Job Description Trauma and Orthopaedics Academic Clinic Fellowship (ACF)

Training Programme Director: Mr Mike Woodruff, Royal Preston Hospital

ACF Programme Director EHU: Prof Greg Irving, Edge Hill University

T&O ACF Director: Prof Adam Watts, Edge Hill University

Job Details

Job Title: Academic Clinical Fellow (ACF) Trauma and Orthopaedics (ST3+)
Hours of Work: 40 hours
Band or Grade: MS03/MS05
Department: Trauma & Orthopaedics
Division: Specialist Services Division
Base: Wrightington Hospital

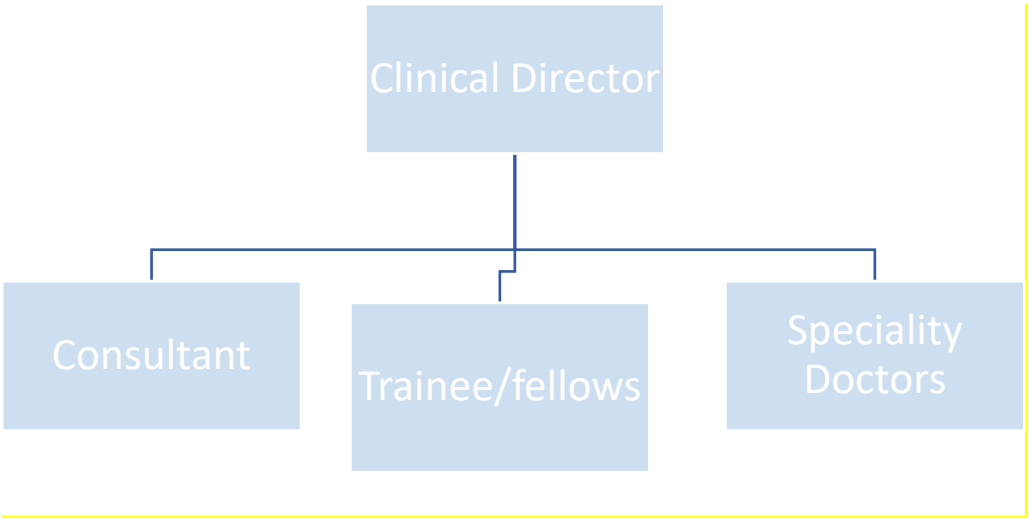
Reporting Arrangements

Managerially Accountable to: Clinical Director

Professionally Accountable to: Revalidation Officer

Responsible for: Providing high quality clinical care

Organisation Chart



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

Details about the Edge University Health Research Institute, Sport and Physical Activity research, MSK Research Group, Edge Hill Primary and Integrated Care Research Centre, and ACF training programme can be found via the links below:

https://www.edgehill.ac.uk/research/healthresearchinstitute/

https://www.edgehill.ac.uk/departments/academic/sport/research/

https://www.edgehill.ac.uk/departments/academic/health/research/musculoskeletal-research-group/

https://www.edgehill.ac.uk/research/healthresearchinstitute/epic-research-centre/

https://www.edgehill.ac.uk/research/healthresearchinstitute/integrated-clinical-academic-training-office/

Academic Training

Each ACF will be supported by a named clinical and educational supervisor for their clinical placement, and an academic supervisor from the University for their research training. The academic supervisor oversees progress, provides tailored feedback, and supports training needs, career development, performance, and flexible working arrangements, with part-time study over 2 years an option.

ACFs will have the opportunity to undertake a Master of Research (MRes), tailored to individual training needs and supported by senior NIHR-funded academics. The

programme develops advanced skills in critical appraisal, evidence synthesis, and a broad range of research methods, including quantitative, qualitative, and mixed methods approaches. Trainees also benefit from the Graduate School's Research Development Programme, mapped to Vitae principles, as well as specialist sessions such as AI in health and social care research.

In addition, ACFs gain full access to Faculty-wide training in research methodology, fellowship preparation, career development, international seminar series, and networking events. Resources include the Faculty intranet (*The Researcher's Journey*), short courses, statistics training, and an annual postgraduate research conference to develop presentation skills. Central University training and Research Office support further strengthen grant writing, funding applications, and open research expertise.

Further opportunities include postgraduate programmes in clinical education and leadership. Each ACF is paired with a senior mentor through the FHSCM Research Mentorship Programme, aligned with the NIHR Mentorship Programme. They also benefit from the Doctoral and Fellowship Academy, led by successful NIHR award-holders, alongside a buddy scheme and near-peer mentoring.

Additional support includes peer review of funding applications, writing workshops, "work in progress" seminars, and dedicated networking events for academic doctors. The Faculty has hosted national NIHR ACF conferences, providing excellent opportunities to connect across disciplines and regions. ACFs also benefit from close partnership with the Service User and Carer Council, which works with academics, professionals, families, and service users to co-produce high-quality, patient-focused research and care standards.

Research Areas / Research Environment

With an ageing population and rising prevalence of chronic conditions, over 20 million people in the UK are estimated to live with complex musculoskeletal (MSK) conditions that cause pain and/or restrict daily activities, creating major pressures for health and social care services and impacting productivity. Edge Hill University (EHU), in partnership with Wrightington, Wigan and Leigh NHS Foundation Trust (WWL), hosts a vibrant and innovative MSK research community dedicated to improving outcomes. This interdisciplinary programme spans orthopaedics, allied health professions, and public health, drawing on expertise in biomechanics, psychology, exercise physiology, and MSK (p)rehabilitation. Led by internationally recognised experts, it has advanced understanding of osteoarthritis, rheumatoid arthritis, and chronic pain, while pioneering innovations to transform patient care.

At WWL, Prof Adam Watts leads internationally recognised innovations in elbow surgery. The SOFF (Simple Olecranon Fracture Fixation) Trial, developed in response to patient and public involvement (PPI) concerns, is testing a surgical technique designed to reduce re-operation rates, supported by a surgeon education and fidelity programme. The RAPSODI (Reverse or Anatomical Replacement for Painful Shoulder Osteoarthritis) Trial is evaluating surgical approaches to shoulder osteoarthritis. In collaboration with Ben Langley (EHU Sport and Exercise Science), Prof Watts also

leads the HAPY Elbow Trial, a first-in-human study of a novel pyrocarbon interposition arthroplasty for working-age patients with severe elbow osteoarthritis. This research has established a model for ethical early-phase surgical innovation in orthopaedics, aiming to relieve suffering and restore employment, while also generating PhD projects exploring patients' perceptions and acceptance of innovation.

Beyond surgical research, EHU contributes to rehabilitation and public health through the Health Research Institute. Projects include population-level approaches to maintaining MSK and general health (e.g. Park Run and Couch-to-5k), promotion of physical activity across diverse groups including children and people with chronic conditions, and studies of exercise regimens for bone health. Collaborations with MSK physiotherapy leads at WWL have revised ACL discharge criteria using isokinetic dynamometry, while biomechanical analyses of hip and knee replacement patients have informed bespoke MSK testing profiles. Normative data for lower-limb joint contributions to functional tasks have also been generated using age-matched healthy cohorts. Links with elite sport provide further opportunities; for example, the current ACF has combined research with St Helens Rugby League on ACL screening and prevention with hands-on match-day medical support.

In addition, EHU Primary and Integrated Care Research Centre (EPIC), led by Prof Greg Irving (Academic GP and NIHR National Specialty Lead for General Practice), is a thriving centre of 30 members with ~£10 million in grant income. Current awards include the NIHR Multiple Long-Term Conditions Team Science Award, NIHR Mental Health Leadership Award, NIHR inSIGHT Award, and the UKRI Health Inequalities Award. EPIC makes extensive use of NHS Trusted Research Environments and UK Biobank data, and works closely with the MSK research group to strengthen translational pathways and deliver patient benefit across primary, secondary, and community care.

We maintain strong partnerships with local NHS Integrated Care Boards, Wrightington, Wigan and Leigh NHS Trust, Mersey and West Lancashire Teaching Hospital Trust, the North West Imaging Academy, and the Cheshire & Merseyside Social Care Teaching Partnership. EHU also collaborates with industry via the Liverpool City Region Life Sciences Investment Zone, the Lancashire Innovation Network, and the £5m NIHR Commercial Research Development Centre

The research environment is further enriched by the Health Research Institute (HRI), a cross-University network of ~100 academics spanning computer science, biological sciences, psychology, education, and workforce management. The HRI fosters interdisciplinary collaboration through think tanks, seminars, mentorship, writing and funding workshops, and events with NIHR support services and major funders.

ACFs will also join the Research Academic Society (RAS), a joint initiative with University of Lancashire that connects NIHR Academy clinical academic posts, providing a vibrant forum for collaboration, peer learning, and annual events such as the Red Rose Research Conference and research showcases attracting ~200 delegates.

Research Facilities

The Faculty of Health, Social Care and Medicine (FHSCM) offers a state-of-the-art training environment within a purpose-built £14 million facility, featuring some of the best clinical education resources in the UK, including a cutting-edge Clinical Skills and Simulation Centre located alongside the £17 million Life Sciences building. Alongside the Ormskirk campus, the Faculty has established teaching and research sites at Aintree University Hospital, St James' Manchester, and Alder Hey Children's Hospital, supported by strong partnerships with NHS and local authority organisations. A Civic Agreement with Wigan Local Authority further underpins our commitment to impactful, collaborative research and education.

Learning and research support is centred in the £27 million Catalyst Centre, offering extensive e-journal and book collections, study skills workshops, academic writing support, and one-to-one guidance. ACFs also have full access to University IT services, specialist research software, and the virtual learning environment. Comprehensive wellbeing, mental health, and inclusion services ensure trainees are supported both academically and personally. The sports science labs and clinics provide further specialism, including musculoskeletal applications in automated motion analysis, electromyography, isokinetic dynamometry, biochemistry, body composition, etc.

Clinical Training

This is a three-year programme contributing toward attainment of a Certificate of Completion of Training in Trauma and Orthopaedics.

Clinical training will be based at Wrightington, Wigan and Leigh (WWL) NHS Foundation Trust, and in other hospital trusts within the North West (east sector) deanery. Wrightington Hospital is a specialist orthopaedic hospital providing elective orthopaedic and trauma orthopaedic services for the local population in Wigan and specialist orthopaedic services for Greater Manchester, Liverpool and Lancashire South Cumbria regions. It provides elective and specialist trauma services in lower limb arthroplasty, hands, elbow and shoulder surgery, peripheral nerve surgery, foot and ankle surgery and soft tissue knee.

During the three-year academic training program, trainees will typically spend the first and third year at WWL, and the second year in other hospitals within the region. During this time they will experience a breadth of subspecialties including lower limb arthroplasty, shoulder and elbow surgery, foot and ankle surgery, hand surgery and general trauma, as well as spine, paediatric orthopaedic, and major trauma surgery where possible.

Trainees will participate in an annual ARCP appraisal process, attend regional teaching and be encouraged to attend local, national and international courses and conferences.

Responsibilities of the role

The role of Surgical Trainee in Trauma and Orthopaedics includes managing both urgent trauma and planned elective orthopaedic patients, undertaking consultations in the out-patient setting, assisting in surgery, performing procedures, and participating in out-of-hours on-call duties. The role provides opportunities for experience in various orthopaedic subspecialties, research, audit, and postgraduate education. Trainees work in multidisciplinary teams with consultants, nurses, and therapists, with specific training programs available through Health Education North West.

Completion of the academic program

On successful completion of the academic clinical fellow program, and with successful outcomes of the ARCP process for each year of the program, the trainee will have the opportunity to continue with clinical training to the completion of CCT, continue to higher research degree or apply for a clinical lectureship.

Personal Specification

Essential Criteria

Applicants must have:

- MBBS or equivalent medical qualification
- Successful completion of MRCS by examination by offer date

Eligibility

Applicants must:

- Be eligible for full registration with, and hold a current licence to practise from, the GMC at advertised post start date for the vacancy.
- Evidence of achievement of **CT/ST1 competences in core surgery** at time of application and **CT/ST2 competences in core surgery** by time of appointment, acceptable evidence includes satisfactory ARCP outcome of completion of Core Surgical Training programme or a completed Certificate of Readiness to Enter Higher Surgical Training at time of application.
- Be eligible to work in the UK

Fitness to Practice

Applicants must be up to date and fit to practise safely and is aware of own training needs.

Language Skills

Applicants must have demonstrable skills in written and spoken English, adequate to enable effective communication about medical topics with patients and colleagues, assessed by the General Medical Council

Health

Applicants must meet professional health requirements (in line with GMC standards / Good Medical Practice).

Career Progression

Applicants must:

- Be able to provide complete details of their employment history
- Have evidence that their career progression is consistent with their personal circumstances
- Have evidence that their present level of achievement and performance is commensurate with the totality of their period of training
- Have satisfactorily completed an approved Core Surgical Training programme or equivalent by the advertised post start date for the vacancy.
- Have completed the relevant competencies in Trauma and Orthopaedic Surgery as described in the Core Surgical Training curriculum.
- Have notified the Training Programme Director of the Specialty Training Programme they are currently training in if applying to continue training in the same specialty in another region.
- If you have previously resigned, or been removed from, a training programme in any specialty, you must obtain a Support for Reapplication to Specialty Training form signed by the Training Programme Director/Head of School and Postgraduate Dean from the region you previously undertook training in. This must be submitted with your application.
- Not already hold, nor be eligible to hold, a CCT/CESR in the specialty they are applying for and/or must not currently be eligible for the specialist register for the specialty to which they are applying

Duties and Responsibilities

Planning and Organisational Duties

- Attendance at Orthopaedic out-patient clinics / fracture clinics with the Consultant.
- Attendance at Orthopaedic Operating lists elective and trauma.
- Ward Cover, Clerking of new admissions, attendance at ward rounds.
- Cover for colleagues in Orthopaedic Unit during periods of leave.
- Writing discharge letters, liaising with GPs as necessary regarding discharges. Legibly completing outcome proformas in the out-patient clinics.
- Collecting and presenting data for clinical audit meetings.
- To facilitate medical and clinical audit, junior medical staff must keep medical records in the manner prescribed by the Musculo-Skeletal Division.
- These duties apply in common to Wrightington's NHS and private patients.
- There will be some scope for independent operating lists for some trainees which may include injections, trauma and elective surgery.

Communications and Key Working Relationships

- On the elective site at Wrightington the fellows will gain experience in Trauma and Orthopaedics. Our hot trauma site is at Royal Albert Edward Infirmary in Wigan. Some of the fellow job plans would include commitments here. However, much of the ambulatory trauma is transferred to Wrightington for surgical management giving all our fellows trauma exposure.
- Our ACFs will also be expected to participate in research, audit and quality improvement projects and there will be time allocated for this in the job plan.
- Responsibility for administration of the Directorate rest with the Clinical Director who deals with junior medical staff appointments, locums, annual leave, study leave and post graduate education. However, day-to-day responsibilities for these are shared between the Consultants.

Responsibility for Finance

- To ensure efficient use of resources at all times.

Responsibility for Human Resources

- To participate in Induction Programmes as required
- To adhere to all Trust policies and procedures

Responsibility for Health & Safety

Compliance with the Health & Safety at Work Act 1974 – the post holder is required to fulfil a proactive role towards the management of risk in all of their actions. This entails the risk assessment of all situations, the taking of appropriate actions and reporting of all incidents, near misses and hazards, and a statutory duty of care for their own personal safety and that of others who may be affected by their acts or omissions.

Responsibility for Teaching

- The Trust will sympathetically consider requests for study leave to further experience and professional qualifications. There is a well-stocked medical library on site with Medline search and internet access and postgraduate Medical Education Centres at the Royal Albert Edward Infirmary Wigan and Leigh Infirmary. The post holder will be encouraged to take an active part in the postgraduate Training programme. Study leave may be available for attendance at relevant courses. Applications must be agreed by the Consultants and are subject to the needs of the service. Applications must be made at least 6 weeks in advance.

Work Circumstances & on-call

- Applications for annual leave, study leave statutory holidays and days in lieu should be approved by the Consultants and submitted on the appropriate form to the Medical Staff Co-ordinator at least 6 weeks prior to the period of leave.

- Only two doctors should be on annual/study leave at any one time so as to facilitate cover by colleagues.

- The Junior doctor accepts that he will also perform duties in occasional emergencies and unforeseen circumstances at the request of the appropriate Consultant, in consultation where practicable with his colleagues both Senior and Junior. It has been

agreed between the profession and the Department that while Juniors accept that they will perform such duties, the Secretary of State stresses that additional commitments arising under this subsection are exceptional and, in particular, that Juniors should not be required to undertake work of this kind for prolonged periods or on a regular basis.

- The contracted hours attached to this post are as follows: Standard Working Week 40 hours Participation in the orthopaedic registrar rota may be required.

Residential Arrangements

- The post is voluntarily resident when on-call, and single accommodation will be provided free of charge. However, a lodging fee will be payable for voluntary resident practitioners in accordance with the Terms and Conditions of Service of Hospital Medical and Dental Staff. There is also a limited provision of married accommodation for which a rental is appropriate.

Standard Duties & Responsibilities

The Trust operates a No Smoking Policy.

All Wrightington Wigan and Leigh NHS Foundation Trust staff employed within Clinical Environments and have contact with children, vulnerable adults; service users and their families must familiarise themselves, be aware of their responsibilities and adhere to Local Safeguarding Children's Board, Local Safeguarding Adult Board and WWL Procedures for Safeguarding and Protecting Children which are available on the Trust Policy Library.

In accordance with Part 7 of the Immigration Act 2016, employees who are required to interact regularly with the public, both face to face, and by telephone, are required to be able to speak English to an appropriate standard relevant to their role, i.e. with confidence and accuracy, using correct sentence structures and vocabulary, and without hesitation.

Compliance with the General Data Protection Regulators 2016, Data Protection Act 2018 and Information Governance Principles – the postholder is not entitled to use for their own benefit or gain, or to divulge to any persons, firm or other organisation whatsoever, any confidential information belonging to the Trust or relating to the Trust's affairs or dealings which may come to their knowledge during employment.

Compliance with the Health & Social Care Act 2008 – Code of Practice on the Prevention and Control of Infections and related guidance – the post holder is required to fulfil a proactive role towards the reduction and management of healthcare related infection in all of their actions. This entails compliance with Trust Infection Prevention and Control policy and related Standard Operating Procedure (SOP's); along with risk assessment of all situations; as staff have a statutory duty of care for their own personal safety and that of others who may be affected by their acts or omissions. Staff must be fully compliant with Trust Infection prevention and Control eLearning policy.

All applicants to any post within the Trust are required to declare any involvement either directly or indirectly with any firm, company, relevant person or organisation which has any interest with the Trust, the services provided by the Trust or any element of patient care. Failure to do so may result in an employment application being rejected, or if it is discovered after appointment the omission of such information could lead to dismissal. This includes any form of private practice relating to medical care.

Compliance with Trust Policies and Procedures including the Code of Conduct.

Compliance with Standing Financial Instructions (SFIs) – The SFI's identify the financial responsibilities which apply to everyone working for the Foundation Trust and its constituent organisations including trading units. Failure to comply with Standing Financial Instructions can in certain circumstances be regarded as a disciplinary matter that could result in dismissal. Compliance with the SFIs is monitored by the Finance Department and post holders are therefore required to understand their responsibilities outlined within this document and ensure compliance with its instructions.

Responsibility for all records (including patient health, financial, personal and administrative) that they gather or use as part of their work within the trust. The records may be paper, electronic, microfiche, audio or videotapes, x-ray images.

Any other duties appropriate to the grade. The range of duties and responsibilities outlined above are indicative only and are intended to give a broad flavour of the range and type of duties that will be allocated. They are subject to modification in the light of changing service demands and the development requirements of the postholder.

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 and outlined below

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