ACF Geriatric Medicine Programme Details in conjunction with University of Manchester

Post availability

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

The University of Manchester is a leading UK centre for ageing research, spanning medicine, social science, and data science. Key areas include healthy ageing, frailty and multi-morbidities, brain health and dementia (with a new Brain Health Centre), digital health technologies, and reducing health inequalities. Groups such as the Healthy Ageing Research Group (HARG) and the NIHR Greater Manchester Applied Research Collaboration link academics with the NHS, charities, and industry to improve care and influence national policy. Researchers use advanced imaging, genomics, and big-data analytics to translate discoveries into better outcomes for older people.

There is a clear demographic imperative to focus on the health of older people, given the ageing population. This priority is reflected in policy agendas of key academic funders and in health service design. Research benefiting older people demands interdisciplinary collaboration, the candidate will be well-placed to foster these links through divisional affiliations within the University of Manchester.

Academic Training

ACF trainees will devote 25% of their time to research while completing clinical training and achieving specialty competencies. Research time is typically organised as 2 months in the first year and 4 months in the second year. Four two-week taster sessions will be offered early in the first placement to help trainees sample different research areas before selecting a focus. Training opportunities span a broad spectrum of methods, topics and settings including:

- **Qualitative & Sociological Approaches** – qualitative methods, critical sociological approaches to age and ageing, healthcare delivery and planning, care planning (including advance care planning and goal-oriented care), quality improvement, health inequalities, healthcare access, and remote monitoring pathways using health technologies.
- **Clinical & Medical Research** – major trauma in older adults, frailty, palliative and end-of-life care, microvascular disease, hypertension, brain health (delirium, dementia, the upcoming Brain Health Centre), heart failure, peri-operative care, and multi-morbidity.

- **Data Science & Analytics** – health data science, clinical risk prediction modelling, cost-effectiveness analysis.
- **Technology & Innovation** – motion detection and sensors, falls and falls risk, implanted cardiac devices, wearable and implanted technologies for heart failure remote monitoring.
- **Rare Diseases & Other Ageing Research** – inherited metabolic diseases, healthy ageing.

Trainees will benefit from established long-term industry collaborations and charities.

Patient and Public Involvement and Engagement (PPIE) is a key component of training. Trainees will gain valuable experience in co-production methods, stakeholder engagement, and integrating lived experiences into research design, supported by collaborations with community partners such as the Greater Manchester Older People's Network, BRAG (VOCAL), and Dementia United.

The aim of the ACF programme is to prepare and support candidates to secure a competitive clinical fellowship, leading to presentations at national and international meetings and publications in peer-reviewed journals.

Research Areas / Research Environment

Trainees will be supported by experienced clinical academics with an outstanding track record in ageing and frailty research. Key areas of expertise include dementia and delirium, microvascular science, digital health, and population-based ageing research. Our team contributes to national dementia initiatives (NICE Quality Standards, National Audit of Dementia) and maintains editorial responsibilities with leading journals such as *Age and Ageing*. We have strong links to the British Geriatrics Society (BGS), European Delirium Association, Royal Colleges, UK Hospital at Home Society, and other regional and international networks, offering trainees extensive collaborative opportunities. Connections with the Healthy Ageing Research Group (HARG) and partnerships with the Universities of Salford and Manchester Metropolitan University further enhance the training environment. Supervision and mentorship will be provided by leading academics, including:

- **Dr Louise Tomkow** – qualitative methods, health inequalities, palliative and end-of-life care, and social gerontology.
- **Dr Joanne Taylor** – health data science, clinical risk prediction, heart failure, and cost-effectiveness analyses.
- **Professor Emma Vardy** – delirium, dementia, big data and digital health, systematic reviews, frailty and acute clinical deterioration in older people.
- **Professor Adam Greenstein** – microvascular disease and brain health, leading the Microvascular@Manchester group and the forthcoming Brain Health Centre.

Research Facilities

Trainees will have access to high quality facilities and infrastructure, including:

- Healthy Ageing Policy Research Unit
- NIHR Dementia Policy Research Unit
- NIHR North West Regional Research Delivery Network
- National bodies such as the British Geriatrics Society.

These resources, combined with extensive industry collaborations and a proven record in securing external funding, ensure a supportive and impactful environment for academic development.

Clinical Training

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 - Person Specifications | Medical Hub

There are several sub-specialty clinical training opportunities in the North West including:

- Stroke training (including the Stroke Fellowship for CCT accreditation)
- Movement disorders – including tertiary referral service
- Dementia, including clinical attachments with the Manchester Brain Health centre
- Liaison services – well established Orthogeriatric, peri-operative care, major trauma, and Onco-geriatric services

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://www.hapru.nihr.ac.uk/
https://www.psrc-gm.nihr.ac.uk/

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