

ACADEMIC CLINICAL FELLOW in GENERAL PRACTICE

JOB DESCRIPTION

Contents

Introduction

Objectives of ACF training

Structure of ACF training

Research Component

Clinical Component

Contact Details

Appendix 1 – Barts and The London

Appendix 2 – Imperial

Appendix 3 – King's College

Appendix 4 – St. George's

Appendix 5 – UCL

## Introduction

The three London LETBs are committed to developing academic general practice. London has the largest number of ACFs in the country and the opportunities and investment in Academic Clinical Fellows are second to none. The LETBs in association with Barts and The London, Imperial College, King's College, St. George's University, and University College London medical schools have agreed to locally fund GP Academic Clinical Fellow (ACF) posts. These posts have been created in addition to ACF posts that are directly funded by the National Institute for Health Research (NIHR). All these posts will receive recognition from NIHR.

## Objectives of ACF training

This is an integrated clinical and academic programme. The objectives of this training programme are to provide:

- high quality and comprehensive GP specialty training leading to successful achievement of the MRCGP qualification, as well as formal accreditation on completion of training
- an excellent foundation training in research methods
- experience of conducting a specific research project
- support for a trainee with outstanding potential in making an application for an externally funded research training fellowship (RTF) e.g. MRC, Wellcome, NHS R&D to follow on from this post
- exposure to and experience of undergraduate teaching
- a stimulating intellectual environment with inspiring role models; to introduce GP trainees to the opportunities, challenges and excitement of an academic career

## Structure of ACF training

ACFs training will last 4 years. In ST1 and ST2 they will complete 18 months in hospital posts and 6 months in General Practice. In ST3 and ST4 they will undertake integrated academic training working 50% in Academic training and 50% in General Practice.

## Research Component

In ST3 and ST4 ACFs will be integrated within one of the Departments of Primary Care within London. They will have the opportunity to undertake a variety of research roles and actively participate in research within the department. They will be expected to develop their research skills and at the end of their training they will be expected to apply for funding from external sources to further develop their academic career. ACFs in recent years have successfully applied to gain PhD funding (Wellcome Fellowship) and NIHR In-practice fellowships. ACFs will be supervised by a

dedicated academic supervisor. All ACFs in London will have peer support networks to ensure that ACFs make the most of all the academic and education opportunities available to them.

#### Clinical Component

ACFs will be allocated to a GP training programme that will be located in the same area as their department of primary care. Training is the same as other GP specialist trainees. ACFs will have support from their programme directors and education supervisors.

#### Person Specifications

Applicants will need to meet the criteria for both the General Practice ST1 person specification and the NIHR ACF Person Specification.

For more details on the ACF programme please follow the link below:

<http://www.lpmde.ac.uk/training-programme/general-practice/during-training/files/gp-acf-guidance-document>

or contact:

Dr Dev Gadhvi, Academic GP & ST4 Programme Director, on behalf of HENCEL, HESL, HENWL

[devgadhvi@nhs.net](mailto:devgadhvi@nhs.net)

Please see the appendices below for more information on the different departments of primary care in London and contact details for the local leads for ACFs.

## **Appendix 1: Academic Clinical Fellow training at Barts and the London Medical School**

### **The Centre for Primary Care and Public Health, Blizard Institute**

Barts and the London's Centre for Primary Care and Public Health is located in Whitechapel, in the heart of the one of the UK's most dynamic and diverse populations. The centre is located in a beautifully refurbished building in the heart of the Whitechapel campus with outstanding public transport links via Underground, London Overground and (shortly) Crossrail. The Centre provides an unrivalled research environment with work on health policy, quality improvement, clinical trials, complex interventions, epidemiology, data-linkage studies, translational research, ethnographic research, chronic disease, medical genetics, infection and immunity, asthma, COPD, HIV, TB, hepatitis, migrant, maternal health and cardiovascular disease. The Centre has a strong Track record of NIHR Programme Grant and HTA trial funding and an active NIHR Fellowship support programme.

The Centre jointly hosts the **Asthma UK Centre for Applied Research** with Edinburgh medical school (<http://www.aukcar.ac.uk/>) – a major involving between Asthma UK, leading asthma researchers from universities across the UK, people affected by asthma, NHS partners and other organisation - which is driving applied health research in asthma. Our internationally renowned **Clinical Effectiveness Group** has been supporting primary care in east London for more than 20 years (<http://www.blizard.qmul.ac.uk/ceg-home.html>). Through the CEG the Centre has access to the primary care records of 1.5 m people in east London fully linked to CERNER hospital level data at Barts Trust. With an exceptional performance in the 2014 RAE (4th in UK), opportunities at PC&PH include links to the following Centres and organisations, all located in the Centre:

- Clinical Effectiveness Group
- Complex Intervention and Social Practice in Health Care
- Global Health
- mEsh -Multi-disciplinary Evidence Synthesis Hub
- Pragmatic Clinical Trials Unit
- Primary Care Research Network
- Research Design Service
- Translational Research Unit

ACFs will choose supervision from internationally recognised experts in a range of disciplines:

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| • Cluster randomised trials and modelling -                                    | Prof Sandra Eldridge (PCTU Lead)           |
| • Translational research -   | Prof Chris Griffiths (TRU lead)            |
| • Trials of complex interventions/implementation research/evidence synthesis - | Prof Stephanie Taylor (CI&SPiHC lead)      |
| • Qualitative research in primary care   | Dr Deborah Swinglehurst (Qualitative lead) |
| • Vitamin D and immunity -   | Prof Adrian Martineau (Infection Lead)     |
| • Health Systems and Health Policy Analysis                                    | Dr David McCoy (Public Health Lead)        |

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| • Epidemiology; cohorts; early life exposures - | Prof Seif Shaheen (Epidemiology Lead)                   |
| • Medical Genetics, personalised medicine       | Prof Robert Walton (Genetics Lead)                      |
| • Quality and clinical excellence               | Drs John Robson/Sally Hull/Kambiz Boomla<br>(CEG Leads) |

The Centre has an excellent and supportive learning environment, currently with 12 PhDs, four Academic Clinical Lecturers, two GP ACFs, and an NIHR Methods Fellow in place. Students present their work in Institute Seminars and the annual Institute research event.

### **The Academic Clinical Fellow post:**

The post will involve an initial period of introduction to the teaching and research activities of the Centre, after which, trainees can develop a range of activities and interests including:

- Developing a research project supervised by a senior academic in one of the Centre's areas of research expertise
- Learning particular research methodologies as part of one of our methodological groups
- Learning skills in teaching, management and evaluation of one of our postgraduate courses or in relation to undergraduate teaching
- taking components of the Centre's MSc programmes – for details of these visit <http://www.blizard.qmul.ac.uk/research/centres/16-centre-for-primary-care-and-public-health.html#teaching>
- Obtaining practical teaching experience and studying for the CILT – a recognised qualification in university teaching - see <http://capd.qmul.ac.uk/what-we-offer/educational-development/>

Those who wish to do so will be supported in working towards an MSc or a research degree, writing proposals to obtain funding for further research, or bringing smaller projects to completion and publication.

### **As an Academic Clinical Fellow at Barts and the London you will:**

- Be part of high quality primary care delivery in East London
- Develop your clinical primary care skills in a unique environment
- Develop interests and practical skills in primary care research or teaching
- Experience being part of an academic primary care unit within a medical school
- Complete a suitable teaching or research project, supported by a senior academic

Those interested in discussing the possibility of an ACF placement at Barts and The London should contact:

Robert Walton

Professor of Primary Care

020 7882 2503

[r.walton@qmul.ac.uk](mailto:r.walton@qmul.ac.uk)

Department Website:

<http://www.blizard.qmul.ac.uk/research/centres/16-centre-for-primary-care-and-public-health.html>

## **Appendix 2: Academic Clinical Fellow training at Imperial College, London**

### **Background**

Imperial College Faculty of Medicine is one of the premier research and teaching institutions in the world. Imperial welcomes the opportunity to introduce high flying career GPs to academic Primary Care. Primary Care at Imperial forms part of the School of Public Health and will offer training opportunities based across this spectrum of community and epidemiological disciplines. The college and the department are strongly committed to supporting the Academic Clinical Fellow training scheme. Trainees will be offered an imaginative and worthwhile placement of lasting interest and benefit with practical assistance to those wishing to develop a career in academic medicine.

The post is attached to the Department of Primary Care and Public Health of the Faculty of Medicine. There are a number of research groups in the Department of Primary Care and Public Health. These include the Health Services Research Unit, the Dr Foster Unit, the Child Health Unit and the WHO Collaborating Centre for Public Health Education and Training. Trainees can work with any of these units.

After an orientation to the work of the department at the outset, trainees will have the opportunity to select from a number of activities, which will include:

- Taking part in the undergraduate teaching programme including developing teaching skills, assessment, management, course evaluation and any on-going educational research
- Joining a research group to develop a piece of research
- Present their research at academic conferences and publish in peer-reviewed journals
- Research training through (for example) attending sessions in an ICL master's programme
- Undertaking teacher training via certificated and / or standalone programmes
- As a member of the academic department, taking part in the various activities and meetings available to all academic staff.

Specific enquiries about the Imperial ACF programme can be addressed to:

Dr Anju Verma, Primary Care Faculty Development Lead, Faculty of Medicine, School of Public Health, Imperial College

[anju.verma@imperial.ac.uk](mailto:anju.verma@imperial.ac.uk)

Departmental Website: <https://www1.imperial.ac.uk/publichealth/departments/pcph/>

### **Appendix 3: Academic Clinical Fellow training at King's College, London**

#### **General Practice & Primary Care**

Being an Academic Clinical Fellow (ACF) in General Practice at King's College London offers a unique opportunity for academic and clinical training in a world-leading Academic Health Sciences Centre integrating primary and secondary care. The Division of Health and Social Care Research provides the focus for this integration. Community-based and public health researchers and teachers enjoy strong collaborative links across the Faculty of Life Sciences and the local community. The Division comprises over 120 staff and researchers with seven professors in Epidemiology, Health Economics, Medical Sociology, Physiotherapy, Public Health, Social Sciences and Health, and Statistics. We are highly multidisciplinary, with clinicians, social scientists, psychologists, statisticians, informaticians, educationalists and epidemiologists. In the national Research Excellence Framework 2014 (REF 2014) 86% of our performance was rated 4\* and 3\*, sixth in the UK. We are funded by NIHR, MRC, EU, and charities, and focus on translational research from 'bench to community'.

In Primary Care the Division has world leading expertise in the integration of data from clinical and research domains, having led the EU project 'Translational Medicine and Patient Safety in Europe (FP7-TRANSFoRm) [www.transformproject.eu](http://www.transformproject.eu), and collaborating in 'Electronic Health Records for Clinical Research' (IMI-EHR4CR). These projects are developing standards and methods for integrating clinical trial workflow and data capture into electronic health records. All local general practices are on a single electronic patient record system (EMIS Web). We run a unique database (Lambeth DataNet) of routinely collected data in 49 local practices. This database provides the basis for much research using the whole community of Lambeth. In this research we are drawing together the Department of Informatics and the Department of Primary Care and Public Health Sciences (GSTT BRC).

In our emphasis on translational research from 'bench to community', research within the Division is integrated with major National Institute for Health Research (NIHR) infrastructures: the NIHR Biomedical Research Centre (BRC) at Guy's & St Thomas' NHS Foundation Trust, where the Division leads the Populations Sciences cluster; the NIHR Collaboration for Leadership in Applied Health Research and Care (CLAHRC) South London, where the Division leads the Stroke and Public Health themes; the Division hosts the NIHR Research Design Service London (RDS London), that complements a growing Research Consultancy Service; and the NIHR Clinical Research Network National Speciality Hub, that provides oversight of the need for and capacity for clinical research in nine specialty groups. Our research informs clinical guidelines and national policy in stroke, health inequalities, long-term illness, medical diagnosis and clinical research informatics. We have strong links with local communities that are urban and multi-ethnic. The research undertaken by ACFs will link their primary care interests with the research themes of the Division.

The Division has a very strong undergraduate educational unit called KUMEC, Kings Undergraduate Medical Education in the Community. KUMEC is responsible for delivering 13% of the face to face teaching of undergraduates in the medical school. General practice ACFs will have the opportunity to contribute to teaching and examining of medical students across the five years of the medical curriculum.



For ACFs links with the Division will be forged in ST1/2 years seeking to develop their research interests and engagement with a senior academic who will oversee a research project in each year of ACF ST3/4 posts. In ST4 emphasis will be on project completion, publications, and a doctoral research or in-practice fellowship application. Opportunity will be given to work in Genomic Medicine and Informatics in Primary Care through the GSTT BRC, in projects linking large primary care clinical databases, and in practice-based projects focussing on biomarkers in early disease.

The ACF will undertake clinical training within the programme run by the London School of General Practice and based at Guy's and St Thomas' NHS Foundation Trust or King's College Hospital NHS Foundation Trust. These programmes have developed outstanding innovative training posts between primary and secondary care and always attract a large number of clinical applicants. The ACF will concentrate on clinical training in years one and two. They will increase their academic involvement as the programme progresses. In year three the post will be divided 60:40 clinical:academic and in year four 40:60 clinical:academic. We expect our general practice academic trainees to publish their research every year. Most have successfully obtained NIHR and charity-funded doctoral research training fellowships, NIHR in-practice fellowships, and post-doctoral NIHR and MRC research fellowships.

Those interested in discussing the possibility of an ACF placement at Kings should contact:

Dr Patrick White, Clinical Senior Lecturer

Tel: +44 (020) 7848 8659

[patrick.white@kcl.ac.uk](mailto:patrick.white@kcl.ac.uk)

Department website:

<http://www.kcl.ac.uk/medicine/research/divisions/hscr/research/groups/index.aspx>

#### **Appendix 4: Academic Clinical Fellow training at St George's, University of London**

St. George's, University of London offers exciting and interesting research and teaching opportunities for ACFs. These two posts will enable doctors to develop skills in both, research and teaching, with a view to pursuing a career in academic general practice or as a basis for a high level portfolio career in a combination clinical practice, teaching and research. Previous St George's academic trainees have gone on to prestigious National Institute of Research In-practice Fellowships, academic teaching posts, or combining a part-time GP academic career with parenthood!

Dr Judith Ibison is Head of General Practice. The ACFs work with both the GP Education Group within the Institute of Medical and Biomedical Education, and the Primary Care Research Group within the Population Health Research Institute (described as "the jewel in the crown" at St George's). The department is small, friendly, with the research group located in newly refurbished offices in Jenner Wing, and the Education Group enjoying the views from the 6<sup>th</sup> floor of Hunter Wing.

ACF training at St George's will include:

- An initial introduction to the work of the department and thereafter attending our weekly departmental research seminars.
- Joining a dynamic research group to develop a piece of research with the opportunity to make a substantial contribution to a research project. On the way you will develop a practical understanding of research method and learn to handle statistics meaningfully. You will present your work at national academic meetings and publish your findings in peer reviewed journals. It is our aim that each trainee will have at least one peer reviewed publication by the end of their time here.
- Opportunities to do innovative educational research and contribute to a growing primary care curriculum.
- Training in a variety of teaching and learning methods, and a supported programme of teaching to improve skills in facilitating small group learning, lectures, assessment and feedback.
- Joint academic training with ACFs from other specialties at St George's, as part of the George's Academic Training network.
- Regular general practice academic meetings where St George's education and research GPs meet to share academic interests.
- All trainees attend a three day teaching course, presentation skills and Good Clinical Practice research and ethics training
- Monthly educational meetings with ST4 doctors attached to the other four London academic departments.
- Places are available on the St George's postgraduate certificate course in education for those who wish to focus more on teaching.
- Timely support in planning your post ACF career to NIHR funding or other ventures.

## Research opportunities

We offer interesting research projects in both quantitative and qualitative research methods supervised by research leads in the department.

- Drs Chris Cates and Rebecca Normansell lead a team working on Cochrane systematic reviews in the fields of asthma and COPD.
- Dr Imran Rafi is has expertise in primary care genetics and is Chair of the RCGP Clinical Innovation and Research Centre.
- Professor Pippa Oakeshott has longstanding research interests in women's health and is running a trial investigating sexually transmitted infections in pregnancy.
- Dr Tess Harris is Principal Investigator for two primary care based trials of physical activity interventions in middle aged and older people and works with the primary care epidemiology group using GP databases to research important questions for primary care.

The department holds funding from prestigious NIHR/HTA sources and whatever you do you'll have a fascinating and worthwhile experience.

Please feel free to contact any of us to ask about possible research projects:

Rebecca Normansell	<a href="mailto:rnormans@sgul.ac.uk">rnormans@sgul.ac.uk</a>
Tess Harris	<a href="mailto:tharris@sgul.ac.uk">tharris@sgul.ac.uk</a>
Pippa Oakeshott	<a href="mailto:oakeshot@sgul.ac.uk">oakeshot@sgul.ac.uk</a>
Judith Ibison	<a href="mailto:jibison@sgul.ac.uk">jibison@sgul.ac.uk</a>
Imran Rafi	<a href="mailto:irafi@sgul.ac.uk">irafi@sgul.ac.uk</a>

Those interested in discussing the possibility of an ACF placement at St. George's should contact:

Dr Judith Ibison, Head of General Practice & Primary Care Education.

If you would like to talk to any of our current trainees, please contact Judith who can put you in touch.



Health Education North Central and East London  
Health Education North West London  
Health Education South London

Department Website: <http://www.sgul.ac.uk/research>

## **Appendix 5: ACF training at University College London**

### **The Research Department of Primary Care and Population Health at UCL**

The Research Department of Primary Care and Population Health (PCPH) at UCL is part of the Institute of Epidemiology and Health Care and is headed by Professor Elizabeth Murray. Dr Joe Rosenthal is the ACF Programme Lead. The goals of PCPH are to:

- Undertake excellent research that is clinically relevant and impacts on the health of individuals and populations;
- Use our research, teaching and innovation to impact on health system improvement and service redesign;
- Work in partnership with people who use services, practitioners across the health and social care sectors, policy makers and other stakeholders relevant to increasing the impact of academic activities;
- Provide excellent teaching in primary care, population health and research methods;
- Strengthen the discipline of general practice through leadership in research, teaching and clinical practice;
- Foster professional development in all members to enable each individual to reach their full potential;

PCPH is a member of the prestigious NIHR School for Primary Care Research and contributes to the NIHR School for Public Health Research.

We value our multidisciplinary approach to both research and teaching with expertise within the department including clinical primary care, epidemiology, medical statistics, medical sociology and health psychology. We have particular methodological strengths in quantitative and qualitative research and analysis of large clinical databases and trial methodology.

**There are currently nine main workgroups within PCPH. These are as follows:**

- **The Cardiovascular Diseases Group** includes major longitudinal research studies of risk factors for cardiovascular disease, in particular the British Regional Heart Study (BRHS) of over 7000 men recruited through general practice. The BRHS has published over 300 papers over the last quarter century, and has recently secured funding to continue follow-up and investigation of both aetiology and clinical outcome into the new millennium
- **The Centre for Aging Population Studies** undertakes health services research to identify ways to provide effective primary care for older people, and includes work on the integration between health and social care. The group has particular strengths in health service research methodology and primary care nursing
- **The Primary Care Mental Health Research Group** undertakes research on the epidemiology, detection and management of mental health disorders in primary care and the evaluations of complex interventions for mental health, with particular reference to anxiety, depression, dementia, schizophrenia and the interface between mental and physical health.

- **The Primary Care eHealth Unit** explores the use of new information and communication technologies, such as the internet and mobile phones, to improve health and health care. Its three main streams of work are around interventions for public and patients, implementation of ehealth and new technology in health care systems and interactions between health care professionals and patients.
- **The Primary Care Education Group** is primarily responsible for delivering the extensive undergraduate community based teaching programme as part of the MBBS degree at UCL Medical School. We also run an intercalated BSc degree in Primary Health Care for a small group of students each year. The group is also actively involved in postgraduate GP specialty training, and runs a longstanding and successful programme of academic clinical fellowships in primary care. The group undertakes a range of educational research projects aiming to evaluate and share ideas and innovations related to medical education.
- **The Infections in Primary Care Research Group** is involved in research on sexually transmitted infections and also collaborates on research in other areas, such as respiratory and gastrointestinal infection. It is part of the National Institute for Health Research Health Protection Research Unit (NIHR HPRU) in Blood Borne and Sexually Transmitted Infections (BBSTI). Our work has included the Food Standards Agency funded study of infectious intestinal disease led by University of Manchester. We are also linked with PRIMENT Clinical Trials Unit and provide trial methodological support.
- **Improvement Science London.** Wide recognition of the gap between what we know and what we put into practice, increasing public expectations and scrutiny, tighter budgets and significant changes in the ways that services are configured, all combine to determine that we cannot carry on doing what we have always done and expect to deliver improvements at pace and at scale. Improvement Science London (ISL) aims to promote and embed the science of improvement and thereby encourage a more evidence-informed approach to improving the way that health services are organised and delivered for patients
- **The Clinical Epidemiology & Electronic Health Records Research Group** includes epidemiologists and statisticians who work on a range of clinical and methodological topics in collaboration with other colleagues in London, UK and around Europe. Many of our projects are based on electronic health records such as The Health Improvement Network (THIN) primary care database and Clinical Practice Research Database.
- **Priment Clinical Trials Unit.** Priment's mission is to advance the quality, range and design of clinical trials in primary care, mental health and community settings in order to improve the health of the population. Priment Clinical Trials Unit is a partnership between three UCL departments and conducts high quality randomised trials and related studies in mental health and primary care. The unit has a particular focus on mental health and behavioural change interventions.

All UCL GP ACFs will be attached to a research project within one of the above work groups. Whilst protected academic time does not commence formally until ST3 we strongly encourage the formation of links with a group from ST1 onwards. All ACFs will also be actively involved in regular undergraduate teaching mainly during ST3 and ST4.

Specific enquiries about the UCL ACF programme can be addressed to: Dr Joe Rosenthal, Senior Lecturer in General Practice and Sub-Dean for Community Based Teaching

[j.rosenthal@ucl.ac.uk](mailto:j.rosenthal@ucl.ac.uk)



Health Education North Central and East London  
Health Education North West London  
Health Education South London

Department Website: <http://www.ucl.ac.uk/pcph>