Job Description for NIHR Academic Clinical Fellowship in General Practice (Primary Care and Community Care) ST1 entry

1. Job Title.
Academic Clinical Fellowship in General Practice (Primary Care)

2. Duration of post.
4 years

3. Research institutions in which training will take place
Wolfson Institute of Population Health, Faculty of Medicine and Dentistry, Queen Mary University of London.

4. Timetabling of clinical and research time
The ACF will rotate through a choice of clinical specialties during ST1 and ST2 and have their research time mainly during ST3 and ST4. The trainee will spend 75% (3 years) of their total time in clinical training, and 25% (1 year) in academic research.

5. Description of research component of programme
The post will be based at the Wolfson Institute of Population Health (WIPH), home to over 100 postgraduate research students (PGRs), over 100 academics and in total over 600 staff and PGRs contributing to research, education and public engagement activities. Average annual grant income (over the last three years) into WIPH is over £35m. WIPH sits alongside five other institutes within the Faculty of Medicine and Dentistry at Queen Mary University of London.

WIPH is a member of the prestigious NIHR School for Primary Care Research, which focuses on facilitating high-quality primary care research through strategic leadership and ringfenced funding, and on building capacity in primary care research through an established training programme. Expertise in the Institute covers a broad range of clinical areas, including dementia, cancer, asthma, COPD, diabetes, mental health, women's health, and multimorbidity. Our disciplinary expertise is broad and includes: primary care; public health and global health; translational genomics and health data science. The WIPH is firmly embedded in the east London community. Queen Mary has a Civic University Agreement and strives to meet the needs of our neighbours and partners. Within this framework, WIPH has an extensive programme of public engagement work.

Developing actionable insights from patient data and data-driven tools for improved patient care is a national priority. Queen Mary provides a strong research and training environment, including in dementia, primary care research and development, and health data science respectively in the WIPH. The post holder will be based in the Centre for Psychiatry and Mental Health (CPMH) which includes internationally leading expertise on the social determinants of mental health and health inequalities across the lifespan and will also work with the Centre for Primary Care which hosts the NIHR School of Primary Care Research (SPCR). The supervisors have an extensive track record in supporting academic trainees through the NIHR Integrated Academic Training (IAT) programme, doctoral fellowships, and into future independent research careers. The postholder will benefit from funding, training and mentorship opportunities afforded through QMUL Academy and NIHR SPCR to develop as an independent leader in the early detection and prevention of cancer in primary care. They will also contribute to the rich learning and training environment across Queen Mary.

A strong focus of the work in CPMH is on mental health research and interventions across the lifespan; of particular relevance to this ACF is the Dementia and Ageing Research Unit (DARE). The unit focuses on advancing research, innovation, and collaboration in dementia and healthy ageing. DARE brings together interdisciplinary expertise with a strong emphasis on improving prevention, diagnosis, care, and support for individuals and communities. By working closely with clinicians, researchers, policymakers, and people with lived experience, the unit aims for its research to translate into practical and policy impacts that enhance quality of life and inform health and social care systems. DARE hosts an Alzheimer's Society Doctoral Training Centre (I-CARE) and the Alzheimer's Society Centre for Inequalities (GRACE). The ACF will have the opportunity to work across a range of programmes in the unit. These programmes use a broad range of methods from secondary data analysis to cohort data collection to qualitative enquiry and can include topics such as dementia, ageing and community-based interventions. The current work covers pre-hospital care, including an evaluation of virtual wards/hospital at home for people with dementia and a separate programme evaluating the East London Remote Emergency Access Coordination Hub (REACH). Additional projects available include managing delirium in emergency departments, and research focussed on young onset dementia and people living alone with dementia.

We will leverage the interdisciplinary, cross-sector expertise and capacity building opportunities built into these funded programmes to support the ACF in developing their interests and specialism in this area. There is also a strong network of methodological support available across quantitative, qualitative, and mixed methods.

The ACF will also be expected to contribute to teaching across WIPH and the medical school.

The successful ACF will receive close support and mentoring from senior clinical academics in the Institute and beyond, in addition to a close network of support from the GP Vocational Training Scheme. Generic research skills and methodology training will be offered via academic seminars, and QM Academy courses. There are opportunities to learn a wide range of methodological skills including systematic reviews, mixed-methods approaches, large data analysis, machine learning, qualitative methods, social network analysis etc. The ACF will be encouraged to acquire practical teaching experience. This post would be an excellent platform for the successful individual to secure personal PhD fellowship funding and develop an independent clinical academic career.

6. Description of clinical training component of programme

The Tower Hamlets specialist training programme in general practice provides trainees with a learner-centered programme of education and experiential training in inner-city multicultural general practice. It offers placements in GP training practices, alongside the academic time.

The Tower Hamlets GP Training Scheme aims to mutually inform and co-ordinate training within the practices, the training posts and the half-day release, maximising potential by utilising all these available learning opportunities. It tries to foster a capacity within each doctor on the scheme to become aware of and express their own learning needs, and then to have a scheme so flexible that these identified needs can be met within the most appropriate context. This may be achievable via the training practice, co-ordinated teaching sessions between practices, or the half-day release sessions. The programme aims to produce doctors who feel confident to work in a stimulating but challenging environment in east London: who have learned to maintain themselves as caring and competent doctors, being who aware of their needs for learning and for support and being able to work with others to meet their needs.

7. Academic Programme Director name

Dr Yin Zhou - yin.zhou@qmul.ac.uk (GP IAT lead at QMUL)

8. Clinical Programme Director name
Dr Phillip Bennett-Richards

9. Programme contact for further information (phone or email)

- *Academic Supervisor*

Professor Nathan Davies - n.davies@qmul.ac.uk
Dr Shoba Poduval – s.poduval@qmul.ac.uk

- *IAT Leads at Queen Mary*

Dr Upkar Gill - u.gill@qmul.ac.uk
Dr Sasha Howard - s.howard@qmul.ac.uk

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 (A)

Yes.

This job description was prepared on 6th August 2026.