

ACF Epidemiology and Public Health Programme Details in conjunction with the University of Manchester

Recruitment to posts starting in August 2022

Post availability

There is one post available in either Rheumatology OR Paediatrics OR Obstetrics & Gynaecology

- Rheumatology – You can apply at ST1, ST2 & ST3 level in this round of recruitment.
- Paediatrics – You can apply at ST1 level in this round of recruitment.
- Obstetrics & Gynaecology – You can apply at ST1 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/nihr-academic-clinical-fellowships-glance>

The Centre for Musculoskeletal Research (CfMR) is one of the largest and most comprehensive groups conducting rheumatology research in the UK. The CfMR comprises the Arthritis Research UK Centres of Excellence in Epidemiology and Genetics and Genomics, as well as the Musculoskeletal theme of the NIHR Manchester Biomedical Research Centre and numerous other research programmes. We aim to understand the aetiology and outcome of a variety of musculoskeletal conditions including rheumatoid arthritis, psoriatic arthritis, juvenile idiopathic arthritis, systemic lupus erythematosus, scleroderma, myositis and osteoarthritis; the pathophysiology and management of musculoskeletal pain; pharmacoepidemiology (in particular methotrexate and biologic agents) and co-morbidity. The CfMR has over 100 staff including eight clinical professors, one reader, several senior lecturers and academic clinical lecturers. All the principal investigators have experience of supervising higher degrees and can provide mentorship, support and practical guidance to both ACFs and clinical lecturers.

Academic Training

Trainees entering as ACFs at ST1 or ST2 are allocated 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. ACFs will be provided with 4 x 2 weekly taster sessions during the first placement in order 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 in a 3 month block. ACFs entering at ST3 level will be encouraged to enter the MSc in Clinical Rheumatology programme during year one of their specialist training. ACFs entering at ST1 or ST2 should be ready to apply for a clinical fellowship within their ST3 year and will be encouraged to defer taking the MSc until after they have completed their clinical fellowship. There is the opportunity to enrol for the generic MRes programme of The University of Manchester during the ST1 and ST2 years.

The MSc in Clinical Rheumatology is a highly regarded course which attracts many able SpRs/StRs to the region for training. In addition, trainees will be encouraged to attend the monthly Manchester Rheumatology afternoon which – over a three year cycle – covers the whole training curriculum. There is an annual research and annual audit presentation day with prizes awarded.

The aim of the ACF programme is to enable trainees to prepare and secure a competitive clinical fellowship. This is achieved by focusing on the core skills required for research and ACFs will have the opportunity to contribute to and complete research projects prior to their fellowship application, which should result both in presentations at national and international meetings and publications in peer reviewed journals. Each ACF will be allocated an academic rheumatology supervisor in keeping with their area of research interest with whom they will agree goals for each year of their training. The supervisor will help them formulate an individualised programme for their research time and to develop a suitable project for a fellowship application. In addition, each ACF will enter the University of Manchester's mentorship programme which provides personal and careers guidance for junior academic doctors by a senior clinical academic not necessarily in the same discipline. The Fellowship Academy within the University provides advice, guidance and help with preparing for fellowship applications at all levels.

Research Areas / Research Environment

We can offer academic training in laboratory-based genetics and genomics, bioinformatics, clinical pharmacology, therapeutics, precision medicine, clinical trials and epidemiology including digital epidemiology.

Research Facilities

The Centre for Musculoskeletal Research (CfMR) benefits from excellent infrastructure and state-of-the-art facilities for biomedical research. There is access to cutting edge genomic technology and modern molecular biology laboratories. We also have access to a single cell genomics facility and large-scale sequencing capabilities. Bioinformatics and biostatistical analysis is supported by The University of Manchester Computational Shared Facility which offers access to and support of a large, resilient high performance computer facility and high capacity storage facility. We have extensive experience in exploiting large, complex datasets for genetic, clinical and digital epidemiology studies. Within the CfMR, we have access to large patient cohorts with detailed follow-up data and samples available for analysis; these include studies of treatment response (BSRBR-RA (www.bsrbr.org), BRAGGSS (www.cfgg.manchester.ac.uk/research/projects), RAMS (<http://www.cfgg.manchester.ac.uk/research/resources/sample-collections>), BILAG-BR (www.bilagbr.org)) and long-term outcome (NOAR (<http://www.cfe.manchester.ac.uk/research/projects/>), CAPS (<https://www.caps-childhoodarthritisprospectivestudy.co.uk>), MYOPROSP). The CfMR is home to four MRC-funded stratified medicine studies including MATURA in rheumatoid arthritis (www.matura.whri.qmul.ac.uk) and MASTERPLANS in lupus (www.lupusmasterplans.org).

Clinical Training

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/nhr-academic-clinical-fellowships-glance>

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

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