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# Job Description

# NIHR Academic Clinical Fellowship

# Medical 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 Medical Oncology at ST1 level** in the **NIHR Research Theme Therapeutics or 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 Medical Oncology or Clinical 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.

This Academic Clinical Fellowship (ACF) programme in Medical Oncology 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) – Medical 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 Medical 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

## (Priority Research Theme Therapeutics or Clinical Pharmacology)

ACFs choosing Oncology at IMT1 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.

Projects suitable for this ACF post include assessment of new combination treatments including oncolytic viruses with radiotherapy and chemotherapy using state of the art pre-clinical models (organoids, 3D tissue culture and PDX) and pre-clinical treatments (image guided radiotherapy, MRI assessment and multi-modality imaging). Neuro-oncology is one of our areas of strength at Leeds and has been identified by patient groups, funders and latterly the Department for Health and Social Care as a key area of unmet need in terms of translational and clinical research activity where research investment falls well below the proportional impact on mortality. Outcomes associated with novel agent studies in adult glioma have been disappointing, with failure of molecular targeted agents (for example, VEGF and EGFR targeting agents) to make an impact on survival in most patients.

However, improved understanding of phenotypic and genotypic heterogeneity in glioma has led to better biomarker-based disease definition and likely explains failure of some of these agents in an unselected population. Better understanding of the biology of gliomas is predicted to allow more personalised approaches to treatment in the near future. The application of novel systemic treatment approaches including immuno-therapeutics is also an area of very active research. Translating these approaches for patient benefit requires collaboration between groups with expertise in genomics, target discovery and therapeutic efficacy, as well as effective local, national and international collaboration.

The neuro-oncology research group at the Leeds Institute of Medical Research (LIMR) works with stakeholders including patient groups, charities, clinicians across a range of specialities and the science community to develop and deliver high quality translational research using new agents and technologies to improve outcomes for adults with brain tumours. The group consists of 6 group leaders with specific interests in aspects of glioma and metastasis biology (see http://www.braincancer.leeds.ac.uk/). The current research portfolio in pre-clinical neuro-oncology represents cumulative grant income of over £6M and includes national (MRC, CRUK, TBTC), international (EU FP7) and local charitable support. This supports a broad range of research from genomic and target discovery projects through to pre-clinical testing of novel agents using state of the art glioma and metastases models and technologies. This links directly to the clinical research team described above. The group has active collaborations in the UK (Beatson, Glasgow, ICR, London) and elsewhere (notably EMBL Heidelberg, University Hamburg and University of Milan) and is part of national consortia including the NCRI Brain Tumour Study Group, CTRad, The British Neuro oncology Society and The Association of Radiation Research. Leeds is also a member of the recently funded national framework for enhanced genomic classification and clinical studies in glioma, BRAINMATRIX.

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).

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:

* The Division of Oncology, LIMR, is among the largest and best funded UK units of this kind.
* 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. For example, we promote oncology research though the University of Leeds Oncology Society and annual Taster evenings for undergraduates. The academic Leeds Institute of Medical Research at St James’s, including the division of oncology has a track record in developing successful clinical academic careers.

In Medical Oncology more than 90% of our trainees have been successful in a higher research degree over 20 years. Across oncology we have trained 12 individuals for clinician scientist awards and 11 NIHR clinical senior lecturers. 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 2 in medical oncology. 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 can be offered at IMT1 in Medical 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. The 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 IMT3 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 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:

**Dr Dan Stark**

Leeds Institute of Medical Research

St James’s University Hospital

Leeds LS9 7TF

Email: [D.Stark@leeds.ac.uk](mailto:D.Stark@leeds.ac.uk)

**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  
Bradford Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust  
Email: Tarun.Bansal@bthft.nhs.uk

**Dr Dan Lee**

Clinical Training Programme Director (Medical Oncology)

St James’s University Hospital

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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 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>

# Person Specifications

Applicants for this post will be required to meet the relevant Clinical eligibility criteria for the appropriate specialty and level listed at:-

*Please note - (applicants applying for Surgical, Medical or Psychiatry specialties at ST3 or above may be required to consult the relevant Core Training person specification):-*

<http://specialtytraining.hee.nhs.uk/Recruitment/Person-specifications>

AND the Academic eligibility criteria listed at:

<http://specialtytraining.hee.nhs.uk/Recruitment/Person-specifications>

# How to Apply

For more information about applying to ACF vacancies in Health Education England Yorkshire and the Humber please visit:-

<http://www.yorksandhumberdeanery.nhs.uk/recruitment/our_vacancies/academic_recruitment/>

Applications will only be accepted through the Oriel online application system:-

<https://www.oriel.nhs.uk>

Applications open: 10:00 on 1st October 2020

Applications close: 16:00 on 4th November 2020

After the application deadline no applications will be accepted. **There will be no exceptions to this deadline.** You are advised to complete and submit your application ahead of the deadline to allow for any unforeseen problems.

**Please note:** All applicants who do not already hold a National Training Number (NTN) or Deanery Reference Number (DRN) in the GMC specialty to which they are applying for will be required to undertake the national clinical recruitment process and attend an assessment/interview for that GMC specialty as appropriate.

Interviews will be held online. The date will be confirmed to applicants via the Oriel application system.