# Job Description

# NIHR Academic Clinical Fellowship

# Palliative Medicine ST3 (1 Post)

# Multiple Long-term Conditions NIHR Research Theme

The University of Leeds, in partnership with NHS England North East and Yorkshire 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 Palliative Medicine at ST3 level** **in the Multiple Long-Term Conditions NIHR Theme**. *This is a multi-specialty vacancy; an appointment may not be made in this specialty. There will be 1 ACF post in either Palliative Medicine or Geriatric Medicine or Cardiology.* This new post has been created as part of the NHS England and National Institute for Health and Care 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 Palliative Medicinewill be run by the University of Leeds, the Leeds Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust and NHS England North East and Yorkshire. 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 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) – Palliative Medicine (NIHR Research Theme Multiple Long-Term Conditions)

## Duration of the Post

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

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

Leeds Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust acts as a lead employer for all units in North, East and West Yorkshire. For clinical training Palliative Medicine ACFs will be based at hospitals, hospices (including community rotations), in line with their educational requirements as part of the Yorkshire & Humber Palliative Medicine training scheme. These range from Bradford in the West to York and Scarborough in the East. The majority of the units are in West Yorkshire.

## Research institution in which training will take place

**Leeds Institute of Health Sciences (LIHS)**, 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 within the Leeds Institute of Health Sciences 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).

## Academic Clinical Fellowship Training Programme: Research Component

Multiple long-term conditions (MLTCs) present significant challenges for older adults and towards the end-of-life. Prof Lucy Ziegler and Prof Sarah Mitchell lead palliative care research (£1.4M RESOLVE https://www.hyms.ac.uk/research/research-centres-and-groups/wolfson/resolve/workstreams), collaborating in three NIHR partnerships to integrate palliative and primary care to reduce inequalities (RE-EQUIPP https://www.sheffield.ac.uk/palliativeresearch/re-equipp). Clegg (Geriatric Medicine) leads a large portfolio of NIHR-funded research addressing frailty as an especially problematic expression of MLTCs in later life (£2.7M PROSPER https://www.bradfordresearch.nhs.uk/our-research-teams/asr/our-research/frailty-and-elderly-care-research/prosper/, £2M HERO https://medicinehealth.leeds.ac.uk/dir-record/research-projects/1282/home-based-extended-rehabilitation-for-older-people-hero) and medicines optimisation (£750k/£71.8M HDRUK https://www.hdruk.ac.uk/about-us/contact-us/our-locations/health-data-research-uk-hdr-uk-north/, £2.8M DynAIR https://www.nihr.ac.uk/news/more-than-10m-awarded-to-artificial-intelligence-research-for-multiple-long-term-conditions/31373). Leeds Institute of Health Sciences has an international reputation for methodological rigour in applied health research and delivering major research programmes with significant policy, practice and population impacts. Collaborations include NIHR Yorkshire & Humber ARC https://www.arc-yh.nihr.ac.uk/ (£9M: Clegg theme lead) and partnership with the world’s first University hospice St Gemma’s https://www.st-gemma.co.uk/academicunit.

We have a track record and an established ‘pipeline’ for clinical academic training in general practice (15 AFPs, 9 ACF, 6 CL, Associate Prof Alderson (previously NIHR CL), palliative care (2 ACF) and geriatrics (2 ACF and 1 CL), all recognised shortage specialties.

Our trainees will undertake interdisciplinary research eg harnessing large-scale, routinely-collected data for more accurate and equitable identification of and targeted support for people transitioning into frailty and end-of-life care; and developing new community and care home-based models of care that promote continuity for MLTCs.

The ACF will join a vibrant research environment with a strong track record of supporting ACFs in Palliative Medicine. The breadth of the research topic areas and methodological expertise available means that the research focus for the ACF will be aligned with the research interests of the successful candidate. Bespoke research training includes statistics, RCT methodology, applied epidemiology, prognostic modelling using routine data, qualitative research, evidence synthesis, user-centred design and movement analysis.

The aim of the Palliative Medicine ACF programme is to enable trainees to prepare for and secure a clinical doctoral research training fellowship. This will be achieved by focusing on the core skills required for applied health research and by linkage to one of the research programmes within the department. ACFs will have the opportunity to contribute to and complete research projects prior to their fellowship application, which should result both in presentations at national and international meetings and publications in peer-reviewed journals

## Academic Clinical Fellowship Training Programme: Clinical Component

This post is offered at ST3 (IM3) in Palliative Medicine. The post is intended for an individual intending to pursue an academic career in Palliative Medicine. As a Group 1 specialty Palliative Medicine training will be dual certified (Palliative Medicine/GIM) and require successful completion of the IM stage 1 curriculum and the GIM (IM stage 2) and Palliative Medicine curriculum to CCT. The ACF will join (as an academic NTNa) the Internal Medicine Training programme at IMT3 and move into the Palliative Medicine ST4 training programme in Yorkshire (Training Programme Director: Dr Hannah Zacharias, Consultant in Palliative Medicine) following successful completion of IM stage 1 training.

ACFs will undergo internal medicine and palliative medicine 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

The Yorkshire Palliative Medicine training scheme is committed to providing the very best clinical training experience for trainees. We have a highly dedicated faculty of educational and clinical supervisors, all of whom understand the role of the training scheme in supporting ACFs and the development of research in Palliative Medicine. We are very proud that Yorkshire remains an extremely popular location to train in Palliative Medicine, and has been for many years. There are many opportunities to pursue academic, strategic, service development and specific clinical interests.

All Palliative Medicine trainees spend Wednesday mornings together at St Gemma’s Hospice, where they engage in a peer run teaching programme, including internal and external speakers, as well as incorporating regional teaching. This facilitates a great sense of team and peer support amongst the trainees, as well as meeting curriculum objectives.

Clinical training takes place across hospices, hospital liaison teams and community settings; (GIM portion of clinical training currently takes place in geriatric medicine at St James’ Hospital, Leeds):

St Gemma’s Hospice, Leeds; Sue Ryder Wheatfields Hospice, Leeds; Leeds Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust (Hospital liaison service, Interventional pain management rotation, Oncology rotation); Bradford Royal Infirmary; Marie Curie Hospice, Bradford; Sue Ryder Manorlands Hospice, Oxenhope; Pinderfields Hospital and Wakefield Hospice; York Hospital and St Leonard’s Hospice, York; Saint Catherine’s Hospice, Scarborough.

There will be joint annual reviews of competence progression (ARCPs), covering both academic and clinical training, conducted in accordance with Follett principles.

Interested trainees are very welcome to contact Hannah Zacharias, TPD, to discuss clinical training further.

# CONTACTS

**Academic Supervisor**

Professor Lucy Zeigler

Professor of Palliative Care, Head of St Gemma’s Academic Unit of Palliative Care, Leeds Institute of Health Sciences, University of Leeds.

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**Training Programme Director (Clinical)**

Dr Hannah Zacharias

Palliative Medicine Training Programme Director

Email [Hannah.Zacharias@st-gemma.co.uk](mailto:Hannah.Zacharias@st-gemma.co.uk)

## 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>