Job Description
NIHR Academic Clinical Fellow in Prevention and Public Health: Gastroenterology
University of Plymouth

1. Job title & entry level(s):

Academic Clinical Fellow

Gastroenterolgy: 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 the Peninsula Southwest 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.

4. Research institutions in which training will take place:

University of Plymouth - https://www.plymouth.ac.uk/about-us/university-structure/faculties/health/pupsmd-research/clinical-academic-training

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

The ACF will undertake a public health related project in the Hepatology Research Group (https://www.plymouth.ac.uk/research/hepatology-research-group) or the Centre of Environmental Hepatology (https://www.plymouth.ac.uk/research/centre-of-environmental-hepatology) – the UK's first – at the University of Plymouth.

There are opportunities to work on projects ranging from health data science (Dr Kris Bennett, NIHR Clinical Lecturer in Hepatology), community-based early detection and intervention for liver disease (Prof Ashwin Dhanda, Professor of Liver Medicine) and translational clinical research on micro and nanoplastics (Prof Shilpa Chokshi, Professor of Experimental Hepatology and Prof Matthew Cramp, Professor of Hepatology).

Dr Bennett has expertise in using routinely collected primary care data to build predictive models for liver disease integrating machine learning and AI. Prof Dhanda is an expert in the design and delivery of clinical trials of interventions for alcohol use disorder and alcohol-related liver disease with a focus on reducing stigma and improving clinical engagement.

The Centre of Environmental Hepatology, under the leadership of Prof Chokshi, employs cutting-edge human models (precision-cut liver slices, organoids, organ-on-a-chip) and collaborates with world-leading environmental scientists, including Professor Richard Thompson FRS OBE, to investigate how micro- and nanoplastics influence liver health, with a focus on hepatotoxicity, inflammation, and carcinogenesis.

The University of Plymouth offers an outstanding academic and clinical environment with:

- NHS integration: Direct patient recruitment, a well-established liver biobank, and opportunities in clinical trials.
- Proven mentorship: Senior supervisors (Professors Chokshi, Cramp, Dhanda) with a strong track record of PhD/ACF/CL supervision and successful fellowships.
- Strategic investment & facilities: £10m+ external research funding and access to state-of-the-art technologies.

The ACF will be supported to design and deliver an original translational project and encouraged to develop a competitive PhD proposal by the end of the programme.

7. Description of clinical training component of programme

For details regarding the clinical training programme, please visit the peninsula deanery school webpage (here). Contact details are available for each of the schools. If you would like information, please do not hesitate to contact the team.

8. Academic Supervisor / Academic Programme Director:

Integrated Academic Training Lead(s):

- Professor Nicola Brennan (nicola.brennan@plymouth.ac.uk)
- Professor Daniel Martin (daniel.martin@plymouth.ac.uk)
- Dr Victoria Haunton (victoria.haunton@nhs.net)

Academic Lead:

- Gastroenterolgy: Professor Ashwin Dhanda (ashwin.dhanda@plymouth.ac.uk)

9. Clinical Training Programme Director:

- Gastroenterolgy:
  - IMT: Dr Julia Bell and Dr John Corcoran (julia.bell1@nhs.net; john.corcoran1@nhs.net)
  - Higher: Dr Louisa Vine (louisavine@nhs.net)

10. Deanery contact for further information:

Recruitment Hotline: 01454 252 610
Recruitment Inbox: England.acfrecruitment.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.plymouth.ac.uk/about-us/university-structure/faculties/health/pupsmd-research/clinical-academic-training

This job description was prepared in August 2026