Job Description for NIHR Academic Clinical Fellowship in Oral Surgery and Paediatric Dentistry (DCT 1-3)

1) Job title
NIHR Academic Clinical Fellowship (ACF) in Oral Surgery and Paediatric Dentistry (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/wpcontent/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 an early career researcher. 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:

- Contribute to the MiTiGate Trial by supporting participant recruitment, clinical assessment, data collection, and delivery of trial activities within the Oral Surgery team.
- Oral health research involving socially excluded children (e.g., Children Looked After, refugees and asylum seekers)
- Developing and evaluating oral health interventions for high-risk children

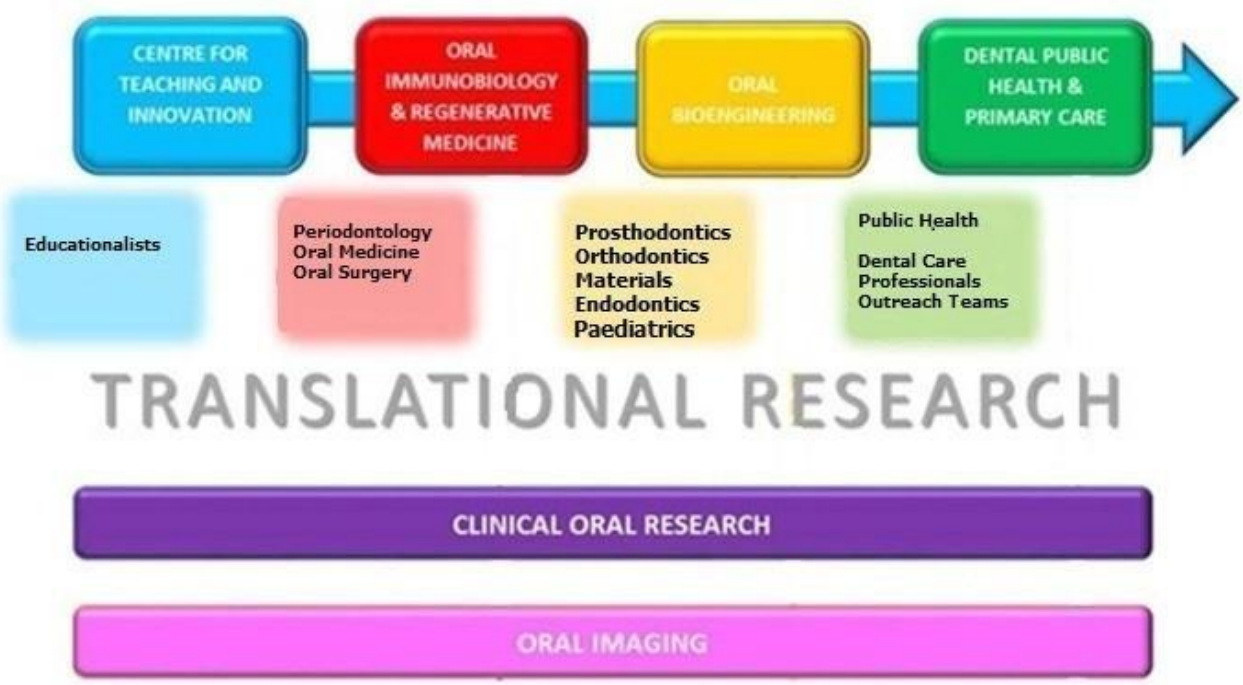
The ACF protected research time will also include completing a funded external Postgraduate Certificate (PGCert) e.g. in Healthcare Skills and Research Methods at St George's University as part of their required structured Research Training Programme (RTP).

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/researchcentres/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 biomaterial 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 the clinical training component of the programme

The ACF will be employed as a Dental Core Trainee by Barts Health NHS Trust holding an honorary clinical contract with Kent Community Health Foundation Trust and an honorary university contract. Their clinical timetable will include rotations with supervised treatment sessions, experience in new patient consultant clinics and Paediatric Dental Emergency Clinics with sessions timetabled in inhalational sedation and in theatre managing patients under General Anaesthesia. The ACF will gain broad experience and confidence in caring for Paediatric patients, some with complex medical histories or special needs. Trainees will also become experienced at managing operating lists. They will be expected to complete the outcomes outlined in the DCT curriculum:

https://www.copdend.org/wpcontent/uploads/2018/09/2016-12-14-UK-DCT-Curriculum-December-2016.pdf.

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

8) Clinical Programme Director
Oral Surgery: Dr Eleni Besi, Clinical Reader/Honorary Consultant in Oral Surgery. (e.besi@nhs.net)
Paediatric dentistry: Dr Janet Davies, Clinical Reader/Honorary Consultant in Paediatric Dentistry, Educational Supervisor (janet.davies@qmul.ac.uk)
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)
Oral Surgery: Dr Eleni Besi, Clinical Reader/Honorary Consultant in Oral Surgery. (e.besi@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 Aug. 2026