

**Job Description**  
**NIHR Academic Clinical Fellow in Digital:**  
**Respiratory Medicine and Haematology**  
**University of Bristol**

**1. Job title & entry level(s):**

Academic Clinical Fellow

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.*  
Haematology: IMT1, IMT2, ST3

**2. Duration of post:**

3 years (FTE)

Candidates working Less Than Full Time (LTFT) or would like should notify the relevant Local Office 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 region. 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.

**Haematology:**

Clinical training for ACFs will be structured and integrated with the current core (IMT/paediatric) and higher (haematology) training programmes in consultation with the training programme directors within the Severn region. This post is suitable for trainees wishing to enter haematology training via paediatric or adult medical training routes.

**Respiratory:**

Clinical training will be based within the Severn region. Specific rotations have not been confirmed at this stage but are likely to be centred around at Southmead Hospital (Bristol NHS Foundation Trust). This can be explored in more detail through discussion with the respiratory Training Programme Director.

**4. Research institutions in which training will take place:**

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

Academic Haematology Unit, Bristol Medical School, University of Bristol

OR

Academic Respiratory Unit, Bristol Medical School, University of Bristol  
<https://www.bristol.ac.uk/translational-health-sciences/research/respiratory/>

**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.

**6. Description of research component of programme**

## **Haematology:**

The academic haematology group is part of Translational Health Science within the Bristol Medical School, based on Research Level of the Bristol Royal Infirmary. The team is led by Dr Sarah Westbury and conducts research across a broad range of malignant and non-malignant haematology themes related to digital health care. The team has particular expertise in human functional genomics research in large data sets including validation and implementation of digital science and analysis methodology for genomic diagnosis and precision medicine.

Members work closely with the NIHR BioResource - Rare Diseases, UK BioBank and Genes and Health programmes and have a comprehensive network of national and international collaborators in projects focused on the genomics of rare blood disorders. This includes links through NHS England - Digital with initiatives such as the National Inherited Cancer Predisposition Register. The group also works with programmes affiliated with the MRC Integrative Epidemiology Unit including the Integrative Cancer Epidemiology Partnership (see <https://www.bristol.ac.uk/integrative-epidemiology/programmes/icep/blood/>).

Key adjacencies include the diagnostic genomic services at the SW NHS Genomic Laboratory Hub and functional cell biology groups at University of Bristol for platelets (Prof Alastair Poole, Prof Ingeborg Hers, Prof Stuart Mundell), neutrophils (Dr Borko Amulic), red cells (Prof Ash Toye, Prof Jan Frayne) and haematopoietic stem cells (Dr Samir Taoudi). The Bristol Blood Sciences grouping, currently led by Dr Kate Burley, brings together haematology-focused research groups from across the university for regular research meetings, fostering collaboration and sharing of expertise.

The academic haematology group has an established and robust system for supervising academic resident doctors. It has hosted the Severn CAT haematology programme since 2011, and over that time has supported 7 academic clinical fellows, 5 PhD fellows and 2 academic clinical lecturers with an emphasis on digital or platform science. It has a strong track record in securing externally funded clinical research fellowships leading to MDs/PhDs for ACFs, and of progression to Academic Clinical Lecturer posts. The appointee will have academic supervisor support directly from Dr Sarah Westbury as well as specific named supervisors for their research project. The appointee will be fully supported to submit work for presentation and publication and to apply for grants as lead applicant or co-applicant, as well as applying for doctoral fellowships.

## **Respiratory:**

The Respiratory ACF post will be based at Bristol Academic Respiratory Unit (ARU), a world - leading respiratory research centre. The post will be supervised by Prof Nick Maskell and Associate Professors Steven Walker and Rahul Bhatnagar.

Bristol ARU is regarded as one of the most influential research centres in the world for translational respiratory disease and was awarded the NIHR/ British Thoracic Society Excellence in Research Award 2022. The unit has a particular focus on pleural disease and is led by Prof Maskell, an NIHR Senior Investigator, past president of the British Thoracic Society, and current Clinical Director of the NIHR Bristol Biomedical Research Centre (BRC). The ARU has received over £70m in research funding and has published over 300 peer-reviewed papers, including in some of the highest impact factor journals, many of which have directly changed clinical practice and influenced national and international guidelines.

Respiratory is a current theme within the Bristol BRC and forms a core workstream in the upcoming renewal funding. Respiratory is an area of strategic priority for the university given the ARU's focus on world-leading research into pleural disease, viral transmission, respiratory

infections, airways disease and lung cancer screening. It leads experimental and translational research, early phase studies, mixed methods research and national RCTs, and has a strong track record of innovation and fruitful collaboration with industry partners. The ARU also leads and hosts some of the largest and most robust pleural patient cohorts in the world, providing access to significant banks of data and samples, and boasts established and fruitful research networks. Key local partners include teams at UoB's Integrative Epidemiology Unit, Translational Neuroscience Group, and School of Computer Science. Key national and international partners include: The IMPACT pleural research network (led by Bristol and comprising the largest pleural disease collaborative in the world with over 200 partners on 5 continents), the UK Pleural Society, and the University of Southern Denmark.

The ARU team has an exemplary track record of supervising ACFs, many of whom have gone on to secure prestigious doctoral fellowships, e.g. from NIHR and GW4. The ARU currently includes 3 Professors, 3 Associate Professors, 1 Consultant Senior Lecturer, 1 NIHR Academic Clinical Lecturer, 5 Doctoral Fellows (including NIHR and GW4 Fellows), 1 NIHR Pre-doctoral Fellow and 2 NIHR ACFs. Our team includes postgraduate doctors in training, allied health professionals, and researchers with backgrounds in other disciplines (e.g. social sciences, engineering, mathematics). We are supported by a dedicated research delivery team that includes trial managers, study coordinators, research nurses, data managers and research associates.

The research ambition of the ARU is to improve lung health, reduce respiratory mortality, and reverse health inequality in respiratory disease. The successful candidate will be encouraged to explore and discuss the range of research opportunities within the scope of what can be appropriately supported with the available facilities and expertise. They will be encouraged to explore their own research ideas and the clinical context of the ARU's research, to produce academic outputs, to give presentations and teach, and to work towards grant applications and/or doctoral Fellowships. Potential areas of research may include (but are not limited to):

- Identification of diagnostic and prognostic biomarkers for pleural disease using digital health technologies such as exercise monitoring or air leak measurement
- The use of advanced and/or novel ultrasound techniques in pleural disease
- The application of artificial intelligence techniques to pleural disease imaging and/or clinical data
- The use of robotics and other novel technologies to enhance pleural clinical procedures
- The development of prognostic radiomic markers for pleural disease

## **7. Description of clinical training component of programme**

### **Haematology:**

For ACFs appointed to start at IMT1 or IMT2, clinical training will be negotiated with the Internal Medicine Training (IMT) Programme Director. ACFs starting at IMT1 or 2 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. They should also pass MRCP PACES by the end of the IMT2 year. Where possible the rotation will be tailored to the needs of the trainee.

The ST3+ haematology clinical placements will occur primarily at Bristol NHS Foundation Trust but will include rotation within the region, for example to Bath, Swindon or Cheltenham & Gloucester. Within Bristol NHS FT, the City campus is a specialist regional haematology provider hosting level 4 haemato-oncology services including stem cell transplant and CAR-T programmes, the south-west regional hemoglobinopathy, immunohaematology, TTP and

haemophilia services and a supra-regional haematology genomics and research clinic. Haematology placements will be adapted according to the trainees individual training needs. Rotations through sub-specialty departments could include Paediatric Haematology, Haemostasis/Haemophilia, Transfusion medicine, Laboratory Haematology and Haemato-oncology/Bone Marrow Transplant. The ACF will participate in the out-of-hours on-call rota (non-resident, frequency approximately 1 in 8 but varies according to attachment). There may also be an opportunity to develop a subspeciality interest towards the end of the training period.

In the event that the appointee does not secure a research training fellowship, then at the end of the ACF post, the trainee will return to the standard training route, completing their clinical training as part of the Severn training programme in haematology.

### **Respiratory Medicine:**

Clinical training will take place at Southmead Hospital, part of Bristol NHS Foundation Trust. 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 South West and one of the largest in the UK. 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 .

Candidates appointed at ST4 level will be part of the South-West regional training programme in respiratory medicine (Severn and Peninsula Deaneries). The post will be based at Southmead Hospital. Practical training in bronchoscopy, EBUS, pleural procedures (including thoracoscopy) is available. Training in advanced thoracic ultrasound will be provided. 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. 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 SHO-grade Trust Clinical Fellows.

In the event that the appointee does not secure a research training fellowship before the end of their ACF post, they 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](mailto:shelley.potter@bristol.ac.uk))
- Dr Helen Winter ([helen.winter@uhbw.nhs.uk](mailto:helen.winter@uhbw.nhs.uk))

#### **Academic Lead:**

- Respiratory Medicine: Dr Anna Bibby ([anna.bibby@bristol.ac.uk](mailto:anna.bibby@bristol.ac.uk))
- Haematology: Dr Sarah Westbury ([sarah.westbury@bristol.ac.uk](mailto:sarah.westbury@bristol.ac.uk))

### **9. Clinical Training Programme Director:**

- Respiratory Medicine:

- Core (IMT): 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](mailto:Sarah.Foster@SomersetFT.nhs.uk))
- Haematology:
    - Core (IMT): Dr Abiramy Jeyabalan and Dr Tina Mehta (Abiramy.jeyabalan@nbt.nhs.uk; tmehta@nhs.net)
    - Higher: Dr Lisa Wolger (lisa.wolger@uhbw.nhs.uk)

#### **10. Deanery contact for further information:**

Recruitment Hotline: 01454 252 610

Recruitment Inbox: [England.acfreruitment.sw@nhs.net](mailto: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

