# Job Description

# NIHR Academic Clinical Fellowship

# General Surgery at ST3 (1 post) NIHR theme – Health Needs of Older People

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 General Surgery at ST3 level. This new post has been created as part of the Health Education England (HEE)/National Institution for Health Research Trainee programme of Integrated Academic Training 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 part of the next generation of academic clinicians.

This Academic Clinical Fellowship (ACF) programme in General Surgerywill be run by the University of Sheffield, 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) – General 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

**Current staffing of unit: Department of Oncology and Metabolism, University of Sheffield.**

**Research Protected Time:**

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

**Research Activities of the Unit**

The ACF is based in the Department of Oncology and Metabolism of the University of Sheffield. The research areas of interest within the Unit relate to the clinical specialties of breast cancer, endocrine malignancies, colorectal diseases, geriatric oncology and the role of the tumour microcirculation in the development, progression and treatment of cancer.

Significant research areas include the management of older patients undergoing surgery, emergency surgery decision making and outcomes, senescence, healthy ageing, psycho-oncology and decision making in surgery patients, prehabilitation, intraoperative imaging technologies, quality of life in surgery patients, inflammatory bowel disease and new technologies in the management of endocrine cancers and primary hyperthyroidism. A key theme is the management of older patients with cancer and how decision making can be optimised. The department supported the National Audit of Small Bowel Obstruction, and has continued to develop work in this, including early investigations into biomarkers that might help decision making in this area, as well as beginning to examine related areas such as malignant obstruction. We are supporting a cohort study on the management of acutely symptomatic hernia (MASH), and have recently completed a cohort looking at how cholecystostomy is deployed in cholecystitis. One of the major developing threads is investigating how we deal with nutrition in the acute setting.

The unit has an active programme of surgical research which engages with the University and two large regional teaching Hospitals, strong links to the Surgical Trainees Research Collaborative (White Rose Surgical Collaborative) and an excellent track record of higher degree success. We collaborate with anaesthetic, and perioperative researchers, and have good links with the Clinical Trials Unit.

The group has access to well-equipped and well-staffed laboratory facilities to support laboratory based projects, clinically focussed projects including translational studies, cohorts, qualitative studies, and clinical trials as well as extensive expertise in clinical trials and clinically focused research. A wide range of research interests and methods can be catered for depending on the career aspirations of the candidate.

The unit currently has 6 clinical doctoral students and usually several masters degree and B.Med.Sci degree students each year, 1 senior lecturer and 1 clinical lecturer and 1 academic clinical fellow.

## Academic Clinical Fellowship Training Programme: Clinical Component

South Yorkshire has 2 major teaching hospitals based in the region’s two cities: Sheffield and Doncaster.

**Sheffield Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust**, which incorporates the Northern General Hospital, the Royal Hallamshire Hospital, the Jessop Wing, Weston Park Hospital and Charles Clifford Dental Hospital, is now the fourth largest NHS Trust in the country. It was granted Foundation Status in 2004. As a Trust, Sheffield Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation trust is responsible for the planning and delivery of the highest quality patient care, providing services for patients not only from Sheffield but all parts of the North Trent region and UK. Nearly one million patients come to us for treatment each year. It has 2 honorary Professors of Surgery (1 colorectal, one endocrine) working to support academic placements.

**Doncaster and Bassetlaw Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust** is a large teaching Trust providing outstanding clinical training in all aspects of general surgery. It includes Doncaster Royal Infirmary, Bassetlaw and Mexborough Hospitals. It has a large and well staffed academic breast unit providing the highest quality Oncoplastic breast surgery training and delivering care to 500 new breast cancer diagnoses per year between 6 consultant Oncoplastic surgeons. It has an excellent GI surgery unit with a very high rate of laparoscopic GI surgery and provides excellent, high level training for both laparoscopic, GI, vascular and bariatric surgery. It has invested in new academic research facilities with the recent opening of the Reach research centre for academic training and is committed to developing and expanding clinical academic activity in partnership with the University of Sheffield over the next 5 years.

The ACF post will rotate between these 2 units.

**Post Details**

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

**BRIEF OUTLINE:**

The clinical programme is designed to provide training from ST3 level for a period of 3 years. Further details of the Specialist Registrar rotation for South Yorkshire are provided in the attached document.

**Objectives of the Training Programme:**

1. To undertake training as follows: Candidates in ST3 will undertake 3 years specialist training in general 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:

* Professor L Wyld Professor in Surgical Oncology and Oncoplastic Breast Surgeon
* Ms Jenna Morgan Senior Lecturer in Oncoplastic Breast Surgery
* Dr C A Staton Senior Lecturer in Surgical Oncology and Microcirculation Studies
* Professor Ilaria Bellantuono Professor of Musculoskeletal ageing and chair of the UoS

Healthy Lifespan Institute.

* Mr S P Balasubramanian Honorary Professor of Surgery and Consultant Endocrine Surgeon
* Professor Steve Brown Honorary Professor of Surgery and Consultant Colorectal Surgeon
* Mr Tim Wilson Consultant Colorectal Surgeon/Trust Research Lead (DBTH)
* Mr Matt Lee NIHR Clinical Lecturer in General Surgery (GI interest)

Surgeon

## Training Programme Director (clinical): Mr Athur Harikrishnan

## Academic Training Programme Director

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

# 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>