

Job Description

NIHR Academic Clinical Fellow in Dementia:

Neurology

University of Bristol

1. Job title & entry level(s):

Academic Clinical Fellow

Neurology: IMT1, IMT2, IMT3, ST4

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. 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/>

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.

1. Description of research component of programme

Neurology:

Clinical Dementia research in Bristol includes experimental medicine and health services research, and the ACF will be offered a range of projects including:

1. Sleep disturbance (Coulthard and [Blackman](#)) negatively affects over half of people living with dementia, and may exacerbate pathology that causes Alzheimer's. We are internationally recognised in sleep and dementia research including currently – Experimental medicine in sleep and Alzheimer's (NIHR and UKRI-funded e.g. <https://www.bristolbrc.nihr.ac.uk/research/research-projects/understanding-the-link-between-sleep-and-alzheimers-disease/>) and a programme of work embedding sleep apnoea testing into memory clinic services.
2. There is expertise around diagnosis both at a primary care ([Creavin](#)) and specialist level ([Coulthard](#)) using novel molecular, cognitive and electrophysiological diagnostic markers for Alzheimer's disease (in collaboration with UCL). We have NIHR i4i funding of £1.5million to embed our [novel diagnostic EEG marker](#) into clinical practice.

Patient and public Involvement underpins all that we do – and we have a funded dementia PPI facilitator (Victoria Gabb) with strong links across Bristol and Bradford's diverse communities to help lead our programme to be truly inclusive.

We have a thriving research group with regular lab meetings, conferences (including oral presentation at international conferences such as World Sleep, AAIC and Society for Neuroscience), public engagement activities, and international collaborations leading to highly cited recent publications. We are embedded in the University's flagship infrastructure (NIHR BRC and EPSRC digital health programme) and connected nationally and internationally through membership of the national Brain Health Clinic Consortium, Alzheimer's Research UK policy group and Dementias Platform UK, and international Alzheimer's Association Professional Interest Area for sleep and dementia.

This combined with a bespoke training programme for the ACL and ACFs provides intellectual and peer support to help the trainees achieve their goals. Our previous ACFs have progressed to PhDs/MDs, with outstanding training opportunities leading to high quality publications during the ACF, for example [Katie Lloyd](#) and [Sebastian Green](#) (now accepted onto prestigious UCLA Neurology Resident scheme).

6. Description of clinical training component of programme

Neurology:

Applications are invited from neurology trainees wishing to focus on the dementia and/or movement disorder subspecialties at ST4 level or at Internal Medicine levels 1, 2 or 3. Clinical training will be tailored to the specialty and grade of the candidate.

Internal Medicine Training (IMT) will take place within Southmead Hospital, North Bristol NHS Trust. The trainee would gain a broad range of experience as part of the Internal Medicine Training rotation which occupies the Internal Medicine years 1-3 (IMT1-3). During the 3-year ACF, trainees will obtain Internal Medicine Training, have 25% research time and also gain subspecialty experience in both dementia clinical care and their chosen specialty (neurology). We will work with the trainee and each of the specialty leads to ensure the rotation is tailored to the needs of the trainee.

Neurology Severn Deanery provides an excellent neurology training programme where 100% of numbered posts are consistently filled, with 2.5 applicants for each post (national recruitment). North Bristol Trust is a tertiary centre for clinical neuroscience with a full range of neuroscience subspecialties. The training programme also includes placements in Taunton, Bath and Gloucester – altogether over 30 neurology consultants and 12 registrars. The candidate would join a thriving team of neurology clinical academics and take part in the on-call rota at sufficient frequency for progression at ARCPs.

Five cognitive consultants (Hilary Archer, Beth Mallam, Jonathan Blackman, Harriet Ball and Elizabeth Coulthard) clinical nurse specialists and allied health professionals provide a tertiary cognitive disorder service from the Bristol BRAIN Centre. The service is multidisciplinary with clinical neuropsychology, nursing and neuroradiology input at regular MDT meetings. The team also run a Brain Health/Mild Cognitive Impairment clinic and now routinely use cutting edge molecular diagnostics such as cerebrospinal fluid analysis for amyloid and tau. More recently we have established a Lewy Body Cognitive Clinic to focus on these conditions. The movement disorder consultants (Alan Whone, Konrad Szewczyk-Krolkowski) and a team of clinical nurse specialists.

If 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 neurology. This rotation includes Gloucester, Bath, Taunton as well as Bristol.

7. Academic Supervisor / Academic Programme Director:

Integrated Academic Training Lead(s):

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

Academic Lead:

- Neurology:
 - Professor Elizabeth Coulthard (Elizabeth.Coulthard@bristol.ac.uk)

8. Clinical Training Programme Director:

- IMT:
 - Dr Abiramy Jeyabalan and Dr Tine Mehta (Abiramy.jeyabalan@nbt.nhs.uk; tmehta@nhs.net)
- Neurology:
 - Professor Kanchan Sharma (Kanchan.Sharma@nbt.nhs.uk)

9. Deanery contact for further information:

Recruitment Hotline: 01454 252 610

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

10. 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

