# Job Description

# NIHR Academic Clinical Fellowship

# Immunology ST1 or ST3 (1 post)

The University of Leeds, in partnership with NHS England North East and Yorkshire and the Leeds Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust, has developed an exciting pathway of academic clinical training opportunities.

Applications are now invited for an **Academic Clinical Fellowship in Immunology at either ST1 or ST3 level.** *This is a multi-specialty vacancy, an appointment may not be made in this specialty. There will be 1 ACF post in either Rheumatology, Immunology or Trauma and Orthopaedic Surgery.* This new post has been created as part of the NHS England and National Institute for Health Research (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 Immunology will be run by the University of Leeds, the Leeds Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust and NHS England North East and Yorkshire. Academic Clinical Fellowships (ACFs) are 3 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 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) – Immunology

## Duration of the Post

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

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

Leeds Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust with regional clinical rotations

## Research institution in which training will take place

**Leeds Institute of Rheumatic and Musculoskeletal Medicine (LIRMM)**, 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 3 year ACF post), are managed by local agreement with the academic supervisors within the Leeds Institute of Medical Research 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. **Please note: in the Internal Medicine Training curriculum research time cannot be taken during the Elderly Medicine or ICU Clinical training rotations.**

## Academic Clinical Fellowship Training Programme: Research Component

The Leeds Institute of Rheumatic and Musculoskeletal Medicine (LIRMM) is a world-renowned centre for research across the spectrum of rheumatic and musculoskeletal medicine and incorporates the Leeds NIHR Biomedical Research Centre (BRC). LIRMM has a highly successful track record in developing its clinical academic trainees from ACF to Clinical Lecturer and Clinician Scientist. ACFs within LIRMM will have access to excellent teaching and research opportunities. The size and diversity of research streams within our institute offers significant opportunities. The central aim of the ACF programme is to enable trainees to prepare and secure a competitive external Clinical Research Fellowship.

The ACF in Immunology can join one of several multidisciplinary programmes in the areas of immunology, haematological malignancy or transplant research:

The Clinical Immunology Research Group at the University of Leeds is internationally recognised for its pioneering work in systemic autoinflammatory diseases and genetically mediated immune conditions. Our research spans from the discovery of novel genetic mechanisms to the development of innovative diagnostic and therapeutic approaches, with direct impact on patient care. Candidate will have opportunity to select a project within this area of research.

The group is led by Professor Sinisa Savic, a clinician-scientist at the forefront of translational immunology. Students joining the team, located at the Wellcome Brenner Building, will benefit from access to a world-leading research environment, combining cutting-edge laboratory science with close clinical collaboration. Projects are highly interdisciplinary, offering opportunities to work at the interface of genomics, molecular immunology, translational medicine, and experimental therapeutics.

Immunology and haematological malignancy research is strong in Leeds within the [NIHR-Leeds-BRC-Haematology](https://leedsbrc.nihr.ac.uk/haematology/) theme. Leveraging the extensive [Haematological-Malignancy-Diagnostic-Service](https://hmds.info/) at LTHT and the [Haematological-Malignancy-Research-Network](https://www.york.ac.uk/biomedical-research-institute/immunology-haematology-infection/hmrn/) at University of York, which covers all haematological malignancies in Yorkshire/Humberside since 2003, allows differentiation between common age-associated lymphoid and early/multiple-onset cases. Using targeted sequencing platform (NHS England Genomics Services) with genome-wide sequencing the ACF will explore inborn errors of immunity (IEI) and haematological malignancy generation, particularly B-lineage lymphomas often linked to EBV infection, and systematically assess the contribution of constitutional genetic factors associated with IEI to early-onset lymphoid cancers +/-EBV involvement.

The lead supervisor Professor Savic is member of LIRMM, whilst the co-supervisor Professor Tooze, is a member of Leeds Institute for Medical research. Their research groups are co-located in in Wellcome Brenner Budling and have long-standing history of close collaboration. The Wellcome Brenner Building offers a whole range state-of the art facilities to support basic and translational research.

Leeds is a major transplant centre linked to [NIHR-HealthTech-Research-Centre-(Early-Diagnosis-and-Personalised-Care)](https://eur03.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fhrc-surgical.nihr.ac.uk%2Four-themes%2Fearly-diagnosis-and-personalised-care%2F&data=05%7C02%7CJ.Bentley%40leeds.ac.uk%7C892804d656da48b018e108dd51f2fb30%7Cbdeaeda8c81d45ce863e5232a535b7cb%7C0%7C0%7C638756826228817840%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJFbXB0eU1hcGkiOnRydWUsIlYiOiIwLjAuMDAwMCIsIlAiOiJXaW4zMiIsIkFOIjoiTWFpbCIsIldUIjoyfQ%3D%3D%7C0%7C%7C%7C&sdata=vHbSC3A%2FExOlGkBd6tIfcMOBvKH0Ko26xNyq5ZrucLQ%3D&reserved=0) with platforms for testing biomarkers and risk stratification strategies by leveraging big data within [NHS-Blood-and-Transplant](https://hospital.blood.co.uk/patient-services/patient-blood-management/)  and [NIHR-Perioperative-Care-Health-Informatics-Co-operative](https://hic.nihr.ac.uk/). Organ transplantation evolves through *in-vitro* diagnostic (IVD) improvements and machine learning (ML) to solve complex decision-making. Immunological factors confound shared decision making based on current risk assessments. We have developed a multi-award-winning risk assessment tool through iterative processes leading best clinical practice nationally; ACF will use this to develop novel biomarkers and use ML to predict transplantation outcome. We are now developing a comprehensive research programme, to expand our research into immunological determinants of transplantation success. The supervisory team will consist of Professor Savic, the lead supervisor and Dr Daga, a co-supervisor. The research group is located within LIRMM, at the Wellcome Brenner Building facility. The ACF will experience application of laboratory immunological markers in complex decision making balancing the equity and timeliness of access to life saving transplantation with immunological risks/ outcome post organ transplantation. The risk assessment MDT has been developed through iterative process and is replicated across the country but areas of uncertainty and unmet need are key focus. The ACF will experience translation of laboratory and academic into real life clinical setting of both in- and out-patient patient care and application of clinical trials towards improving care.

## Academic Clinical Fellowship Training Programme: Clinical Component

This post is offered at ST1 and ST3 level. The post is intended for an individual intending to pursue an academic career in Immunology.

ST1 ACFs will undergo internal medicine training at Leeds Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust (Leeds General Infirmary and St James’s Hospital) and be co-supervised by the Yorkshire School of Postgraduate Medicine whose remit is to ensure the provision of an education of a consistent high quality across the Yorkshire Deanery, manage initial selection, subsequent allocation and appropriate placements. They will also provide induction (in collaboration with the host NHS Trust), appraisals and competence-based curriculum delivery assessments. The IMT clinical programme will be tailored to suit the needs of the trainee and will rotate through Elderly Medicine, ICU and academic medical units where the ACFs will complete their internal medical training and obtain MRCP.

Clinical training in Immunology will commence at ST3, following successful completion of internal medicine training, and will be in based at Leeds Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust (Leeds General Infirmary and St James’s Hospital). The Department of Clinical Immunology and Allergy, based in Beckett Wing at St. James’s Hospital, provides clinical and diagnostic immunology services to Leeds, West Yorkshire and beyond. The clinical service is divided into several key areas; primary immunodeficiency, systemic autoimmune and autoinflammatory conditions and allergy. The centre is nationally accredited and provides a specialised service for the diagnosis and management of a range of rare primary immunodeficiencies including antibody, complement, phagocyte and cellular deficiencies. The allergy service manages a wide range of conditions of varying complexity. This includes simple food and aeroallergies and complex adverse anaesthetic drug reactions referred from units across Yorkshire. Numerous educational opportunities are available with regular weekly teaching sessions for trainees within the Leeds hospitals, in addition to departmental CPD events. Pre-primary fellowship trainees are released for the National immunology training days. There is an excellent track record in preparing candidates for fellowship examinations.

# CONTACTS

## Academic Supervisors:

**Prof Sinisa Savic, Professor of Clinical Immunology, Leeds Institute of Rheumatic and Musculoskeletal Medicine, University of Leeds**

Email: s.savic@leeds.ac.uk

Professor Reuben Tooze. Professor of haematology, Leeds Institute of Medical Research

Email: r.tooze@leeds.ac.uk

**Dr Sunil Daga, Associate Clinical Professor, Leeds Institute of Rheumatic and Musculoskeletal Medicine, University of Leeds**

Email: sunildaga@nhs.net

**Educational and Clinical supervisors** will be assigned following appointment to align with the individual’s needs

## Training Programme Director (clinical):

**IMT TPD**

**Dr Tarun Bansal**

Email: Tarun.Bansal@bthft.nhs.uk

**Higher Specialty TPD - Immunology**

**Dr Claire Stockdale**

Email: claire.stockdale@nhs.net

## Academic Training Programme Director

Professor Phil Quirke 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>