

## Job Description

### NIHR Academic Clinical Fellowship

---

### General Practice ST1 (ST2/ST3) entry (1 post) Theme – Multiple Long Term Conditions

---

The University of Sheffield, in partnership with NIHR, NHS England North East and Yorkshire and the Sheffield and Barnsley GP Specialty Training Programme (GPSTP) has developed an exciting pathway of academic clinical training opportunities.

Applications are now invited for an Academic Clinical Fellowship in General Practice at ST1, ST2 or ST3 level with an integrated clinical and academic training scheme through to ST4. This post is being offered under the NIHR theme of **Multiple Long Term Conditions (MLTCs)**

#### **Please Note:-**

**Applicants looking for an ST2/ST3 post are encouraged to apply to this vacancy at ST1. If successful, your experience will be assessed upon commencing in post enabling you to work at the appropriate level.**

This new post has been created as part of the NHS England (NHSE)/National Institution for Health Research programme of Integrated Academic Training and offers candidates a comprehensive experience of clinical academic medicine working alongside internationally renowned clinicians, researchers and GP Undergraduate Medical Educators.

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 General Practice will be run by the University of Sheffield, the Sheffield GP Training Scheme and NHS England North East Yorkshire.

General Practice Academic Clinical Fellowships (ACFs) at ST1, ST2 or ST3 entry are fixed-term national training posts. They attract an NTN(A).

Trainees undertake the usual 100% clinical rotations through General Practice and hospital specialities in ST1 and ST2 years. Then trainees undertake 50% clinical and 50% academic training in ST3 and ST4.

Trainees 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 (RTP) which includes a

choice of appropriate research modules depending on prior research training. In addition the trainee will receive bespoke research training and mentorship within the Academic Unit of Primary Medical Care according to their interests and experience. There is access to additional research training opportunities within the Faculty of Health. The trainee is also eligible for a £1,000 bursary per year to support research training activity (i.e. to attend academic conferences).

The Clinical Academic Training Programme at Sheffield has recently introduced a competitive ACF pump-priming award. Trainees can apply for up to £2000 for initial costs for research aimed at achieving a doctoral research fellowship.

The first two years of the training programme involve standard full time clinical GP training in general practice hospital training posts in South Yorkshire, although we encourage the fellows to attend local and national NIHR trainee conferences and the AUPMC away days if possible and to plan their academic training programme early in the post with their academic supervisor. The Academic Clinical Fellow will have a senior Academic Supervisor allocated for the entire ST1 or ST2 to ST4 training post in addition to their Educational and Clinical Supervisors

In years 3 and 4, trainees are attached to a GP training practice with 50% of their time devoted to clinical training and 50% to research training and carry out a supervised project. In addition to completing their supervised project for publication, trainees will be supported by their Primary Medical Care Academic Supervisor. The academic supervisor will be a senior GP clinical academic (Professor Burton - head of unit, Dr Caroline Mitchell SCL, Dr Jon Dickson SCL) from the AUPMC, depending on the research topic. As the ACF will be undertaking research within the theme of MLTCs, we offer co-supervision and projects within our established cross specialty collaborations across the School of Health and Population Science and also drawing upon senior health services research methods expertise.

Long-term health conditions impact 43% of the adult population in England. Around 70% of all health and social care funding goes to supporting people with long-term health conditions. People experiencing socioeconomic deprivation (PESD) have a 60% higher prevalence of having a long-term health condition and a 30% increase in severity of the condition compared with those from more affluent backgrounds. Multiple Long-Term Conditions (MLTCs), i.e., two or more long-term conditions in an individual, is predicted to rise in the UK from 54% in 2015 to 68% in 2035. People living in areas of deprivation are almost twice as likely to have MLTCs, which occurs on average 10–15 years earlier than those from more affluent groups/areas. Major socioeconomic inequalities exist even when accounting for risk factors such as smoking, nutrition, exercise, alcohol consumption.

The management of MLTCs is challenging due to the heterogeneous nature of the conditions leading to an increase in primary care visits, hospital admissions and social care costs. In a report published in 2021, people with MLTCs highlighted the need for research on more holistic and integrated care approaches that prioritises psychosocial issues including the promotion of independence. Our Primary Care 'Underserved Populations' inclusive research group hosts the Deep End research Alliance co-lead by Mitchell and Fryer.

DERA- <https://sites.google.com/sheffield.ac.uk/dera/home/our-team>

DERA is a tripartite collaboration of patients and communities; frontline practitioners and multidisciplinary academics working with underserved communities in Sheffield using participatory research approaches with a range of standard research methodologies.

The Academic Clinical Fellow will be supported and trained to develop a distinctive research project to include publication and conference outputs and write grant applications. ACF trainees would also normally complete and submit an external funding application for a NIHR In-Practice training fellowship or clinical research fellowship to enable them to complete a higher degree (PhD or research MD) following the completion of their ACF fixed-term post.

Current AUPMC work in MLTCs includes projects which an ACF could join and develop :  
Prof Burton: Persistent physical symptoms / functional disorders.

- Persistent Physical Symptoms: this includes work to better understand both the mechanisms of persistent (or functional) symptoms and clinical communication about them.
- Health Services Research: this typically involves analysis of large scale data to understand clinical practice (diagnosis and testing) and healthcare use

Dr Caroline Mitchell SCL:

- Bone health of people living with breast or prostate cancer taking hormone antagonist treatment: with Professors Brown and Wylde in medical and surgical oncology respectively; and Dr Qizhi Huang NIHR GP ACL
- HIV and associated Multiple Longterm Conditions with Dr Paul Collini (Infectious Diseases and NIHR GP ACL Dr Becky Mawson. Drs Mitchell and Collini are both key researchers within the UoS BRC
- Polycystic Ovarian Disease: a heterogeneous condition encompassing intersecting reproductive, cardiometabolic and commonly associated mental health sequelae- NIHR GP ACL Dr Becky Mawson and Dr Caroline Mitchell

All of the above MLTC project areas would situate the ACF within the DERA Inclusive Interdisciplinary Research Group which includes a social scientist (Fryer), 3 NIHR ACLs, a GP ITP and a NIHR ACF (mental health) currently.

All General Practice Academic Clinical Fellowships are run-through posts and would therefore be guaranteed continued training to CCT 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.

The Academic Unit of Primary Care has an excellent record of attracting high quality academic trainees and enabling progress to Doctoral Awards, Clinical Lectureships and senior posts. <https://www.sheffield.ac.uk/medicine/research/research-themes/primary-medical-care>

We welcome informal enquiries about the post:

Professor Burton [chris.burton@sheffield.ac.uk](mailto:chris.burton@sheffield.ac.uk), Head of Academic Unit of Primary Care  
Dr Caroline Mitchell GP, Senior Clinical Lecturer, Deputy CAT Programme Director (supports academic trainees across all specialities at the UoS) [c.mitchell@sheffield.ac.uk](mailto:c.mitchell@sheffield.ac.uk) - general enquiries about the themed CAT scheme and the GP post.

## POST DETAILS

---

### Job Title

NIHR Academic Clinical Fellow (ACF) – General Practice

## **Duration of the Post**

ST1 and ST2 100% Clinical; ST3 and ST4 50% Clinical/ 50% Academic.

ST1 entry to the ACF post is 4 years' duration.

ST2 entry to the post is 3 years' duration.

ST3 entry to the post is 2 years' duration

## **Lead GP Scheme in which training will take place**

Sheffield GP Training Scheme ACFs will be based at the Academic Unit of Primary Medical Care, Faculty of Medicine, Dentistry and Health, University of Sheffield, Sam Fox House, Northern General Hospital, Herries Road, Sheffield S5 7AU. The office administration for the Sheffield specialty training scheme contact is: Sarah Cuckson

[sarah.cuckson@nhs.net](mailto:sarah.cuckson@nhs.net)

## **Research institution in which training will take place**

The Academic Unit of Primary Medical Care,  
Faculty of Health,  
School of Medicine and Population Health,  
University of Sheffield, Sam Fox House,  
Northern General Hospital,  
Herries Road,  
Sheffield S5 7AU.

General Practice (GP) is a shortage clinical academic specialty<sup>1</sup> and nationally there is an expectation that Medical Schools should aim for half of graduates pursuing a career in general practice. In our strategy we recognize the importance of building academic capacity not just for future researchers and teachers, but for GPs who will go on to take up clinical leadership roles. This is particularly relevant in general practice because of the shorter clinical specialist training, often with little direct exposure to academic environments.

The Primary Care Research group within the School of Medicine and Population Health conducts research and teaching in relation to delivery of healthcare to individuals and populations in the community. It is led by Professor Chris Burton, in addition to two senior Clinical Lecturers (Mitchell, Dickson) and a senior research active Medical Educator team led by Dr Ben Jackson, deliver programmes of primary care research, undergraduate and postgraduate education delivery and innovations in primary care education.

The ACF will join a postgraduate clinical academic near peer group of NIHR ACFs (4), NIHR Clinical Lecturers (4), PhD and MD students. The Primary Care Research group has a strong track record in recruiting and developing early career academic GPs and has demonstrated a successful pipeline of ACF and In Practice Training Fellowships (IPTF) leading to Clinical Lecturer (NIHR awards x6 since 2012), a University matched Senior Clinical Lecturer post (Dr Dickson, previous NIHR CL) and a Wellcome PhD fellowship in the National School of Primary Care, co-supervised with Keele (Twohig). Professor Burton brings a significant track record of supporting ACFs to doctoral and other fellowships in his previous posts in Edinburgh and Aberdeen.

---

<sup>1</sup><http://www.medschools.ac.uk/AboutUs/Projects/Documents/2014-Clinical-Academic-Survey-Medicine-July-2013-data.pdf>

Sheffield is an excellent centre in which to conduct primary care clinical research. Our research groups work closely with specialist colleagues and health services research methodologists, ensuring that fellows experience a highly interdisciplinary environment across the school of health and population science. In addition our work aligns with and we collaborate with MLTC researchers within the NIHR BRC <https://www.sheffieldbrc.nihr.ac.uk/> and HELSI <https://www.sheffield.ac.uk/healthy-lifespan>

There is a supportive network of GP practices, with links from the department to three NIHR Clinical research networks and a strong track record of carrying out research in, for, and with under-served populations ('Deep End Yorkshire Humber') and within the Primary Care Sheffield research collaborative. The Primary Care Research group has close links with senior medical educators in primary care and provides opportunities for educational innovation and research. This integration with co-located research and teaching GPs ensures that ACFs conduct and report their research in ways which are always close to the interface of research, teaching and service development. The continuing University and local NHS England support for a strong presence of academic primary medical care in Sheffield is part of a regional strategy to promote General Practice as a vibrant, attractive and scholarly specialty and encourage medical students and foundation doctors to choose General Practice as a career.

### **THE RESEARCH COMPONENT OF THE SPECIALTY SPECIFIC PROGRAMME**

The post-holder(s) will be supported to identify and conduct projects linked to departmental strengths, including 'Under-served populations' including Primary care for older adults with complex needs including Cancer, HIV linked MLTCs and Polycystic Ovarian Disease (Mitchell, Mawson, Fryer), Persistent physical symptoms / functional disorders (Burton); Data for Healthcare Delivery (all investigators) and medical educators. Within these broad topics we use a wide range of methodologies and the post-holder will be encouraged to use and understand a range of qualitative and quantitative methods.

We encourage early career fellows to experience different skills and approaches at this stage, in order that they develop a broad theoretical base. We aim to match their clinical interests to existing programmes in order that they work within an expert team. Our aim is that by the end of the fellowship, fellows can make informed choices about their preferred methodologies and topic and are well placed to take these forward into a doctoral or an in-practice fellowship.

#### **Research Protected Time:**

In ST3 and ST4 the ACF will have 50% Academic time and 50% Clinical General Practice training. We have examples of the timetables of our latest two NIHR ACFs which show the appropriate balance of individual study time, Clinical or Research sessions and practice based tutorials (0.5 sessions weekly over two years) and research supervision sessions (0.5 sessions weekly over two years).

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

The ACF will meet the leader of the Primary Care Research group Professor Burton who, with the Educational/ Academic Supervisor, Senior Clinical Lecturer (Dr Caroline Mitchell), will help clarify their integrated academic and clinical training needs and identify additional potential GP/ Academic mentors within the department, the Faculty of Health and Sheffield

Centre of Health and Related Research. The ACF will also meet with the NIHR IAT Scheme manager (Dr Grievson) to discuss their proposed funded training programme including choices of MRes research modules at UoS and / or external research training .

The academic supervisors will commence academic support in the form of scheduled 6 monthly meetings during ST1 and ST2 and contact as needed in between these meetings during the first two, mainly hospital-based, years subject to the requirements of their clinical duties. The scheme has three objectives:

1. To provide high-quality clinical vocational training and prepare trainees to pass the MRCGP examination and gain specialist accreditation.
2. To support trainees in undertaking an individualised academic training programme with additional flexibility for those who already have a Masters or Doctoral level degree in order to translate prior research experience to a primary care setting.
3. To support trainees in conference presentations, publishing scientific papers and, for those wishing to continue in academic general practice, to apply successfully for a Clinical Research Doctoral Fellowship and project research grants.

The academic training programme (ATP) comprises: senior clinical academic supervision, a weekly seminar programme and a regular postgraduate peer learning group with oversight of the individualised training programme and progress by the Academic and Educational Supervisors. The ATP provides an opportunity to develop new and joint research proposals, progress writing for publication, fellowship and grant applications, with additional support from the University of Sheffield Clinical Trials Research Unit (CTRSU) and the Research Support Service (RSS).

Research academic clinical fellows are expected, within their protected academic time, to:

1. Prepare for academic 1:1 supervision
2. Undertake a research project as agreed with their academic supervisor, with additional support as needed within our clinical interdisciplinary research networks and including co-supervision with appropriate research and career mentors
3. Undertake the lead and co-authorship of research publications
4. Participate in and present at the weekly seminar
5. Prepare and lead / co-author academic presentations to regional and national Society for Academic Primary Care conferences.
6. Participate and prepare for the monthly peer led research meetings in AUPMC
7. Gain experience in grant applications as lead or co-applicant

Details about Academic Clinical Fellowships in General Practice can be found at:

<https://www.sheffield.ac.uk/health/study/clinical-training>

More details about AUPMC can be found at: <http://www.shef.ac.uk/medicine/research/aupmc>

Specific enquires about this integrated academic clinical training post Sheffield post should be directed to Professor Christopher Burton, as Academic Supervisor ([chris.burton@sheffield.ac.uk](mailto:chris.burton@sheffield.ac.uk)) and Dr Caroline Mitchell (GP Senior Clinical Lecturer, NHSE NE-Y Deputy Director Clinical Academic Training Lead, Academic Supervisor/ Educational Supervisor) at [c.mitchell@sheffield.ac.uk](mailto:c.mitchell@sheffield.ac.uk)

## Academic Clinical Fellowship Training Programme: Clinical Component

The first two years of the training programme (ST1/ST2) involve standard full time clinical GP training in general practice and hospital training posts in South Yorkshire, although we encourage the fellows to attend local and national NIHR trainee conferences and the AUPMC twice yearly away days if possible and to plan their academic training programme early in the post with their academic supervisor.

In years 3 and 4 (ST3 and ST4), trainees are attached to a single GP training practice with 50% of their time devoted to clinical training and 50% to research training.

### Review of Clinical and Academic Progress within the NIHR Academic Clinical Fellow integrated Clinical and Academic Training programme

The programme of clinical and academic training undertaken is in accordance with the requirements for speciality training including satisfactory progress at ARCP as required by the Royal College of General Practitioners. A Personal Development Plan will be agreed with your clinical and educational supervisors alongside demonstration of academic progress throughout the scheme as agreed with your academic supervisor.

## CONTACTS

---

### Academic Lead (University) for the IAT Programme

Professor Dilly Anumba  
Chair of Obstetrics and Gynaecology  
Honorary Consultant in Obstetrics & Gynaecology/Subspecialist in Fetomaternal Medicine  
Department of Human Metabolism  
Academic Unit of Reproductive and Developmental Medicine  
The University of Sheffield  
4th Floor, Jessop Wing  
Tree Root Walk, Sheffield S10 2SF  
Tel. 0114 226 1075 (Academic)  
0114 226 8172 (NHS)  
Email: [d.o.c.anumba@sheffield.ac.uk](mailto:d.o.c.anumba@sheffield.ac.uk)

### Academic Supervisors (University)

Professor Christopher Burton  
Professor of Primary Medical Care and General Practitioner  
Academic Unit of Primary Medical Care  
Sam Fox House, Northern General Hospital  
Sheffield S5 7AU  
Tel 0114 222 2206  
Email: [chris.burton@sheffield.ac.uk](mailto:chris.burton@sheffield.ac.uk)

Dr Caroline Mitchell  
Clinical Senior Lecturer Academic Unit Primary Medical Care  
GP Trainer, Woodhouse Health Centre  
Deputy Clinical Academic Training Programme Director (NHS HEE YH)  
Academic Unit of Primary Medical Care

Sam Fox House, Northern General Hospital  
Sheffield S5 7AU  
Tel 0114 222 2206  
Email: [c.mitchell@sheffield.ac.uk](mailto:c.mitchell@sheffield.ac.uk)

### **Educational (Specialty Clinical Training Scheme and Academic)**

Dr Caroline Mitchell  
Clinical Senior Lecturer Academic Unit Primary Medical Care  
GP Trainer, Woodhouse Health Centre  
Deputy Clinical Academic Training Programme Director (NHS HEE YH)  
Academic Unit of Primary Medical Care  
Sam Fox House, Northern General Hospital  
Sheffield S5 7AU  
Tel 0114 222 2206  
Email: [c.mitchell@sheffield.ac.uk](mailto:c.mitchell@sheffield.ac.uk)

### **Clinical Supervisor**

This will vary according to the practice in which the trainee is based.  
Dr Ngozi Anumba  
Woodhouse Medical Centre  
Skelton Lane  
Sheffield  
S13 7LY

NHS England North East and Yorkshire [academic.yh@hee.nhs.uk](mailto:academic.yh@hee.nhs.uk)

Sheffield and Barnsley GPSTP [gpscheme.sheffieldbarnsley@hee.nhs.uk](mailto:gpscheme.sheffieldbarnsley@hee.nhs.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 (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>