# Job Description

# NIHR Academic Clinical Fellowship

# Obstetrics & Gynaecology ST1(ST2) or ST3 (1 post)

The University of Leeds, in partnership with Health Education England Yorkshire and the Humber, the Leeds Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust, and the National Institute for Health Research (NIHR) Academy has developed an exciting pathway of academic clinical training opportunities.

Applications are now invited for an **Academic Clinical Fellowship in Obstetrics & Gynaecology at ST1-3 level.** *Please note: This is a multi-specialty vacancy, an appointment may not be made in this specialty. There will be 1 ACF post in either Obstetrics and Gynaecology or Paediatrics.* **Please note**: Applicants looking for an ST2 Obstetrics and Gynaecology ACF post are encouraged to apply to this vacancy at ST1; if successful your experience can be assessed upon commencing in post enabling you to work at the appropriate ST level. This new post has been created as part of the Health Education England and NIHR Academy Integrated Academic Training programme and offers candidates a comprehensive experience of clinical academic medicine working alongside internationally renowned clinicians and researchers.

We are seeking highly motivated, enthusiastic individuals with the potential to excel in both their clinical and academic training and who have the ambition to be the next generation of academic clinicians.

This Academic Clinical Fellowship (ACF) programme in Obstetrics & Gynaecology will be run by the University of Leeds, the Leeds Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust and Health Education England Yorkshire and the Humber.

Academic Clinical Fellowships (ACFs) are three year fixed-term national training posts. They attract an NTN(A) and trainees undertake 75 % clinical and 25% academic training over the term of the post. They are employed by the NHS Trust and have an honorary contract with the University at whose Medical School their academic research is supported.

ACF trainees will join the vibrant Leeds Clinical Academic Training scheme and undertake the Research Training Programme provided by the University for which funding is provided by NIHR. They also are eligible for a £1,000 bursary per year to support research training activity (e.g. to attend academic conferences).

ACF trainees would also normally complete and submit an external funding application for a research fellowship to enable them to complete a higher degree (PhD or research MD) following the completion of their ACF fixed-term post, which would be completed as Out-of-Programme-Research (OOPR).

All Academic Clinical Fellowships are run-through posts, regardless of specialty, with the exception of ‘Medical Education’ ACFs. A trainee entering ACF at ST1-ST3 in a specialty with a Core Training period would therefore be guaranteed continued training to CCT in the eventual specialty, as long as they progress satisfactorily through both their academic and clinical training. Run-through status is withdrawn if ACFs do not complete the academic component.

# POST DETAILS

## Job Title

NIHR Academic Clinical Fellow (ACF) – Obstetrics & Gynaecology

## Duration of the Post

Up to 3 years (25% academic, 75% clinical)

## Lead NHS Hospital/Trust in which training will take place

Obstetrics & Gynaecology ACFs will be based at St James’s University Hospital, Leeds within Leeds Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust.

## Research institution in which training will take place

The research work will be carried out in the Section of Obstetrics & Gynaecology within the **Leeds Institute of Medical Research at St James’s (LIMR),** School of Medicine, University of Leeds.

## Research Protected Time:

ACFs would have day release training to attend and complete an accredited postgraduate programme in health research methodology at the University of Leeds (24 contact days plus additional private study usually completed in one year). Arrangements for research blocks or weekly research days, constituting 25% FTE academic time (and comprising a total of 9 months over the three year ACF post), are managed by local agreement with the academic supervisors and clinical training programme director. This period of research will be used to obtain specific experience and knowledge in the research area of interest, obtain pilot data and apply for an external doctoral research fellowship (see below).

## Academic Clinical Fellowship Training Programme: Research Component

The Section of Obstetrics & Gynaecology’s research work covers a range of themes ranging from understanding disease aetiology through to the application of our findings in translational clinical trials and currently includes the following areas of research:

* Prediction/prevention of adverse pregnancy outcome - much of our work in this area aims to integrate complementary research themes so as to integrate clinical, metabolomic, proteomic, and genetic biomarkers in the pre-symptomatic detection of obstetric complications
* Gynaecological cancer - the bulk of our work revolves around the pathophysiology of endometrial cancer using genomic, transcriptomic, proteomic and lipidomic approaches. Much of our emphasis is placed on understanding the role of the tumour microenvironment in carcinogenesis. We are also interested in the role of microRNAs, predictive markers for response to novel targeted therapies, and the process of epithelial-mesenchymal transition in ovarian cancer
* Modelling immune networks - this area of work focuses on using Bayesian theory-based machine learning as a strategy to model the interactions of, and clarify the mechanisms controlling, inflammatory mediators; this is currently one of our most active areas of development and is run in conjunction with the systems biology group at Harvard Medical School
* Imaging of placenta/cervix - we use 3D reconstruction of these organs using DT-MRI, lightsheet microscopy, and digital pathology in order to appreciate the microstructural anomalies associated with the development of specific pathologies. We are particularly focusing on villous/vascular histoarchitecture in the context of intrauterine growth restriction and pre-eclampsia, and of the structure of the internal os and its role in the prevention of preterm birth
* Interaction between nutrition and pregnancy outcome: we work closely with the Nutritional Epidemiology group in order to better understand the impact of nutrition on the incidence of pregnancy complications. Much of our research in this area has focussed on maternal caffeine and antioxidant intake
* Endothelial biology: one of our previous ACFs was successful in gaining an MRC Research Fellowship and studied the role of mechanosensing channels in placental vasculature within the world-leading cardiovascular research group in the Leeds Institute of Cardiovascular and Metabolic Medicine and has now returned as an ACL to continue her research in this area
* Reproductive Medicine: including pioneering *in vitro* maturation research and studying implantation biology

Our work is collaborative and links in with other leading national and international groups. We particularly value the practical contribution of our research in driving our teaching and clinical practice to improve women’s healthcare.

The Department provides teaching for the fourth year of the Undergraduate Course in Medicine and contributes to teaching in the first, second and third years. The Department is actively and intimately involved with the delivery and ongoing development of the Leeds Undergraduate Medical Curriculum and it will be expected that the holder of this post will be actively involved in this respect. The post holder will be required to take an effective role in the delivery and development of mainly undergraduate, but to some extent, postgraduate medical education. They will be responsible for delivery and organisation of teaching in the undergraduate medical curriculum and responsibility will exist for a number of administrative tasks related to the teaching role of the Department of Obstetrics and Gynaecology.

## Academic Clinical Fellowship Training Programme: Clinical Component

You will have the opportunity to obtain gain experience in all the subspecialty areas within Obstetrics & Gynaecology: maternal-fetal medicine, urogynaecology, reproductive medicine, gynaeoncology. You will work in the various inpatient and outpatient settings according to the specific post they are doing in their rotation. A partial shift system is operated. You will take part in one of the first- or second-on shift rotas that cover acute care depending on your level of training, and your training requirements. You will be responsible to more senior registrar-level trainees and consultants. The Academic Trainee will also be expected to actively participate and organise departmental meetings. There is an expectation that the Academic Trainee will be involved in teaching medical students, clinical attachments and junior trainees.

Training in obstetrics & gynaecology is organised under the auspices of the School of Obstetrics & Gynaecology. The Obstetrics service is provided on both sites in Leeds. The St James’s Maternity Unit, which is located in Gledhow Wing, deals with approximately 4,800 deliveries per year. The Leeds General Infirmary Maternity Unit, located within Clarendon Wing, has around 5,100 deliveries per annum. Each Unit has a General Antenatal Outpatient Department, an Antenatal Day Care Unit, Fetal Medicine Unit, Fetal Assessment Unit and Obstetric Ultrasound Department.

There is a Maternity Assessment Centre at both St James’s and the LGI through which the majority of acute obstetric admissions are triaged. MAC is open 24hrs 7 days a week at both and has considerably improved the service for both women and staff.

We are a forward-thinking unit and have established a regional multi-professional training scheme in obstetric emergencies. We have obtained funding to further develop the service from workforce confederation and have introduced a computerised simulation of delivery suite management to assist in the training and maintenance of labour ward management skills for both midwifery and medical staff. We train midwifery as well as medical staff in core labour ward skills including instrumental deliveries and fetal blood sampling and review our practice on a daily basis as a multidisciplinary team. We have a well formulated and robust risk management system which, in combination with our training and review of practice enables us to continually sustain and even improve the standards of care we offer our users.

The Gynaecology Service is centralised on the St James’s site; the benign gynaecology service is provided from theatres, wards, outpatient and urodynamic facilities within the Chancellor Wing and the gynae oncology service is provided from dedicated ward, outpatient and theatre facilities in the recently commissioned Bexley Wing. In addition to high risk antenatal clinics, there are a variety of specialist clinics run in conjunction with the relevant physicians on either the St James’s or LGI site. These include a Cardiac Clinic, Diabetic Clinic, Substance Abuse Clinic, Endocrine Clinic (thyroid, adrenal and pituitary), Teenage Pregnancy Clinic, Preterm Clinic, Obstetric Haematology Clinic, Mental Health Clinic, and a Rheumatology Clinic.

The Early Pregnancy Assessment Unit is located at St James’s and, although it comes under the auspices of Gynaecology, there are naturally close links between the Obstetric Departments and EPAU. A recurrent miscarriage clinic is run from the EPAU providing both a diagnostic service and support in early pregnancy.

The Fetal Medicine Unit runs clinics five days a week at LGI offering invasive prenatal diagnosis, diagnosis and management of congenital anomalies, rhesus disease including in-utero transfusion and a variety of other invasive therapeutic procedures. The Regional Paediatric Cardiology Service is based at LGI as is the Cleft Service for the Northern and Yorkshire Region. A combined Genetics/Fetal Medicine clinic is run weekly on both the St James’s and LGI sites and, in addition there is a Multiple Pregnancy Clinic based at SJUH.

The Yorkshire Modular Training Programme (YMTP) provides training for Obstetric & Gynaecology trainees in the Yorkshire region from ST1 - ST5. Teaching sessions are provided throughout the region to ensure all trainees receive a standardised level of training. The curriculum for the YMTP follows that of the RCOG logbook. The YMTP is a comprehensive training programme that fulfills your training requirements by providing all the mandatory courses eg. Basic Practical Skills, Family Planning, Basic ultrasound, as well as part 1 and part 2 MRCOG courses

<https://www.yorksandhumberdeanery.nhs.uk/obstetrics_and_gynaecology>

An NHS Clinical Supervisor will be appointed for each clinical post. The appointee will follow the RCOG curriculum, and complete workplace-based assessments according to the RCOG assessment strategy. During training you will be supervised by the Regional Postgraduate Specialty Training Committee on which there are representatives from Health Education Yorkshire and the Humber, Training Hospitals, Universities and Junior Staff. The performance of all trainees is assessed on a regular basis, subject to the regulations of the Royal College of Obstetrics & Gynaecology. Progress will be assessed at an Annual Review of Competency Progression. Reviewers will include both University and NHS personnel.

# CONTACTS

## Academic Lead and Supervisor

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## Training Programme Director (clinical):

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## Academic Training Programme Director

Professor Phil Quirke [p.quirke@leeds.ac.uk](mailto:p.quirke@leeds.ac.uk)

# Further Information

Because of the nature of the work for which you are applying, this post is exempted from the provisions of Section 4 (2) of the Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974 by virtue of the Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974 (Exceptions) Order 1975.

Applicants are therefore, not entitled to withhold information about convictions, which for other purposes are “spent” under the provisions of the Act, and in the event of employment any failure to disclose such convictions could result in dismissal or disciplinary action by the University. Any information given will be strictly confidential and will be considered only in relation to an application for positions to which the Order applies.

For further information about the Academic Clinical Fellowship programme, please refer to the NIHR Academy webpage

<https://www.nihr.ac.uk/explore-nihr/academy-programmes/integrated-academic-training.htm>