the end of the post, the trainee will return to the standard training route, completing their clinical training as part of the South West regional training programme in respiratory medicine

8. Academic Supervisor / Academic Programme Director: Integrated Academic Training Lead(s):

- Professor Shelley Potter (shelley.potter@bristol.ac.uk)
- Dr Helen Winter (helen.winter@uhbw.nhs.uk)

Academic Lead:

- Medical Microbiology (MM or MM/ID): Dr Fergus Hamilton (fh6520@bristol.ac.uk)
- Respiratory: Dr David Arnold (dt.arnold@bristol.ac.uk)

9. Clinical Training Programme Director:

- <mailto:Ed.Moran@nbt.nhs.uk> Medical Microbiology (MM or MM/ID):
 - <mailto:tmehta@nhs.net> Higher: Dr Elizabeth Darley and Dr Jason Biswas (elizabeth.darley@nbt.nhs.uk; Jason.biswas@nbt.nhs.uk)
- Respiratory Medicine:
 - Core: Dr Abiramy Jeyabalan and Dr Tina Mehta (Abiramy.jeyabalan@nbt.nhs.uk; tmehta@nhs.net)
 - Higher: Dr David Waine and Dr Sarah Foster (david.waine@nhs.net; Sarah.Foster@SomersetFT.nhs.uk)

10. Deanery contact for further information:

Recruitment Hotline: 01454 252 610

Recruitment Inbox: England.acfreruitment.sw@nhs.net

11. Useful websites for further information:

NIHR Integrated Academic Training Website: <http://www.nihr.ac.uk/IAT>

BMA Junior Doctor Pay Scales (link to latest pay Circular): <https://www.bma.org.uk/pay-and-contracts/pay/junior-doctors-pay-scales/pay-scales-for-junior-doctors-in-england>

University Clinical Academic Training website: <https://www.bristol.ac.uk/medical-school/study/clinical/>

This job description was prepared September 2026

