

ACF Therapeutics or Clinical Pharmacology Programme Details in conjunction with the University of Liverpool

Recruitment to posts starting in August 2021

Post availability

There is 1 post available in Genito-Urinary Medicine.

You can apply at ST1, ST2 or ST3 level in this round of recruitment.

Please note if you are appointed at ST1 or ST2 level, you will be placed in an appropriate Core Medical 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/nih-academic-clinical-fellowships-glance>

This ACF is a powerful springboard for a career in academic Genito-urinary Medicine. You will be supported by a collaboration between the Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine (LSTM), the Royal Liverpool University Hospital (RLUH) Access Sexual Health Clinic and the University of Liverpool (UoL).

Our aim is that, by the end of your fellowship, you will: **(i)** have had sufficient training and involvement across a range of research projects and courses to give you a clear idea of the future GUM research area that you want to develop; **(ii)** have submitted a highly competitive application to secure a PhD studentship within one of our established MRC or Wellcome Trust doctoral fellowship programmes through which you will develop this research. Applicants with an interest in global health are especially welcome.

Academic Training

Your training will be overseen by Dr Angela Obasi, (Academic Supervisor) Deputy Director of the NIHR IMPALA programme and Co Director of the LSTM DTM&H and Dr Emily Clarke (Clinical supervisor) NIHR North West Coast STI Research champion and Chair of the British association for Sexual health and HIV Clinical Standards Unit.

Trainees entering as ACFs at ST1 or ST2 will spend 25% of their time to research while they complete their core medical training and obtain the MRCP. The research time is usually organised as 2 months in the first year and 4 months in the second year subject, to trainee needs. You will be provided with opportunities for a range of taster sessions in first placement to sample different types of research before choosing an area to focus on. Once at ST3, or if entering at ST3, then the 25% time may either be on a week by week basis or larger blocks depending on the project needs. Formal training and research participation will develop core skills (evidence synthesis, study design, epidemiology, statistical methods) complemented by

specialist areas (health economics and modelling, behavioural bioinformatics, vaccine design, microbiology and AMR, and qualitative data collection) and analysis as needed. Your bespoke training will draw on over 60 modules in the LSTM suite of postgraduate diplomas and Masters programmes. You will have a clear supervision structure including both your academic and clinical educational supervisor and a progression advisory panel. This agreed supervision and mentoring and milestones plan will optimise skills development and planning.

Research Areas / Research Environment

Your skills will be developed through participation in research across a range of areas. You will have the opportunity to work both in the UK and the large portfolio of LSTM research overseas.

Our **UK portfolio** includes the following themes

A: Infection control and antimicrobial resistance (AMR): (i) LSTM Projects addressing the urgent public health threat of AMR especially in highly resistant *Neisseria Gonorrhoea*; (ii) active recruitment to RLUH GUM NIHR portfolio studies including randomised trials evaluating different treatment modalities bacterial vaginosis (VITA and DEVA), for HPV (HIPVAC) and for numerous HIV trials; (iii) Commercial studies including for GSK and Cepheid and treatment trials for HIV (e.g. TANGO, SALSA) and for gonorrhoea (e.g. EAGLE 1)

B: HIV prevention among at risk groups: RLUH GUM has an active programme of prevention research among men who have sex with men (MSM), Black and Minority Ethnic (BAME) groups (e.g. HIV testing partnerships with LSTM & Liverpool City Council) and adolescents and young people (with Brook & Knowsley)

Opportunities for Research overseas will include

D: Adolescent sexual and reproductive health and HIV treatment intervention development in Tanzania in collaboration with the Tanzania National Institute of Medical Research, and the Kilimanjaro Christian Medical Clinic and University amongst many others.

E: AMR themes above addressed in partnership with the Malawi-Liverpool- Wellcome Clinical Research programme (MLW).

Research Facilities

You will have access to research and investigators across the collaboration between LSTM, Axess and the UoL. With additional opportunities through **Axess** research collaborations e.g. with John Moores University, the University of Southampton, the British Association for Sexual Health and HIV (BASHH), and the European Clinical Collaborative Group of the International Union Against STIs. Research overall and STI research in particular is a key priority for The Royal Liverpool & Broad Green University Hospital Trust which has recently invested a full time research nurse dedicated to RLUH GUM to support and grow our research agenda.

LSTM is one of the leading public health research institutions in the UK. Ranked 6th for impact in REF 2014, it is internationally recognised for its work in infection and translating its science into therapeutics and diagnostics for direct patient benefit. With a portfolio of over £300m and over 300 academic staff with world leading expertise across the spectrum of health sciences. LSTM therefore is well placed to build your capacity and facilitate your exposure to national and international research networks.

You will also benefit from other investments in research in the Liverpool. For example, The Centre for Excellence in Infectious Disease Research (CEIDR) is a joint venture by the UoL and LSTM which consolidates translational infection research as a regional strategy for economic and academic development.

Clinical Training

The RLUH Axess sexual health clinic is one of the most active departments of GUM outside London (>30,000 attendances p.a.) with a large HIV cohort (1246 patients). It has specialist expertise in genital dermatology, herpes, HPV vaccination, HIV in pregnancy, clinical standard setting, clinical education, and the use of media to communicate with the public. Training in related specialties includes general dermatology, obstetrics and gynaecology, and microbiology.

The speciality training programme provided by RLUH GUM has significant strengths, due to our co-location and close working with world leading allied specialities including:

- Regional TIDU (national High consequence infection centre of excellence)
- Clinical pharmacology – World experts in HIV pharmacology
- Sexual & reproductive Healthcare (Merseycare) advanced training in SRH

The HEE North West GUM rotation includes sites across the whole North West footprint, providing training in tertiary, district and community settings. You will participate in well attended weekly joint training meetings and Axess hosts the Cheshire and Mersey HIV network and BASHH regional meetings.

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 - <https://specialtytraining.hee.nhs.uk/Recruitment/Person-specifications>.

Useful Links

<https://www.oriel.nhs.uk/Web/Vacancies>

<https://www.nwpgmd.nhs.uk/nih-academic-clinical-fellowships-glance>

<https://specialtytraining.hee.nhs.uk/Recruitment/Person-specifications>

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Last reviewed: Wednesday 21st October 2020