# Job Description

# NIHR Academic Clinical Fellowship

# Cardiology ST3 (1 post)

# NIHR Research Theme Multi-Morbidity 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 Cardiology at ST3 level** in the **NIHR Research Theme Multi-Morbidity at Any Age**. *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 Cardiology or Endocrinology & Diabetes Mellitus.* 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 Cardiologywill 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 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) – Cardiology (NIHR Research Theme Multi-Morbidity at Any Age)

## Duration of the Post

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

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

YHEE Cardiology (West) training scheme - Cardiology ACFs will be based within the regional Cardiology training scheme (with initial cardiology post at Bradford Royal Infirmary)

## Research institution in which training will take place

**Leeds Institute of Cardiovascular and Metabolic Medicine** (LICAMM) within the School of Medicine, University of Leeds.

<https://medicinehealth.leeds.ac.uk/leeds-institute-cardiovascular-metabolic-medicine>

## Research Protected Time:

ACFs would have day release training to attend and complete an accredited postgraduate programme in health research methodology run by the University of Leeds (extra 24 contact days plus additional private study to be 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.

## Academic Clinical Fellowship Training Programme: Research Component

Over 7% of the UK population have diabetes mellitus. Around one third of these people have comorbid cardiovascular disease, such as myocardial infarction, stroke, heart failure, and limb ischaemia; this combination markedly increases risk of death and impaired quality of life, in spite of existing therapies.

Leeds Institute of Cardiovascular and Metabolic Medicine (LICAMM) brings together diverse clinical and non-clinical academics committed to improving outcomes of people with cardio-metabolic multimorbidity. Training of scientists (e.g., in our BHF 4-year PhD programme focussing on cardiovascular disease and diabetes) is a key part of this mission, and we provide an outstanding environment for junior clinical and non-clinical scientists to develop. We are proud to host clinicians at all career stages across multiple specialties including 5 NIHR Clinical Lecturers (cardiology, histopathology, obstetrics x 2, paediatric cardiology) and ACF and AFP trainees, supervised by a diverse senior academic pool.

The ACF will join an established multidisciplinary team investigating and addressing the causes of reduced survival and impaired quality of life in people with diabetes associated with heart failure. Supervision will be provided by a team potentially including Professors Ramzi Ajjan, Chris Gale, John Greenwood, Mark Kearney, Sven Plein and Stephen Wheatcroft, and Drs Richard Cubbon, Erica Dall’Armellina, Eylem Levelt, John Gierula, Kathryn Griffin, Peter Swoboda and Andrew Walker.

This group provides research training in clinical trials, cardiac physiology and imaging, *in vivo* metabolism, histopathology, biostatistics and laboratory science. The ACF project, linked to the **NIHR Research Theme Multimorbidity at Any Age**, will define the contributions of cardiac, vascular, neural and skeletal muscle dysfunction to symptoms and mortality using the techniques listed, with a view to developing and testing therapeutic interventions.

The basic science and translational research groups are based in the LIGHT laboratories, adjacent to Leeds General Infirmary, whilst our clinical research facility is based in the cardiology department of Leeds General Infirmary. Our research facilities offer an excellent environment to conduct research, with recent developments including construction of a pre-clinical cardiovascular imaging facility (BHF funded), and the national hyperpolarised MRI centre (MRC funded). The Multidisciplinary Cardiovascular Research Centre also hosts many excellent researchers including 2 BHF Professors, 2 Wellcome Trust Senior Investigators, a Royal Academy of Engineering Chair, 6 BHF programme grants, 4 BHF Intermediate Fellows, and 5 other intermediate-level fellows funded by the Wellcome Trust, MRC, NIHR, Diabetes UK. We also host an NIHR BRC with a cardiometabolic disease theme, a BHF 4-year PhD programme, a Medtronic-funded clinical PhD programme, and many clinical PhD students.

We encourage ACFs to gain experience across our wide-ranging research and teaching activities, with a view to contributing to research publications and student supervision. Our ACFs also play an active part in the development of their PhD fellowship application, from hypothesis generation, to pilot data collection and proposal writing. Excellent research training and support is also provided by the wider NIHR-funded ACF programme, for example during quarterly clinical academic training days, which develops the generic skills needed for successful research.

## Academic Clinical Fellowship Training Programme: Clinical Component

This post is offered at ST3 level. The post is intended for an individual intending to pursue an academic career in Cardiology. As a Group 1 specialty Cardiology training will be dual certified (Cardiology/GIM) and require successful completion of the three-year IM stage 1 curriculum and the five-year Cardiology (IM stage 2) curriculum to CCT. The ACF will join (as an academic NTNa) the Internal Medicine Training programme at IMT3 and move into the Cardiology ST4 training programme in West Yorkshire following successful completion of IM stage 1 training. Clinical training linked to Cardiology will be in the West Yorkshire Cardiology SpR Rotation (Training Programme Director: Dr Robert Sapsford, Leeds General Infirmary).

ACFs will undergo internal medicine and cardiology training 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 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 across the regional cardiology centres, and bimonthly regional cardiology training days (open to all trainees and consultants) cover the training curriculum over two year cycles. Within the Leeds Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust cardiology department, there is a weekly journal club run by trainees, and an extensive weekly subspecialty educational meeting programme. A weekly ‘grand round’ also covers updates in general medicine, and departmental cardiology meetings have a regular local research focus. Academic trainees are encouraged to attend the annual Multidisciplinary Cardiovascular Research Centre two-day retreat, which offers an excellent opportunity to engage with the large clinical and preclinical cardiovascular research community in Leeds.

# CONTACTS

## Academic Lead and Supervisors:

Dr Richard Cubbon

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Academic, 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](mailto:Tarun.Bansal@bthft.nhs.uk)

**Cardiology Specialty Training**

Dr Rob Sapsford

Email: [r.sapsford@nhs.net](mailto:r.sapsford@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>