# Job Description

# NIHR Academic Clinical Fellowship

# Rheumatology ST1 (1 Post)

# NIHR Research Theme Multimorbidity at Any Age.

The University of Leeds, in partnership with Health Education England Yorkshire and the Humber 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** **Rheumatology at ST1** in the **NIHR Research Theme Multimorbidity at Any Age**. This new post has been created as part of the Health Education 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 Rheumatologywill 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 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).

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. All 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) – Rheumatology (NIHR Research Theme Multimorbidity at Any Age)

## Duration of the Post

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

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

Rheumatology ACFs will be based at the regional Rheumatology Unit at Chapel Allerton Hospital, Leeds, within the Leeds Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust

## Research institution in which training will take place

**Leeds Institute of Rheumatic & Musculoskeletal Medicine (LIRMM)** within the 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 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). **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 arthritis research at the core of the Leeds NIHR BRC. Within LIRMM, a number of streams of research focus on the needs of older people.

Rheumatoid arthritis (RA) is the commonest autoimmune disease and causes disability and multiple co- morbidities. Cardiovascular (CV) mortality is increased by 50% in RA. RA is preceded by a preclinical disease phase where individuals with risk factors (e.g. serum antibodies) are identifiable before arthritis develops. This provides an unprecedented opportunity for risk profiling and preventive intervention.

RA autoimmunity is thought to begin at mucosal sites such as the periodontium. Local inflammation and microbial dysbiosis may trigger systemic anti-citrullinated protein antibodies (ACPA), which are the hallmark of RA and precede joint disease. Abnormal aortic stiffness is also present on cardiac MRI (CMR) in patients with early treatment-naïve RA and in ACPA-positive at-risk individuals; these CV abnormalities appear to be modifiable with therapy.

Dr Kulveer Mankia and Prof Paul Emery have supervised multiple ACFs/PhDs. They oversee a world leading research programme on early/preclinical RA, within the Leeds NIHR BRC, regularly publishing in leading rheumatology journals. The ACF would further investigate the impact of periodontal disease and CV abnormalities in individuals at-risk of RA. They will collaborate with Oral microbiology, Dentistry and Cardiovascular Medicine.  ~150 at-risk individuals have had periodontal assessment and 5 year longitudinal data are available. Recruitment for CMR is ongoing and 3 year longitudinal data available.

Methodological training in analysis of novel biomarkers and associations with disease progression will be offered. Predictive modelling and laboratory work (next generation sequencing/bioinformatics) can be undertaken. New, unique data from a periodontal interventional study in at-risk individuals, as well as samples from a novel pharmacological intervention study (JAK inhibitor) will also be available for analysis

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 department offers significant opportunities. The central aim of the Rheumatology ACF programme is to enable trainees to prepare and secure a competitive external Clinical Research Fellowship. This will be achieved by focussing on the core skills required for research and with exposure to the many on-going rheumatology research programmes within the department, develop research studies to guide a Fellowship application.

## Academic Clinical Fellowship Training Programme: Clinical Component

This post is offered at ST1 in Rheumatology. The post is intended for an individual intending to pursue an academic career in Rheumatology. As a Group 1 specialty Rheumatology training will be dual certified (Rheumatology/GIM) and require successful completion of the IM stage 1 curriculum and the GIM (IM stage 2) and Rheumatology (IM stage 2) curriculum. The ACF will join (as an academic NTNa) the Internal Medicine Training programme at IMT1 and move into the Rheumatology ST4 training programme in Yorkshire (Training Programme Director: Dr Cathy Lawson, Dr Shouvik Dass, Dewsbury District Hospital) following successful completion of IM stage 1 training.

ACFs will undergo internal medicine and rheumatology clinical training 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 clinical training programme will be tailored to suit the needs of the trainee and will rotate through academic medical units where the ACFs will complete their internal medical training and obtain the MRCP

Numerous educational opportunities are available with Leeds Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust. Specific to the Rheumatology clinical programme, a teaching Professorial ward round takes place weekly at Chapel Allerton Hospital and all doctors in training are invited to attend. A regional postgraduate Rheumatology meeting takes place every Wednesday afternoon, with the emphasis on education for all grades of Rheumatology doctors in training within the region. The content of the postgraduate afternoon comprises (i) Topic teaching that follows the Rheumatology training curriculum so that over a two year period most areas of this are covered (ii) Research updates presented by research fellows that provide an additional opportunity to become conversant with ongoing research activities and opportunities in the Institute (iii) Specialised, integrated research meetings attended by basic and clinical researchers to develop research plans, discuss grants and manuscripts. A weekly radiology conference is also held in the Radiology department at Chapel Allerton Hospital.

# CONTACTS

## Academic Supervisors:

**Professor Paul Emery**

Leeds Institute of Rheumatic and Musculoskeletal Medicine

Chapel Allerton Hospital

LeedsLS7 4SA

**Dr Kulveer Mankia** ([K.S.Mankia@leeds.ac.uk](mailto:K.S.Mankia@leeds.ac.uk))

Leeds Institute of Rheumatic and Musculoskeletal Medicine

Chapel Allerton Hospital

LeedsLS7 4SA

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

**Training Programme Director (clinical):**

**Dr Tarun Bansal**

Internal Medicine Training TPD

Email: [Tarun.Bansal@bthft.nhs.uk](mailto:Tarun.Bansal@bthft.nhs.uk)

**Dr Cathy Lawson**

Rheumatology Clinical TPD

Email: cathy.lawson@hdft.nhs.uk

**Dr Shouvik Dass**

Rheumatology Clinical TPD

Email: shouvik.dass@nhs.net

## 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>