# Job Description

# NIHR Academic Clinical Fellowship

# Paediatrics ST1 (1 post)

# Mental Health 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 Paediatrics at ST1 or ST2 level** in the **Mental Health NIHR Research Theme***.* 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 Paediatrics will 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 or ST2 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) – Paediatrics (Mental Health NIHR Research Theme)

## Duration of the Post

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

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

The post will be based in Leeds Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust.

## Research institution in which training will take place

The research work will be carried out in the **Leeds Institute of Medical Research at St James’s (LIMR)**, School of Medicine, University of Leeds, and the Leeds Children’s Hospital (LCH), part of Leeds Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust.

## 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).

## Academic Clinical Fellowship Training Programme: Research Component

Leeds Children’s Hospital (LCH) is the one of largest children’s hospital in England and is co-located with the University of Leeds, a thriving Russell group medical school and university. Over 30 paediatric medical and surgical specialties are provided, many as regional and supra-regional services.

Research at LCH is thriving with over 1,000 young people recruited to over 100 open clinical studies over the last year and a research income of over £1million over this period. A new age-appropriate 6-bedded children’s Clinical Research Facility opened in 2018 and benefits from being part of the NIHR CRF@Leeds. Participation in clinical research is acknowledged to drive up quality as we seek to deliver world-class care and clinical outcomes.

Children born preterm are at increased risk of mental health disorders (MHD) https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/26703327/. Women with serious mental illness are at risk of preterm delivery and admission to neonatal units is associated with acute stress and post-traumatic stress disorder amongst parents.

A national research priority is to identify determinants of long-term mental, physical and social health in children and deliver a step-change in understanding through innovative data linkages. Children’s research in Leeds is thriving (>100 open clinical studies). Children’s Health Outcomes Research at Leeds (CHORAL) https://www.leedsth.nhs.uk/a-z-of-services/leeds-childrens-hospital-clinical-research-team/choral/ is a £5M programme (2023-28) driving improvements in child health; we have NHS research income of >£1M/year.

The ACF will develop a research project work in an area of their choosing linked with the mental health of young people. This may include mental health outcomes of premature babies, those treated in intensive care units or those living with and beyond the diagnosis of a chronic or life-threatening condition.

We have successfully trained paediatric IAT trainees in Leeds including ACFs gaining PhDs (NIHR, Candlelighters) and 2 CLs (one joint with York). Many of these have capitalised on our world-leading Big Data programmes within the Leeds Institute of Data Analytics and Alan Turing Institute where we are delivering improvements in child health outcomes through data science https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/29468674/. We take advantage of a novel network of cohort studies and successful data linkages (Born in Bradford and Connected Bradford dataset) to determine the long-term mental, physical and social health outcomes in children https://caer.org.uk/, https://medicinehealth.leeds.ac.uk/medicine/staff/686/dr-simon-pini.

The aim of this ACF programme is to enable trainees to prepare for and secure a clinical research training fellowship. This will be achieved by focusing on the core skills required for laboratory and applied health research and by linkage to one of the research groups above, according to the research interest of the successful candidate. 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

The successful ACF will continue to undergo clinical paediatric training co supervised by the Yorkshire School of Paediatrics, whose remit is to ensure the provision of education of a consistent high quality across the Health Education Yorkshire and the Humber region, manage initial selection and subsequent allocation to appropriate placements. Leeds Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust (LTHT) will provide induction, delivery of workplace-based assessments in accordance with the Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health competence-based curriculum and contribute to joint annual reviews of competence progression (see below). The clinical training programme will be tailored to suit the needs of the trainee and will rotate through paediatric posts at LTHT where the ACF will progress their training.

The Leeds Children’s Hospital offers both secondary care to the population of Leeds as well as specialist tertiary services to Yorkshire and beyond. It is one of the largest facilities for sick children in the UK, providing the most extensive range of paediatric services co-located on one site. Academic trainees will normally undertake clinical training in Leeds for the duration of their contract. This may include general paediatric medicine, community paediatrics, neonatal medicine, and tertiary specialities. The sequence of posts will be determined by the trainee’s career aspirations balanced with the aspirations of other trainees, and the requirements of the academic role. These will be agreed between the Training Programme Director and the post supervisors, following discussion with the trainee, according to the usual process that is in place for all trainees on the rotation.

Paediatric wards are distributed between the Clarendon Wing and adjacent Jubilee Wing. The latter also houses the Paediatric Intensive Care Units, specialist Paediatric Emergency Department and Children’s Assessment and Treatment (CAT) Unit. The NHS Paediatric secretariat and consultant offices are mainly in nearby Martin Wing, and also in the LGI Old Main Site. Martin Wing contains the Paediatric Education Centre. Children’s outpatients are held in Martin Wing, and St James’s University Hospital, and across other local health facilities. All departments are active in research and teaching, and there is an active programme of postgraduate teaching including a weekly Paediatric Grand Round. Trainees are encouraged to participate in this programme through presentations and audit.

The following established specialist children’s services are provided for the Yorkshire area within the Northern and Yorkshire Region:

* Paediatric Medicine
* Neonatal Medicine
* Neonatal Surgery
* Oncology/Haematology, including bone marrow transplant
* Nephrology, Dialysis and Renal transplantation
* Cystic Fibrosis
* Hepatology and Liver Transplantation
* Gastroenterology
* Cardiology and Cardiac Surgery
* Neurosurgery
* Neurology
* Endocrinology
* Rheumatology
* Paediatric Surgery including Urology
* Cleft Lip and Palate
* Intensive Care
* Trauma and Orthopaedics
* Plastics
* ENT
* Maxillary-facial
* Dental

Participation in the teaching of undergraduates and postgraduates through bedside and tutorial sessions are encouraged. We have a well-equipped clinical skills laboratory with facilities for scenario based teaching, and for teaching of practical skills.

# CONTACTS

## Academic Lead and Supervisor:

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## Training Programme Director (clinical):

Chakrapani Vasudevan  
Consultant Neonatologist | Neonatal Medicine | Ground Floor Maternity   
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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, rhis 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>