NIHR | National Institute for Health and Care Research

Job Description for NIHR Academic Clinical Fellow 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, Queen Mary University of London, Faculty of Medicine and Dentistry

4. Timetabling of clinical and research time
The Academic Clinical Fellow will spend 75% of the four-year programme (equivalent to three years) in clinical training and 25% (equivalent to one year) in protected academic research. The precise arrangement of clinical and academic time will be agreed with the relevant Training Programme Directors and academic supervisors.

The Academic Clinical Fellow will rotate through a choice of clinical specialties during ST1 and ST2. Protected research time will be concentrated primarily in ST3 and ST4, alongside placements in approved General Practice training practices.

5. Description of research component of programme

This proposed post harnesses specific interdisciplinary academic expertise in diabetes, cardiometabolic disease and precision medicine within the Wolfson Institute of Population Health. The fellowship will be part of a growing portfolio of work guiding future precision approaches to cardiometabolic disease and multimorbidity in the NHS. Our work spans, (a) genetic discovery in diverse national and global cohorts, including Genes & Health and Black Health Legacy, (b) translational studies harnessing the utility of genetic information to guide better prevention, diagnosis and management of conditions like type 2 diabetes, and (c) clinical research guiding the delivery of future precision medicine in routine NHS care in the future. The team's research has a clear focus on delivering impact to diverse people and populations, and in the context of equitable healthcare delivery in the NHS.

The Academic Clinical Fellow will join a successful team with an excellent record of high impact publications, grant and fellowship funding. The team two major research studies, Genes & Health and Black Health Legacy that bring high quality scientific methods and impact to diverse populations through major UKRI, Wellcome and Life Sciences funding. Across the team there is a strong ethos of collegiate and collaborative research supervision, mentoring and skills development. The team hosts many academic General Practitioners, many starting as ACFs and then progressing to PhDs and beyond. The successful applicant will be offered a range of research opportunities in their fellowship, tailored to their own interests and ambitions and aligned to the work of the Genes & Health and Black Health Legacy teams. Areas of particular opportunity include clinical research, genetic epidemiology, health data science and implementation science. There will be a strong focus on supporting the Academic Clinical Fellow towards a successful PhD fellowship and future academic career with individualised training and development.

6. Description of clinical training component of programme

The Tower Hamlets Specialist Training Programme in General Practice provides a learner-centred programme of education and experiential training in multicultural, inner-city general practice. The programme offers placements in approved General Practice training practices alongside protected academic time.

The Tower Hamlets General Practice Training Scheme coordinates learning across training practices, clinical training posts and half-day release sessions, enabling trainees to make full use of the available learning opportunities.

The scheme aims to help each doctor identify and express their own learning needs and offers sufficient flexibility for those needs to be met in the most appropriate setting. Learning may be provided through the trainee's training practice, coordinated teaching sessions involving multiple practices or half-day release sessions.

The programme aims to develop confident, compassionate and competent doctors who are equipped to work in the stimulating and challenging environment of east London. Trainees will learn to recognise their own requirements for continuing education and support and to work effectively with colleagues to meet those 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 Philip Bennett-Richards (GP lead)

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

- *Academic Lead*

Professor Sarah Finer
Professor of Clinical Diabetes, Queen Mary University of London
Honorary Consultant Diabetologist, Barts Health NHS Trust
s.finer@qmul.ac.uk

- *Clinical Lead*

Dr Philip Bennett-Richards (GP lead)

- *Academic Supervisor*

Professor Sarah Finer
Professor of Clinical Diabetes, Queen Mary University of London
Honorary Consultant Diabetologist, Barts Health NHS Trust
s.finer@qmul.ac.uk

- *IAT Leads at Queen Mary*

- Dr Upkar Gill Email: u.gill@qmul.ac.uk
- Dr Sasha Howard Email: 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 21st August 2026