# Job Description

# NIHR Academic Clinical Fellowship in Cardiothoracic Surgery

# ST1-2 level (1 post)

The University of Sheffield, in partnership with Health Education England Yorkshire and the Humber and the Sheffield Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust, has developed an exciting pathway of academic clinical training opportunities.

Applications are now invited for an Academic Clinical Fellowship in **Cardiothoracic Surgery**at ST1(CT1) level. This new post has been created as part of the Health Education England (HEE)/National Institution for Health Research programme of Integrated Academic Training and offers candidates a comprehensive experience of clinical academic medicine working alongside internationally renowned clinicians and researchers.

**Please note:-** Applicants looking for an ST2/CT2 post are encouraged to apply to this vacancy at ST1. If successful your experience will be assessed upon commencing in post enabling you to work at the appropriate level.

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 part of the next generation of academic Cardiac Surgeons.

This Academic Clinical Fellowship (ACF) programme in Cardiothoracic Surgerywill be run by the University of Sheffield, South Yorkshire Cardiothoracic Centre at the Sheffield Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust and Health Education England Yorkshire and the Humber.

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 also undertake a 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).

The Clinical Academic Programme at Sheffield has recently introduced a competitive ACF pump-priming award. Trainees can apply for up to £2000 for initial costs for work aimed at achieving a research fellowship.

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 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) – Cardiothoracic Surgery

## Duration of the Post

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

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

Sheffield Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust.

## Research institution in which training will take place

Department of Infection, Immunity and Cardiovascular Disease and Insigneo at the University of Sheffield.

**Current staffing of unit:**

The Academic Cardiothoracic Surgeon within the Department is:

Mr Norman Briffa - Honorary Reader at the University of Sheffield who is Research Lead

in Cardiothoracic Surgery and Deputy Research Lead for the Cardiothoracic Directorate

at Sheffield Teaching Hospitals NHS trust.

Successful Candidates will work closely with

Professor Julian Gunn (Academic Lead in Cardiology)

Professor Tim Chico (Immunity and Cardiovascular Disease)

Dr Paul Morris (Senior Clinical Lecturer in Cardiology)

Professor Rob Storey (Academic Director, Cardiothoracic Directorate, STH)

Professor Chris Newman (Director, Clinical Research Facility)

Professor Ian Halliday (Engineering Lead, Cardiovascular Modelling)

**Research Protected Time:**

25% of your 3 year period will be spent in academic/research training. Whether this allocation will be taken in one lot or divided into multiple sessions throughout the 3 year period will be decided after appointment and discussions with various supervisors and TPDs.

**Academic Clinical Fellowship Training Programme: Research Component**

The academic component of this post is hosted by the University of Sheffield Department of

Infection, Immunity and Cardiovascular Disease. The successful applicant will perform 9

months of research. The applicant will use the early part of this fellowship to identify a

research supervisor and agree a research project in line with the Department’s areas of

strength. Successful candidates will have access to and be encouraged to take Research methodology and biostatistic courses supplied through the department and University.

The research interests of the current academic cardiologists & cardiac surgeons are in inflammatory mechanisms in coronary disease, the biology of vessel formation, computational modelling of coronary artery disease, atherothrombosis and heart valve disease, and are expanding into interventions in pulmonary hypertension and heart failure, and personalisation of care in the co-morbid.

The group has established clinical databases for genetic studies, facilities for both small

and large animal studies, and extensive basic science and computer laboratories within

the Department of Infection, Immunity and Cardiovascular Science, based at the

Medical School (Head of Department, Professor Allan Pacey). There is support from the

Clinical Research Facility (Director, Professor Newman) and ample opportunities for the

candidate to lead their own theme of research in basic science, translational work,

clinical trials and encouragement to collaborate with other academic specialties.

There will also be opportunities to work with Professor Paul Evans, Professor of

Cardiovascular Science, whose main interest is endothelial biology.

Computer modelling in heart valve surgery surgery will involve work with Professor Ian Halliday, Professor of Computational Biomechanics and Cardiovascular Modelling. This work will be based on the successful EURVALVE program which has formed the basis for a previous PhD project on aortic valve stenosis.

The large cardiothoracic surgery database will also be available to candidates to undertake data studies in cardiac or thoracic surgery. Statistical support will be provided by researchers at the School of Health Related Research (ScHARR). Successful candidates will also be expected to complete a grant application for a PhD project during the academic component of the post.

Academic trainees need to complete an Academic Progress Report with their academic AES for each placement.

## Academic Clinical Fellowship Training Programme: Clinical Component

The clinical component of this job involves the initial Core Surgical component of a runthrough training rotation in Cardiothoracic Surgery. The specialties involved would include Upper GI surgery, Vascular surgery and Cardiothoracic surgery. The clinical component of this post will last 27 of 36 months. An Assigned Educational Supervisor (AES) will be allocated to you by the Surgical College Tutor in your hospital and this information should be available on your work schedule which should be issued by the

Trust prior to starting your post. You will require a different AES for each post. These AES should be in the Department in which you are working.

You will require at least one Clinical Supervisor (CS) for each six-month post.

The distribution of when the clinical training occurs will be decided after the candidate is appointed and after discussion with the Training Programme Director for Academic Core Surgery training as well as the educational supervisor.

You will register with ISCP and familiarise themselves with the curriculum. Your progress, level of commitment and achievement of the curriculum requirements will be assessed at your Annual Review of Competence Progression (ARCP).

The Consultant Cardiothoracic Surgeons (8 cardiac and 5 thoracic) undertake their

inpatient and outpatient at the Northern General Hospital in Sheffield. Consultants have

special clinical interest in aortovascular surgery, mitral valve surgery, minimally invasive heart valve surgery, and single port VATS. They are supported by a team of CMT Trainees

and Foundation Doctors including an academic Foundation Trainee.

Both Upper GI surgery and Vascular Surgery are based at the Northern General Hospital. During these placements you will be placed on the general surgical rota. During placement in all three specialties will have dedicated theatre time to help develop your operative skills.

**Post Details**

**JOB TITLE: NIHR Academic Clinical Fellowship in Cardiothoracic Surgery**

**BRIEF OUTLINE:**

The clinical programme is designed to provide training from ST1 level for a period of 3 years.

**Objectives of the Training Programme:**

1. To undertake training as follows: For candidates in ST1, the post will involve 3 years of core clinical training, which will include a rotation to Upper Gi, Vascular and Cardiothoracic Surgery.

2. To undertake a generic programme in research methodology.

3. To identify an area of academic and clinical interest upon which to base an application for an externally-funded PhD programme.

**Successful candidates:**

The exit from this post will typically be to an externally-funded research fellowship, leading to award of a PhD and subsequently application either for a Clinical Lecturer post or a Clinician Scientist Fellowship.

**Unsuccessful candidates:**

If the post-holder does not achieve the expected clinical competencies, this will be handled in the same way as for all other trainees in speciality medicine.

If the post-holder fails to achieve academic competencies, or is unsuccessful in obtaining research funding, they would be anticipated to return to a clinical training post. This will be discussed in good time with the Training Programme Director (TPD) through the system for appraisal and mentoring of academic trainees. Whilst no guarantee of an appropriate post is possible, every effort will be made to accommodate such individuals within the local training schemes.

# CONTACTS

## Academic Leads and Supervisors:

Academic Leads and Supervisors:

Mr Norman Briffa

Reader and Consultant Cardiothoracic Surgeon,

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Professor Julian Gunn

Professor of Interventional Cardiology and Hon. Consultant Cardiologist, University of

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Head of School:

Mr. Paul Renwick, [paul.renwick@hee.nhs.uk](mailto:paul.renwick@hee.nhs.uk)

## Training Programme Director (clinical):

TPD Core Surgery - Miss Emma Collins, Consultant Endocrine Surgeon, St. James Hospital, Leeds [emma.collins123@nhs.net](mailto:emma.collins123@nhs.net)

TPD cardiothoracic surgery - Professor Mahmoud Loubani, Consultant Cardiothoracic Surgeon, Hull university Teaching Hospitals [mahmoud.loubani@hey.nhs.uk](mailto:mahmoud.loubani@hey.nhs.uk)

Sheffield - Mr. Jagan Rao, Consultant Thoracic Surgeon, Sheffield Teaching Hospitals,

[Jagan.Rao@nhs.net](mailto:Jagan.Rao@nhs.net)

## Academic Training Programme Director

Professor D O Anumba     [d.o.c.anumba@sheffield.ac.uk](about:blank)

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# Further Information

For more information on Sheffield see <https://www.sheffield.ac.uk/medicine-dentistry-health/study/clinical-academic-training>

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 (National Institute for Health Research) on <https://www.nihr.ac.uk/explore-nihr/academy-programmes/integrated-academic-training.htm>