

## **Academic Foundation Posts at Manchester University Foundation Trust (MFT)**

MFT is one of the largest trusts in the UK employing over 200,000 staff and hosting over 700 trainees including academic clinical fellows and clinical lecturers. The trust comprises of 11 hospitals, Manchester Royal Infirmary; Wythenshawe Hospital; Trafford General Hospital; North Manchester General Hospital; Royal Manchester Children's Hospital; Manchester Royal Eye Hospital; Saint Mary's Hospital; University Dental Hospital of Manchester; Withington Community Hospital; Altrincham Hospital and NHS Nightingale Hospital North West.

### **Hospital Academic Foundation Leads**

#### Manchester Royal Infirmary

Dr Gwilym Morris

Consultant Cardiologist and Electrophysiologist, Manchester Heart Centre, CMFT and British Heart Foundation Intermediate Clinical Research Fellow, Division of Cardiovascular Sciences, School of Medical Sciences, University of Manchester.

#### Wythenshawe Hospital

Dr Sahena Haque

Consultant Rheumatologist and Director of Postgraduate Medical Education, Wythenshawe, Trafford, Withington and Altrincham Hospitals; Honorary Senior Lecturer, University of Manchester.

### **Overview**

MFT has close and well-established links with the University of Manchester Faculty of Biology, Medicine and Health, with many clinical academics on staff. In addition, the academic departments of primary care and psychiatry are both within our health economy. Our aim is to introduce foundation doctors to academic medicine in order to inspire and encourage individuals to undertake further training, to consider a clinical academic career pathway and to develop generic academic, teaching and leadership skills that will be transferable and beneficial to future career development.

### **Structure of programme**

A dedicated 4 month block of academic activity is undertaken during the second year of foundation training overseen by a named Academic Supervisor. Trainees are able to undertake academic activities in any clinical area or discipline as highlighted below. Several supervisors and projects are available cross the trust for any trainee that is undecided at the start of the programme.

Trainees are encouraged to plan academic activities in the first year of the programme and set objectives. All trainees are supported to present academic work at national and international conferences.

#### Clinical and Laboratory Research

The wide choice of academic placements will provide a range of opportunities for training in the principles and practice of research, including experimental design, laboratory practice and methodology, epidemiology, clinical trials, preparation of ethical applications and grant writing.

#### Leadership and Management

There is an opportunity to undertake a medical leadership and management placement. The trainee will shadow an experienced medical leader within the trust and gain skills in service development with a focus on understanding your own leadership style, developing skills to manage teams, coaching and mentoring, motivating self and others, developing time management skills and understanding quality improvement tools.

Trainees can choose to undertake a funded module of the PG Cert in Medical Leadership at Edge Hill University.

### Medical Education

A wide range of undergraduate and postgraduate medical education is delivered at MFT with many opportunities to participate in educational research, curriculum development and delivery, to develop core educational skills. A suitable academic supervisor and mentor will be assigned depending on the expressed area of interest.

Trainees will be encouraged to undertake a funded module of the PG Cert in Teaching and Learning in Clinical Practice at Edge Hill University.

### **Research Methods Training**

#### Generic Research Skills Training

MFT has close links with the Integrated Clinical Academic Training (ICAT) programme hosted by the University of Manchester. Trainees will attend a structured generic research skills programme along with Academic Clinical Fellows hosted by the ICAT ( <http://sites.bmh.manchester.ac.uk/icat/>) including seminars on the following topics:

- Creativity and Ethics
- Equality and Diversity
- Getting the Most out of Research Conferences
- Leadership
- Personal effectiveness and Time Management
- Reviewing Papers and Grants
- Teaching Introduction
- Teaching Tool Kit
- Public Engagement

#### Teaching and Training:

All academic trainees will be expected to present at a dedicated teaching seminar allowing for peer networking/support and to develop presentation skills.

All Academic Foundation Trainees in the region present their work at an annual showcase event at the end of the foundation programme.

#### Good Clinical Practice (GCP)

All AFPs will undergo formal training in GCP, the principles of which include:

- a) Knowledge and competence in obtaining informed consent
- b) Good record keeping with regard to clinical source documents/laboratory note books etc.
- c) Compliance with study protocols

- d) Medical care of study subjects
- e) Understanding of the roles and responsibilities of various research regulatory authorities

### Critical Appraisal and academic writing skills

As part of Foundation training, trainees are expected to demonstrate competency in performing a literature search and assessing the quality of evidence identified. We would also expect academic trainees to be able to clearly identify gaps in current knowledge and pose further research questions based on their reading. Critical appraisal competences will be developed at regular journal clubs.

### **Opportunities at MFT**

MFT hosts key research infra-structure including:

- NIHR Manchester Biomedical Research Unit
- NIHR Manchester Clinical Research Facilities
- NIHR Manchester Children's Clinical Research Facility
- A Centre for Advanced Discovery and Experimental Therapeutics (CADET) for the development of new drug treatments
- The Maternal and Fetal Health Research Centre, Europe's largest pregnancy research centre
- Nowgen: A Centre for Genetics in Healthcare, aiming to inform and improve the practice of genetic medicine
- The Willink Biochemical Genetics Unit, the main diagnostic laboratory for metabolic diseases in the North of England

The trust hosts The Nightingale Breast Cancer Centre, Wythenshawe Hospital and has close links The Christie NHS Foundation Trust for trainees with an interest in cancer research.

### **Mentorship**

All academic foundation trainees are encouraged to join the formal regional near-peer mentorship scheme to help learn from each other and promote professional and personal growth. Mentors are trained academic clinical fellows and clinical lecturers able to provide advice and guidance about projects, early career planning and the application process for ACF.

### **Library Services**

The Library Service across the trust plays a vital role in assisting and supporting research taking place in the Trust, ensuring staff and students meet their continuing professional development needs and in supporting the Trust's clinical governance and patient care commitments.

Three libraries across the MFT Group (Oxford Rd, Trafford, & Wythenshawe) function as one library service. Wythenshawe site has 24 hour access via staff ID swipe card. Books can be borrowed and returned 24/7 using the self-service facility situated near the library entrance. There are a number of different quiet study areas throughout the Library as well as space for group study. Computer access is available 24/7.

The Oxford Road Library is available from 0830 to 1900 Monday through Thursday, 0830 to 1700 on Friday, closed Saturday and Sunday. The Trafford Library is open 0930 to 1600 Monday to Friday, closed Saturday and Sunday.

A large collection of medical books and journals can be found using the library catalogue which can be accessed via the Library's website. The catalogue comprises of print books and journals held at Wythenshawe, Oxford Road Campus and Trafford Hospital. The catalogue also contains links to the electronic books and journals collections.

The Library will carry out literature searches up to systematic review level. Electronic journals are available via an MFT OpenAthens account. In addition, a formal arrangement with the University of Manchester allows access to the University of Manchester IT services and electronic journals (including a shibboleth password).

### **Statistical Support**

Courses on basics statistical principles run throughout the academic year at MFT as well as regular 'Stats surgeries' for advice about project planning and analysis.

### **Contacts**

For further information please contact the Foundation Programme Coordinator, Sharon Gibbs (Sharon.gibbs@mft.nhs.uk)