

ACF Infection Programme Details in conjunction with The University of Liverpool

Post: **ACF-2027-07-006, Response Mode**

Post availability

There is one post available in either **Infectious Diseases** with **Microbiology** or **Internal Medicine** (dual CCT). You can apply at ST1, ST2 or ST3 level in this round of recruitment; if you are appointed at ST1 or ST2 level, you will be placed in an appropriate Internal Medicine Training track until you reach ST3 level.

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>

This post is based at the Liverpool University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust and the Department of Clinical Infection, Microbiology and Immunology at the University of Liverpool. The academic programme is focused on arboviruses and emerging viral infection, and is led by Professor Lance Turtle. The clinical program will follow Core Infection Training or early Higher Specialist Training in an infection specialty depending upon the grade into which the successful candidate is appointed. Liverpool is a centre of excellence for infection training, including the capability to train in tropical medicine and to undertake a clinical attachment at the Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine.

The University of Liverpool (UoL) hosts the NIHR Health Protection Research Unit in Emerging and Zoonotic Infections (HPRU-EZI), a partnership between the University of Liverpool, the Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine, the University of Oxford, the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine and the UK Health Security Agency. UoL is the coordinating centre for ARBO-UK, the national prospective study of arbovirus infections presenting to UK hospitals, for which Professor Turtle is Chief Investigator. The programme also currently has a role in coordinating the ISARIC Clinical Characterisation Protocol UK (CCP-UK), the national platform used to characterise emerging infections such as COVID-19.

Potential applicants are strongly encouraged to make informal contact with Professor Lance Turtle, one of the potential supervisors, on lance.turtle@liverpool.ac.uk to discuss the post and potential projects.

Academic Training

The post aims to develop a clinician scientist with the skills to lead research into arbovirus and other emerging virus infections. Training will be tailored to the successful candidate's interests but is likely to include prospective clinical study design and delivery, analysis of large clinical and biological datasets, alongside scientific writing, grant writing and project management.

There is a wide range of training available at UoL beyond these studies, including immunological and virological laboratory techniques, epidemiology, climate modelling, one health, etc. There will be scope to draw on ongoing work characterising cross-reactive T cell and antibody immunity between related flaviviruses (including Zika, dengue, Japanese encephalitis and yellow fever), which is directly informing vaccine design, and on the ISARIC CCP-UK dataset. The aim is for the post holder to generate the pilot data and skills needed to apply for a competitive clinical training fellowship (for example an NIHR Doctoral Fellowship or equivalent) on completion of the post.

Research Areas / Research Environment

The post holder will contribute to the ARBO-UK study, which collects clinical data and biological samples from patients with imported and endemic arbovirus infections across UK hospital sites, and will have the opportunity to develop a sub-study within it.

The University of Liverpool has an internationally recognised research base in infectious diseases, with particular strength in emerging and vector-borne viral infections, underpinned by HPRU-EZI and close links to the Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine and the UK Health Security Agency. The post holder will join a multidisciplinary group spanning clinical infection, virology, immunology and epidemiology.

Other research groups in UoL bring additional expertise in disciplines such as pharmacology, genomics and clinical trials.

Potential research areas for projects and interests relevant to this post include:

- Clinical and immunological characterisation of imported and endemic arbovirus infections in the UK, using ARBO-UK data and samples
- Cross-reactive T cell and antibody immunity between related flaviviruses (e.g. Zika, dengue, Japanese encephalitis, yellow fever) and its relevance to vaccine design

- Use of the ISARIC CCP-UK dataset to characterise host and viral determinants of severity in emerging viral infections
- Horizon-scanning and preparedness research into arboviruses with emergence potential in the UK, in the context of climate change and changing vector distribution

Professor Lance Turtle will be the primary academic supervisor, with input as appropriate from colleagues, for example Professor Professor Tom Solomon, Professor Neil French and Professor Calum Semple, within the Department of Clinical Infection, Microbiology and Immunology. The department enjoys many collaborations with other institutions. Further details of potential projects can be discussed with Professor Turtle prior to application.

Research Facilities

The University of Liverpool hosts state of the art facilities such as the Centre for Genomic Research (an MRC Genomics Hub) for next-generation sequencing and single-cell analysis, the Computational Biology Facility for bioinformatics support, and containment laboratories suitable for work with arboviruses and other emerging pathogens. The Liverpool Clinical Trials Centre provides infrastructure and training for translational and clinical studies, and the post holder will be embedded within the HPRU-EZI network, with access to its national collaborations and study infrastructure.

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](#)

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-2025>
<https://www.nwpgmd.nhs.uk/specialty-schools>

Academic:

<https://www.liverpool.ac.uk/people/lance-turtle>
<https://hpruezi.nihr.ac.uk>
<https://hpruezi.nihr.ac.uk/research-themes/clinical-characterisation/arbo-uk/>
<https://isaric4c.net>

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