Job Description for NIHR Academic Clinical Fellowship in Oral Pathology and Oral Medicine (DCT1-3)

1. Job Title.
NIHR Academic Clinical Fellowship (ACF) in Oral Medicine and Oral Pathology (DCT 1-3)

2. Duration of post.
Up to three years for a maximum of three years.

3. Research institutions in which training will take place
Institute of Dentistry (IoD), Queen Mary University of London (QMUL), Royal London Dental Hospital, Barts Health NHS Trust, and associated outreach clinics

4. Timetabling of clinical and research time
Twenty five percent of the ACF's time will be protected for experimental and/or applied research and training over the three years. The remaining 75% will be spent completing DCT competencies as outlined in the 2023 Dental Gold guide: https://www.copdend.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/08/DGG4-2023.pdf.
The exit point for this post will typically be to an externally funded research fellowship, leading to the award of a PhD. If the post holder is unsuccessful in obtaining research funding, their DCT ACF post will finish at the end of the three years. The DCT ACF could then apply for a competitive speciality training (StR) post or another ACF speciality post if they are unsuccessful at acquiring a doctoral fellowship

5. Description of research component of programme
The ACF will be supported by researchers in the Institute of Dentistry (IoD), QMUL, to develop their research competencies as early-career researchers. They will be assigned to an academic supervisor who will support them to carry out preliminary research in preparation for a PhD fellowship aligned to these potential research or related areas:

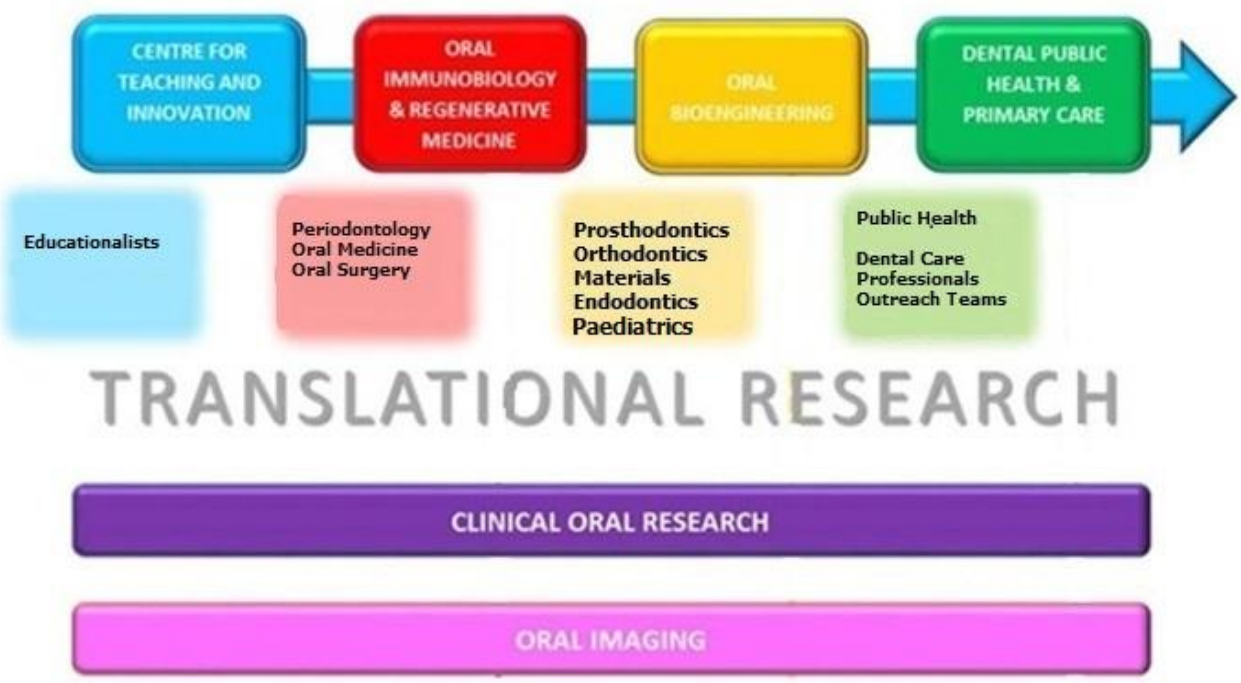
1. Dental public health in relation to oral mucosal disease
2. Oral Medicine/Oral Pathology interface: aetiology, natural history and outcome of mucosal disease. Oral epithelial dysplasia: grading, progression, role of candida and/or HPV
3. Clinical education: Educational strategies for provision of oral medicine teaching to undergraduate and postgraduate learners
4. Immunological aspects of oral mucosal diseases.

The ACF protected research time will also include completing a funded external Postgraduate Certificate (PGCert), e.g. in Healthcare Skills and Research Methods at St George's University as part of their required structured Research Training Program (RTP).

The ACF will be hosted by the Institute of Dentistry (IoD), QMUL. The IoD is one of seven Institutes and research centres in the Faculty of Medicine and Dentistry (FMD), QMUL. The QMUL Research strategy encapsulated in the Research Highways underscores the university's aim to combine expertise across disciplines to address societal challenges, harness new opportunities and transform lives globally. The IoD is at the forefront of research in the UK and internationally and shares the vision of QMUL that learning takes place in a research environment that enriches the teaching process.

It combines a strong tradition of clinical, epidemiological, and public health research in Dentistry with a solid basic science research base (https://www.qmul.ac.uk/dentistry/research-centres/featured-research/). The diversity and consistent strength of research attracts major funding and supports an environment that feeds into collaborative academic and industrial links. The ACF will be embedded in the Centre of Oral Bioengineering led by Professor Mangala Patel (https://www.qmul.ac.uk/dentistry/research-centres/oral-bioengineering/.) This centre is one of four research centres, including Dental Public Health and Primary Care, Oral Immunobiology and Regenerative Medicine and Teaching and Innovation (Figure 1). The Centre of Oral Bioengineering is home to the Dental Physical Sciences Unit carrying out world-leading research in biomaterials and biophysics. This centre also includes researchers in Orthodontics and Paediatric Dentistry.

Figure 1: Research structure at the Institute of Dentistry, QMUL



6. Description of clinical training component of programme

The ACF will be employed as a Dental Core Trainee by Barts Health NHS Trust holding an honorary university contract. Their clinical timetable will include exposure to new patient diagnostic clinics, general restorative clinics and treatment clinics focused on endodontic care. There will also be an aspect of clinical skills training in the state-of-the-art training facility to upskill trainees in current techniques. The trainee will benefit from experience from exposure to multidisciplinary clinics including implants for NHS priority patients such as hypodontia and trauma. They will be expected to complete the outcomes outlined in the DCT curriculum: https://www.copdend.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/09/2016-12-14-UK-DCT-Curriculum-December-2016.pdf

7. Academic Programme Director name

Dr Mohsin Ali Chaudhary, Clinical Reader and Consultant in Paediatric Dentistry.
(m.chaudhary@qmul.ac.uk)

8. Clinical Programme Director name
Oral Medicine: Dr John Buchanan (j.a.g.buchanan@qmul.ac.uk), Oral Pathology: Dr Krishna Suchak(krishna.suchak@nhs.net)
Director of Dental Education: Dr Lochana Nanayakkara, Director of Dental Education, Barts Health NHS Trust (l.nanayakkara@nhs.net)

9. Programme contact for further information (phone or email)
Dr John Buchanan, Clinical Reader and Honorary Consultant in Oral Medicine (j.a.g.buchanan@qmul.ac.uk), Oral Pathology: Dr Krishna Suchak, Consultant in Head and Neck Pathology (krishna.suchak@nhs.net)

10. NHSE contact:
Specialty Team https://lasepgmdesupport.hee.nhs.uk/support/home
Recruitment Enquiries - https://lasepgmdesupport.hee.nhs.uk/support/home

11. Useful websites for further information IAT Guide | NIHR
https://www.nihr.ac.uk/explore-nihr/academy-programmes/integrated-academic-training.htm

12. Confirmation that the post attracts an NTN: No

This job description was prepared on 21 August 2026