

HENW (Mersey) Academic Clinical Fellow – Ophthalmology ST1, 2 or 3

1. Job title Academic Clinical Fellow in Ophthalmology

2. Duration of post, and what happens at the end of the post if candidate successful or unsuccessful in obtaining a research fellowship

The ACF post will be for up to 3 years and during this time the fellow will be expected to apply to an external funding agency such as MRC, Wellcome Trust, Fight for Sight or other charities and organisations for a Clinical Research Training Fellowship. If successful in obtaining such a fellowship, the postholder will study for a MD or PhD and then potentially progress to a Clinical Lecturer post within The Mersey Deanery. If applications for a Clinical Research Training Fellowship or any alternative source of funding to complete a MD or PhD are unsuccessful, the postholder will return to the Specialist Trainee programme in The Mersey Deanery, providing clinical aspects of training are progressing satisfactorily (as monitored by ARCPs etc).

3. Confirmation that the post attracts an NTN (a)

Yes

4. Hospitals in which training will take place

Clinical training during the 3 year ACF component will take place predominantly within St Paul's Eye Unit at The Royal Liverpool and Broadgreen University Hospitals NHS Trust. Given the research content of the post and the particular need to be in close proximity to the University, it is expected that the Academic Clinical Fellow, will fulfil most of their training requirements within the Royal Liverpool University Hospital. Outside rotation is however, expected, but will depend on specific training needs, for example, paediatric Ophthalmology at Alder Hey Childrens NHS Trust Hospital or oculoplastics and neuro-ophthalmology at Aintree University Hospital. The ACF will on application, be awarded an honorary contract with The University of Liverpool.

Dating back to 1871, St. Paul's Eye Unit (SPEU) has a long history of providing excellent healthcare service and a high standard of care to local and national patients. It provides a range of specialist services across all sub-specialities within eye care including programmes of disease prevention. SPEU is internationally renowned for its cutting edge bench-to-bedside research into novel diagnosis and treatment options for eye diseases. Research themes have been identified around which research direction is focused including: ocular cell regeneration and repair, glaucoma, ocular surface disease and transplantation, ocular infection, age-related macular degeneration, ocular oncology, vitreo-retinal disease, diabetic retinopathy, visuomotor science.

The Unit provides modern facilities for the treatment of general and specialist adult ophthalmological diseases based around 10 inpatient beds and a day ward, together with a four theatre dedicated operating department. Theatres are equipped for complex surgery with full video teaching aids. There are comprehensive laser and outpatient facilities, a 24 hour ophthalmology Accident and Emergency service and a Primary Care Service.

There are 36 Specialist Trainees in the Mersey Deanery with 14 of these attached to SPEU at any one time, as well as Staff Grades and Associate specialists, various research fellowships and post-accreditation training fellowships in Cornea, Vitreoretina, Oncology, Glaucoma, Medical Retina, Oculoplastics, Strabismus. Each consultant is responsible for the training and specialises in a particular aspect of ophthalmology, running special tertiary referral clinics and treatment sessions and co-ordinating postgraduate teaching and research. In addition, each consultant is responsible for the delivery of their specialist service to the community, including aspects of prevention, screening and training of other professional groups. There is a high level of cross-referral between teams within the unit allowing rapid accumulation of special expertise and research cohorts.

Academic ophthalmology in Liverpool has developed and expanded steadily, principally because of a close co-operation between clinical and laboratory-based research groupings. Clinical research is based around the Clinical Eye Research Centre (CERC) funded in part by a Wolfson Grant and opened in 2005. The translational nature of the research going on in the group means that the academic team works closely with the clinical teams in a range of specialist areas of eye research and service provision. The CERC had dedicated clinical research rooms, equipment and staff giving excellent opportunities to develop and monitor research cohorts. This is helped by a recent expansion around data management, biostatistics and grant management.

The current service profile of SPEU is as follows:

A. General ophthalmic care including accident and emergency, out-patient clinics, day case and in-patient surgery, laser surgery.

B. Supra-regional specialist service

Ocular Oncology

- Ophthalmic Pathology

C. Regional specialist clinics

- Medical Retina (including diabetic eye disease, uveitis, AMD)
- Cornea and External Eye Disease
- Refractive Surgery
- Vitreoretinal surgery
- Glaucoma
- Ocular motility and strabismus
- Neuro-ophthalmology

D. Other Special Services

- Community-based Diabetic Retinopathy Screening
- Contact Lens
- Electrodiagnosis
- Visual Fields
- Orthoptics
- Low Vision, including on site Eye Clinic Liaison Officer for Bradbury Fields

St. Paul's Eye Unit Consultant Staff

Mr. S. Ahmad	Cornea (Academic Foundation programme)
Mr M Batterbury	Glaucoma/Cornea (Undergraduate Teaching)
Mr NAV Beare	Medical Retina
Mr M Briggs	Acute Ophthalmology/Medical retina (Clinical Director)
Mrs A Choudhary	Glaucoma
Prof SE Coupland	Ocular Pathology (Head Department of Pathology)
Mr J Durnian	Strabismus and Neuro-ophthalmology (College Tutor)
Mr CP Groenewald	Surgical Retina
Prof SP Harding	Medical Retina (Head DEVS)
Prof H Heimann	Medical and Surgical Retina
Prof SB Kaye	Cornea (ICAT lead)
Mr W Newman	Paediatric Ophthalmology
Mr IA Pearce	Medical & Surgical Retina (Regional Advisor)
Ms. Rogers	Glaucoma (Educational Supervisor)
Mrs JN Sahni	Medical Retina
Mr TS Stappler	Surgical Retina (Deputy Clinical Director)
Dr. A. Stylianides	Medical Ophthalmology
Professor Willoughby	Cornea/Glaucoma
Professor Wong	Surgical Retina

Paediatric ophthalmology services for Merseyside are provided at Alder Hey Children's Hospital by Mr. Newman, Mr. Chandna and Mr. Nayak

The Primary Care Centre in St. Paul's Eye Unit is led by a Consultant Director and assesses and initiates the management of all A+E activity and sees and filters half of all new patient referrals. The consultant staff other than the vitreo-retinal team share general on-call, including on-call cover for Alder Hey.

Oculoplastic training is mainly undertaken at Aintree University Hospital (Mr. McCormick and Mr. Hsuan), Arrowse Park Hospital (Mr. Watts) Chester (Mr Bhargarva) and Warrington (Mr. Halliwell).

Neuro-ophthalmology training and service consists of dedicated and combined neurology and neuro-ophthalmology clinics (RLUH and Aintree University Hospital) with close links to the Walton Centre for Neurology & Neurosurgery (Mr. Durnian and Ms. Noonan). At The Walton Neurology and Neurosurgical Centre there is exposure to multidisciplinary neurology and neurosurgical meetings.

There are well established specialist units running a wide range of single and multicentre non-commercial, NIHR portfolio and commercial studies offering the successful candidate an excellent opportunity to develop research and specialist care skills within the team and personally. These include:

Liverpool Ocular Oncology service which is one of only 3 supraregional centres in England with an international reputation for patient care and research.

Medical Retina service comprises 6 Consultants and 2 Associate Specialists providing regional services for uveitis, AMD, inherited retinal diseases and diabetic retinopathy.

The Cornea, Ocular Surface and Refractive service is provided by 4 Consultants. The Corneal service is also a clinical research and tertiary referral centre for Corneal infections, Keratoconus, Limbal stem and conjunctival cell treatment and Ocular surface disease. It is one of the most active corneal transplant service in the UK.

Clinical and Academic Glaucoma Unit with 5 consultants – a major expansion of this unit is underway including the development of academic and community based services.

Surgical Retina Unit with 5 consultants actively involved in multi-centre UK and European research trials

The Liverpool Diabetic Eye Screening Programme and Eye Study which have developed into a major national leader in research and service delivery in diabetic eye disease.

The Liverpool Ophthalmic Reading Centre which is part of NetWORC UK with accredited staff grading OCT, colour and angiographic images for clinical studies.

5. Clinical duties

Clinical duties will include operating list, outpatients, ward rounds and NHS administration as well as participating in the on-call rota. The ACF will be expected, at all times, to conform to the policies of the Trust and the University and maintain the highest professional, clinical and academic standards, and establish the best possible relations with University and NHS colleagues.

6. Research institutions in which training will take place

Research will be within The Department of Eye and Vision Science as well as within the respective hospital in the rotation. At The Royal Liverpool University Hospital, the Clinical Eye Research Centre offers a dedicated unit for clinical research.

The Department of Eye and Vision Science (DEVS) is located within the Institute of Ageing and Chronic Disease (IACD) which is one of five research institutes within the Faculty of Health and Life Sciences focusing on delivering research excellence as part of the strategic direction of The University of Liverpool. DEVS has over 30 scientists and has a highly successful partnership working with the regional clinical service in St Paul's Eye Unit, Royal Liverpool University Hospital and its Clinical Eye Research Centre. The academic team consists of 3 professors, 2 readers, 2 senior lecturers, 3 non-clinical lecturers and 2 clinical lecturers. DEVS has excellent laboratory facilities within the IACD and is dedicated to developing new methods for the prevention, early detection and treatment of eye diseases for the benefit of patients, as well as translation of basic science eye research. It provides an innovative, well-resourced centre for non-clinical and clinical scientists to carry out research into diseases and the mechanisms behind them.

7. Whether day release or block release will be used for protected research time

This is flexible and will depend on the clinical and research experience and needs of the successful applicant. This will either be day release or block release, the latter involving periods of 3 or more months per annum.

8. Description of research component of programme

You will be expected to be involved in a research programme in a wider research group consistent within the strategic research areas of the DEVS and clinical ophthalmology. Depending on your experience and interests, you will have opportunity to join a research programme within one of the strategic research directions.

Molecular biology and mechanisms of disease

Advanced cell based therapies

Bioengineering, imaging technology and informatics

Clinical studies in health and disease

Each of these themes has a number of research groups each with identified clinical and non-clinical collaborations. The diseases studied include corneal regeneration and angiogenesis, corneal infection, glaucoma, diabetic retinopathy, age-related macular degeneration, retinal detachment, eye tumours and tropical eye diseases such as malaria retinopathy. DEVS holds a number of major grants at project and programme level from funders including the NIHR, Wellcome Trust, EU, EPSRC, BBSRC and MRC and has been successful in securing research grants from eye specific funders including Fight for Sight. Further information is available at <http://www.liv.ac.uk/ageing-and-chronic-disease/research-departments/eye-and-vision-science>.

9. Clinical teaching of Specialist Trainees

Teaching of trainees takes place each Wednesday afternoon throughout the year. There is easy access to the programme by the staff at other hospitals within the region and regular attendance by consultants from other units within the region. There are regular guest speakers. Additional teaching takes place at regular times during the week and includes early morning and lunchtime subspecialist meetings in Cornea, Glaucoma, Retina, Uveitis, Oncology, Neuro-ophthalmology and Strabismus, wet lab surgical training, informal teaching in clinics and clinical vivas for FRCOphth examinations. The recently commissioned post-graduate centre in the Linda McCartney building has significantly advanced the facilities for post-graduate study.

10. Contacts

10.1 Lead for Integrated Clinical Training in Ophthalmology

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10.2 Clinical Programme Director

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10.5 Clinical Director at the St. Paul's Eye Unit

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10.6 Head of the Department of Eye and Vision Science

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LINK TO NIHR TCC WEBSITE FOR FURTHER INFORMATION:

<http://www.nihrtcc.nhs.uk/intetacatrain/>