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# Job Description

# NIHR Academic Clinical Fellowship

# Clinical Oncology ST1 (IMT1) (1 Post)

# NIHR Research Theme Therapeutics or Clinical Pharmacology

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 Clinical Oncology at ST1 level** in the **NIHR Research Theme Therapeutics of Clinical Pharmacology**. *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 Clinical Oncology or Medical Oncology.* 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 a highly motivated, enthusiastic individual with the potential to excel in both their clinical and academic training and who have the ambition to become the next generation of academic clinicians.

If this Academic Clinical Fellowship (ACF) is in Clinical Oncology, then it will 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).

These Academic Clinical Fellowships are run-through posts. 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 either the clinical or the academic component.

# POST DETAILS

## Job Title

NIHR Academic Clinical Fellow (ACF) – Clinical Oncology (NIHR Research Theme Therapeutics or Clinical Pharmacology)

## Duration of the Post

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

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

The Clinical Oncology ACF will be based at Leeds Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust

## Research institution in which training will take place

The research work will be carried out within the **Leeds Institute of Medical Research at St James’s (LIMR),** 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

ACFs choosing Clinical Oncology at IMY1 entry for their ACF training will be hosted in cancer research in the Leeds Institute of Medical Research. The research project proposed would extend, develop and enhance the work of the Institute and its collaborations. The applicant will be expected to demonstrate an interest in this field and some underpinning skills but considerable support will be available to learn new skills required.

A major breakthrough in cancer immunotherapy has been the development of adoptive cell therapies (ACT) to generate tumour-reactive T cells in great numbers, for therapeutic transfer into patients. Dr Robert Salmond’s group at Leeds identified the PTPN22 locus, which has been shown to regulate CD8+ T cell anti-tumour responses (2). T cells that lack PTPN22 provide enhanced clearance of tumours following ACT in pre-clinical mouse models.

This ACF proposal is to train the post-holder in the skills required to define the impact of targeting PTPN22 and/or related proteins in chimeric antigen receptor (CAR) T cells, supervised by Salmon and co-supervised by Dr Adel Samson. An exemplar project would be to use multiple complimentary research approaches, such as syngeneic mouse models, cellular immunology and flow cytometry, as well as CRISPR gene-editing technology to knock-down PTPN22.  The PhD following might work towards our long-term aim of enhancing CART functional capacity through PTPN22 modification, to improved ACT outcomes.

Dr Salmond has supervised 2 PhD students to completion and currently co-supervises a PhD student focused on improving T cell trafficking for ACT approaches. Dr Samson is a CRUK Clinician Scientist, who himself trained as an ACF and CL in Leeds. Dr Samson heads the translational cancer immunotherapy group, a team of 7 laboratory scientists, and leads a portfolio of early-phase translational immunotherapy clinical trials. Samson has successfully supervised NIHR ACFs to competitive PhD fellowship. The trainee would be part of the cadre of excellent NIHR IAT trainees in cancer in Leeds, including many recent high-quality PhD fellowships from Wellcome, MRC and NIHR, providing an excellent supportive and technically expert research training environment.

Work developed during this project is expected to lead to an application for competitive national funding for full-time dedicated research training, leading to a doctorate degree if successful (PhD or MD). Appointees will have taster days in existing groups in areas that interest them, building over the post to a prolonged research attachment in a productive research group and areas relevant to Oncology.

Oncology has been successful in academic developments and integrated working between medical and clinical oncology and research is highly valued. The many examples to illustrate this success include:

* Postgraduate training has been judged by the Royal College panels as among the best in the UK
* The Leeds Institute of Oncology within Bexley Wing on the St James’s Campus is one of the UK's largest and best resourced centres for cancer care (see clinical training, below).
* The University of Leeds Institute of Clinical Trials Research is one of the first six NCRI Clinical Trials Units.
* Leeds is recognised by the NCRI CTRad as a centre of excellence for radiotherapy research
* Collaborations are wide, including with Data Analytics, the Faculty of Biological Sciences and with Biostatistics (including [clinical trial design and implementation](http://medhealth.leeds.ac.uk/LICTR)) and the Institute of Health Sciences (such as in [academic primary care](https://medhealth.leeds.ac.uk/info/649/academic_unit_of_primary_care), [academic palliative care](https://medhealth.leeds.ac.uk/info/653/academic_unit_of_palliative_care) and [health informatics](https://medhealth.leeds.ac.uk/info/651/yorkshire_centre_for_health_informatics), as relevant to oncology.

The University and LTHT provide an outstanding environment to train and nurture the next generation of clinical oncology researchers. The Leeds Institute of Medical Research at St James’s has a track record in developing successful clinical academic careers. Clinical Oncology specifically have successfully recruited five clinical oncology National Institute of Health Research (NIHR) Academic Clinical Fellowships (ACFs), and all proceeded to doctoral study, with four out of five securing external funding to PhD projects and/or NIHR Academic Clinical Lectureships (ACLs). Externally funded PhDs include Wellcome Trust/MRC and YCR. Beyond the NIHR training, University of Leeds Academic Fellowships (UAF) recruit the best post-doctoral researchers for five years funding on a career track to Associate Professor including one clinical oncology and one medical physicist in cancer treatment, both of whom have leadership roles in this application. Six of the twenty UAF posts funded across the Faculty of Medicine and Health will contribute to the Leeds Radiotherapy Research Centre. The Institute was very highly rated for the impact of our research upon society and the public in recent international comparisons and holds a number of highly sought-after NIHR and Cancer Research UK programme grants.

## Academic Clinical Fellowship Training Programme: Clinical Component

This post is offered at IMY1 in Clinical Oncology. ACFs will undergo internal medicine 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 core medical training and obtain the MRCP. Clinical Training linked to Oncology during ST3 upon completion of internal medicine training will be in Bexley Wing caring for in- and out-patients managing the full range of common, intermediate and rare cancers, and learning at regional and local multi-disciplinary team cancer care meetings, and in cancer unit placements in the wider Yorkshire area for site-specific training.

Specifically, oncology Academic Clinical Fellows along with Specialist Registrars, Clinical Research Fellows and Clinical Lecturers are all based since 2008 in the St James’s Institute of Oncology. This is a 66,000 sq m new building providing all clinical services including a clinical research facility for early clinical trials, a core of clinical research nursing expertise, the Cancer Registry, clinical and psychosocial research space, Pathology, Haematology and tertiary cancer surgery facilities, on the same campus as the Institute of Molecular Medicine and the Cancer Research UK Clinical Centre. The non-surgical oncology service has 22 consultants in medical oncology, 42 in clinical oncology, 9 in Paediatric Oncology.

# CONTACTS

## Academic Lead:

**Prof Dan Stark**

Leeds Institute of Medical Research

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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):

**Dr Tarun Bansal**

Clinical Training Programme Director (Internal Medicine Training)

IMT (West) Training Programme Director, Renal Research Lead  
Renal Medicine | Renal Unit, Horton Wing, SLH  
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**Dr Michael Flatley**

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## 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

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>