# Job Description

# NIHR Academic Clinical Fellowship

# Respiratory Medicine ST3 (1 post)

# Theme: Therapeutics

The University of Sheffield, in partnership with Health Education England Yorkshire and the Humber and the Sheffield Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust, has developed an exciting pathway of academic clinical training opportunities.

Applications are now invited for an Academic Clinical Fellowship in Respiratory Medicine at ST3 level. This new post has been created as part of the Health Education England (HEE)/National Institution for Health Research Trainee Coordinating Centre (NIHRTCC) programme of Integrated Academic Training and offers candidates a comprehensive experience of clinical academic medicine working alongside internationally renowned clinicians and researchers.

**PLEASE NOTE: ST3-level applicants -** Only trainees who hold a Deanery Reference Number in the penultimate year of Internal Medical Training (CT2) or ACCS acute medicine (CT3) are eligible to apply. Trainees who have either: completed Core Medical Training, IMT training or ACCS-AM, are in the final year of IMT or ACCS-AM, or have alternative experience outside of UK training, are not eligible to apply.

Trainees currently in the penultimate year of their core programme who are successful in gaining an ST3-level ACF programme will start their first year by completing IMY3. Assuming internal medicine stage 1 is completed successfully, they will then run-through into their higher specialty at ST4-level. There is no requirement for trainees in this category to clinically benchmark as they will be carrying on with completing their IMT programme.

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 Respiratory Medicine will be run by the University of Sheffield, the Sheffield 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 also undertake a 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 during 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.

This post has been developed as part of NIHR’s Therapeutics theme. The research component of this post will work towards a treatment for fibrosis in the ageing lung.

# POST DETAILS

## Job Title

NIHR Academic Clinical Fellow (ACF) – Respiratory Medicine

## Duration of the Post

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

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

Sheffield Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust.

## Research institution in which training will take place

The academic component of this post is hosted by the University of Sheffield Department of Infection, Immunity and Cardiovascular Disease. The successful applicant will perform 9 months of research.

The research component of this post will be in Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease and will include innovative approaches to develop new therapies. COPD is caused by the action of neutrophil proteases on the lung and this project will focus on understanding how neutrophil function can be controlled to prevent lung damage in COPD. Professor Stephen Renshaw (Bateson Centre Director) has world leading expertise in models of inflammation and in screening new drugs that could be used to treat inflammation. He is also a clinician working in acute respiratory medicine, seeing patients with COPD. Prof. Alison Condliffe is an expert on respiratory immunity, with particular expertise on respiratory infection and on neutrophil biology, particularly neutrophil priming. Lynne Prince is a neutrophil biologist, with expertise on mouse models of lung inflammation, including COPD. Together Renshaw, Condliffe and Prince have identified potential therapies for COPD that are poised for further development.

**Description of the research component of the specialty specific programme**

Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) is the third leading cause of death worldwide (WHO) and over 1 million people currently have COPD in the UK alone. COPD is of increased importance at this time, since it is a significant risk factor for severe illness following infection with SARS-CoV-2, the cause of coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19). COPD leads to impaired gaseous exchange and ultimately, for many patients, death. Chronic inflammation drives tissue destruction in the lung and is central to causing the airway changes that underpin this disease. There are no disease modifying drugs in COPD, with pharmacotherapy aimed at relief of symptoms and prevention of exacerbations. Our work has identified a number of potential therapeutic approaches that might be effective in treating COPD. These approaches drive inflammation resolution by targeting the neutrophil, leading to healing of inflammation in diverse models. Candidate therapeutics include ErbB inhibitors (Rahman et al, eLife 2019) and tanshinone IIA (Robertson et al., Science Translational Medicine 2014) among others.

You will choose from one of the potential therapeutic candidates and test these in mouse models of COPD, as a prelude to securing funding for moving into experimental medicine studies in man. Mechanistic studies will be performed in parallel, understanding how these compounds might have their effects, searching for better next-generation COPD therapies.

## Research Protected Time:

The clinical programme is designed to provide training from ST4 level until completion of CCT. During the first 3 years of the programme (the Academic Clinical Fellowship) the candidate will conduct a 9 month research attachment. During the 9 month Academic Research component of the post there is no out of hours on-call commitment.

**Objectives of the Training Programme**

1. To continue clinical training in Respiratory Medicine from ST4 level.

2. To undertake a generic training programme in research methodology.

3. To perform translational research in the areas described above on which to base an application for an externally-funded PhD programme.

## Academic Clinical Fellowship Training Programme: Research Component

**MAIN ACTIVITIES & RESPONSIBILITIES:**

This is a 3 year full-time training post carrying an NTN(A) in Respiratory Medicine, with subsequent run-through to completion of CCT.

The successful applicant will have evidence of academic achievement and ideally have research experience and an intercalated BSc or similar qualification. They will be aiming to pursue a career in academic Respiratory Medicine.

***Research***

The successful candidate will be expected to develop an area of research interest and apply for a research training fellowship during the course of this post. This will be done in consultation with Professor Renshaw.

**Academic Clinical Fellowship Training Programme: Research Component**

The Fellow will be based within the Department of Infection, Immunity, and Cardiovascular Disease comprising of clinical and non-clinical academics, postdoctoral scientists and postgraduate students who investigate molecular and cell biology relevant to clinical disease. In the School of Medicine, research activity is championed within Research Sections. The department incorporates groups working within clinical specialities including respiratory medicine, rheumatology, nephrology and dermatology in addition to infectious diseases and Cardiology. There is a substantial base of Wellcome Trust and MRC support. The Department has excellent infrastructure for delivery of research training. For basic medical science, there are extensive facilities for molecular biology, tissue culture, genetics, microarray and proteomics.

**Successful candidates:**

Successful exit from this post will typically be to an externally-funded research fellowship, leading to award of a PhD and subsequently application either for a Clinical Lecturer post or a Clinician Scientist Fellowship.

**Unsuccessful candidates:**

If the post-holder does not achieve the expected clinical competencies, this will be handled in the same way as for all other trainees in speciality medicine.

If the post-holder fails to achieve academic competencies, or is unsuccessful in obtaining research funding, they would be anticipated to return to a clinical training post. This will be discussed in good time with the Programme Director through the system for appraisal and mentoring of academic trainees. Whilst no guarantee of an appropriate post is possible, every effort will be made to accommodate such individuals within the local training schemes.

**REPORT TO:**

Professor Steve Renshaw and chosen academic supervisors.

## Academic Clinical Fellowship Training Programme: Clinical Component

**SOUTH YORKSHIRE TRAINING PROGRAMME IN RESPIRATORY MEDICINE**

Specialist training in respiratory medicine is a 5-year programme usually resulting in dual accreditation in general internal medicine (GIM) and respiratory medicine, although single accreditation could be accommodated for suitable candidates. There are 14 training posts in the programme. The rotation comprises 2 to 2½ years in the Sheffield Teaching Hospitals (RHH and NGH) with the remainder at the associated DGHs, currently Chesterfield, Rotherham, Doncaster and Wakefield.

The full curriculum is covered. Local training is available in thoracoscopy, advanced bronchoscopic techniques, thoracic ultrasound, pulmonary hypertension, cystic fibrosis, occupational lung disease and non-invasive ventilation. Nationally commissioned services such as difficult asthma and interstitial lung disease exist within the training network. The programme includes a 3-month attachment in ITU, as required by the JRCPTB. Many trainees take advantage of the opportunities provided by the academic unit in Sheffield and by other colleagues in and outside the region, undertaking a period of out-of-programme research/experience. South Yorkshire trainees access the formal education programme organized by the Yorkshire region.

All attachments, except those in cystic fibrosis, ITU and pulmonary hypertension include a commitment to the acute medical take.

ARCPs are undertaken annually in June-July. Attendance at the educational programme, workplace-based assessments, educational supervisor’s reports and the training portfolio are reviewed. The school has made it mandatory for an end of placement questionnaire to be completed. Evidence of completion of this is also required at the panel. Trainees are also required to complete the GMC trainee survey.

**Formal Education Programme**

It is recommended that each trainee has the equivalent of 30 working days per annum to be used exclusively for educational purposes. The equivalent of one half day per week (15 free days per year) should be for attendance at the regional Structured Training Programme (STP) or equivalent event. At least 10 of the 15 days should be spent in respiratory medicine training. A minimum of 3.5 days per year should be in general internal medicine (GIM) training. Two of the respiratory days should be used for authorised and confirmed attendance at recognised national/international meetings (such as YTS, BTS, ERS and/or ATS). The remaining allocation of annual educational time should be for research, audit, attendance at trust medical meetings, web based learning and modular training in subjects not provided at the base hospital.

At each training site the trainee will have a nominated educational supervisor and clinical supervisor, who may be the same person. It is important that you meet these consultant(s) within the first few days in each part of your rotation so that educational agreements can be signed.

**The Respiratory Structured Educational Training Programme (STP)**

**1) Regional Respiratory Training Days**

At least eight full days of structured education occur over the whole year. The training days usually take place at Pinderfields Hospital, and are amalgamated with the educational programmes for West and East Yorkshire. Attendance at the North Trent training programme is also permitted. Each session consists a Journal Club (with articles selected from the following publications: Thorax, the American Journal of Respiratory & Critical Care Medicine, the European Respiratory Journal, Chest, British Medical Journal, Lancet, recent NICE Guidelines, Drug and Therapeutics Bulletins or New England Journal of Medicine). Major educational topics are presented by the consultant faculty. Trainees should keep a copy of their attendance certificate in his/her portfolio. A formal study leave form must be completed for each training day and signed off by educational/clinical supervisors.

**2) Yorkshire Thoracic Society (YTS)**

The Yorkshire Thoracic Society runs two full days of educational activities each year. Trainees are encouraged to present audit, research, or unusual cases. Membership is free.

**3) Closed Respiratory Clinic (Leeds)**

This is a three monthly meeting of registrars, consultants, radiologists and pathologists. Consultants and SpRs are encouraged to bring rare or complex cases to the meeting for discussion, partly as an educational exercise, but also as means of gaining peer support in the management of difficult cases. To ensure you are kept informed of closed clinics you should contact Kathy Marsden, Dr Beirne’s secretary at St James Hospital, to ensure you are on the e-mailing list. You should also let her know when you plan to present a case. If you present a case you should complete a reflective assessment for your eportfolio. An attendance register is kept at this meeting and used to inform the ARCP/RITA panel. Attendance at 3 of these meeting can be counted as 1 day towards the final requirement of structured respiratory training (i.e. 2 hours per meeting).

**4) Web-based education package.**

This was launched in March 2008 and it is organised and managed by Dr Jack Kastelik (Castle Hill Hospital, Hull). Please keep details of e-learning in your eportfolio. The web based learning counts as 2 days towards the final requirement of structured respiratory training when all 12 modules are completed. The e-based learning is accessed via the Health Education England Yorkshire & Humber Website.

**5) Training days / courses outside the structured days**

A Curriculum delivery budget is available to support trainees attain their educational targets. If you wish to attend a ‘CME approved’ course please liaise with your supervising consultant and Dr Sally Davies (TPD) about funding. An example of courses which we encourage are the lung transplantation course in Newcastle, the BTS occupational lung disease course, the pulmonary hypertension BTS course and courses in thoracoscopy. The Yorkshire and Humber Deanery courses are also offered and are required for CCT. These include a management course, research skill course and effective teaching course. Details of Deanery courses are available on-line and within curriculum documents.

**South Yorkshire Programme**

The South Yorkshire Rotation in Respiratory Medicine provides a five year balanced training in general (internal) medicine and respiratory medicine leading to dual qualification in the form of a CCT in both GIM and Respiratory Medicine. District General Hospital (DGH) posts provide experience in high intensity general medicine while working for physicians with an interest and specialist training in respiratory medicine. All DGH posts are EWTD compliant. All give opportunities to develop specialist skills.

The STH posts provide balanced training in all areas of specialist respiratory medicine with an opportunity to develop and pursue research interests. Research is delivered and supported in some district general hospitals also. Teaching Hospital posts provide a mixture of specialised respiratory medicine and general (internal) medicine working.

All Consultants involved in the training programme are physicians with expertise in Respiratory Medicine and General (Internal) Medicine. A three month attachment in intensive care is required. Opportunities are made available to fulfil all the requirements of the curriculum.

***1) Chesterfield Royal infirmary (2 posts)***

Learning opportunities include inpatient acute/general and respiratory medicine and respiratory OP clinics. Sleep and Acute NIV for type 2 respiratory failure on the MAU and respiratory ward. Medical HDU. Bronchoscopy with TBBx, semi-rigid thoracoscopy, lung cancer MDT, x-ray meeting and thoracic USS.

***2) Pinderfields General Hospital, Wakefield (2 posts)***

Specialist training opportunities at PGH are EBUS, medical thoracoscopy, thoracic ultrasound training, bronchoscopy simulator training, Sleep and home NIV, acute NIV (8 bedded respiratory care unit) and acute respiratory medicine. There are also opportunities for TB and ILD training.

***3) Rotherham District General Hospital (1 post)***

Specialist skills: Thoracoscopy, interventional bronchoscopy, pleural/thoracic ultrasound.

***4) Doncaster Royal Infirmary (3 posts including ITU to August 2013, then 4)***

DRI is becoming a major U/S teaching unit with regular weekly teaching sessions led currently by the radiographers and ready access to US-guided drain insertion. Respiratory consultant training is well advanced and there are substantial opportunities for registrar level training. There is a weekly TB clinic. NIV is delivered through a physiotherapy-led service with domiciliary long-term NIV therapy for patients with OHS and COPD. There is a weekly thoracoscopy list and twice weekly bronchoscopy lists. DRI offers a busy ITU which offers specific placements to respiratory trainees. Further clinical exposure is available at Bassetlaw and Mexborough Hospitals.

**5) Teaching Hospital posts at Sheffield Teaching Hospitals**

The respiratory unit at NGH is the regional centre for cardiothoracic services for South Yorkshire. NGH and RHH are part of the Academic Directorate of Respiratory Medicine affiliated with strong thoracic surgery, radiology, pathology, neurology, rheumatology, paediatrics and oncology services. Specialist areas include occupational lung disease, sleep disordered breathing and non-invasive ventilation (including neuromuscular disease), tuberculosis, bronchiectasis, lung cancer and pleural disease, ILD, asthma, COPD, CF and pulmonary thromboembolism and pulmonary hypertension. There is a commitment to acute general medicine in this attachment. A 4 bedded NIV unit treats COPD and neuromuscular patients and a complex bronchoscopy (EBUS, laser, stenting), thoracoscopy and pleural procedures service (incorporating radiological assessment) is operational. Trainees usually spend 2 1/2 years in STH. Both RHH and NGH have full pulmonary function facilities, specialist nurse input and specialised services including elective admission suites and day-case procedures/assessments.

***Teaching***

The post holder will perform some teaching duties as agreed with their academic supervisor, but the priorities are to obtain clinical competence and an externally funded PhD fellowship.

***Accommodation and support for the post***

Office space for academic work will be made available within the University. Laboratory space will be made available as required.

# CONTACTS

## Academic Leads and Supervisors:

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## Training Programme Director (clinical):

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## Academic Training Programme Director

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**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 (National Institute for Health Research) on <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 2021

Applications close: 16:00 on 3rd November 2021

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.