Job Description for NIHR Academic Clinical Fellowship in Geriatric Medicine (Dementia)

<IMT1-3 / ST4>

1. Job Title.
NIHR Academic Clinical Fellowship in Geriatric Medicine (Dementia)

2. Duration of post.
3 years

3. Research institutions in which training will take place
King's College London (KCL)

4. Timetabling of clinical and research time
The posts are three years long with nine months of protected research time integrated into the clinical rotation timetable. Integrated medical training rotations are the same as for ngeon-academic positions, as is rotation through clinical geriatrics. Research time may be split into three-month blocks or may be aggregated into a six-month unit and three-month units or a single block.

5. Description of research component of programme

Geriatric Medicine research at King's College London is based in the School of Lifecourse Sciences in the Faculty of Life Sciences and Medicine. The postholder will join a team researching a central theme – prevention, detection and management of delirium and dementia in medical and surgical environments.

Delirium is a severe neuropsychiatric syndrome which affects at least 15% of hospital inpatients. Delirium remains under-researched, despite the fact it significantly lengthens inpatient stay, and predicts falls, new institutionalization and mortality, as well as causing significant patient and carer distress. Delirium is more likely in patients with dementia, and also confers an increased risk of development of dementia.

Projects offered range from big data exploration to translational research. For example:

· Prediction and prevention of delirium and its consequences using health care records

· Analysis of large epidemiological datasets, including the TwinsUK cohort (including MRI imaging) and the ZOE COVID Study of over 2 million older adults assessed throughout the COVID-19 pandemic.

· Translational research older patients undergoing surgery or oncology treatments, recovering from stroke or recovering post delirium within our specialist clinic. Existing observational and interventional data collected in clinical settings can be utilized for initial projects at the beginning of the fellowship.

The post holder would join a multidisciplinary team of researchers including clinicians, imaging researchers, big data analysts including existing ACFs in Dementia, shared with the Institute of Psychiatry, Psychology and Neuroscience, and two academic clinical fellows working on cognition and delirium using imaging and datascience with the school of Bio-medical Engineering and Imaging science.

Having ascertained early research specialisms of interest, trainees would be mentored by an appropriate senior academic and would be encouraged to develop a bespoke project supported by one or more of the infrastructures listed above – ideally cross-resource to increase exposure. There is scope to widen the research proposed within the field of geriatrics medicine to match the trainee's interests. They will be provided with opportunity and encouragement to lead on their project, including first authorship on any reports and support for conference presentation and other dissemination activities. During this time, the focus would be on building a strong case to support fellowship applications through publications and preparatory data. The lead supervisor, a geriatrician, was awarded the Supervisory Excellence Award for the Faculty of Life Sciences and Medicine, KCL in 2020.

Research Theme - Dementia

Dementia research at King's ranges from basic science to large-scale clinical trials and global dementia research, with a track-record of internationally important discoveries including new dementia genes, therapeutic targets, proteomic biomarkers and dementia care. KHP is also a leader in NHS innovation for dementia services, setting up the first memory clinics in the NHS.

King's has the infrastructure and established collaborations creating a critical mass of research excellence, diversity and interdisciplinary working, integrating mental and physical health and social care. The Maurice Wohl Clinical Neuroscience Institute co-locates clinical and basic neuroscientists. It houses the King's UK Dementia Research Institute (UKDRI) Centre, 1 of only 5 national dementia centres advancing the discovery, development and delivery of dementia interventions from prevention to diagnosis and treatment. The NIHR HealthTech Research Centre in Brain Health advances technology working with industry to solve challenges in dementia research diagnosis, care and treatment. King's delivers major programmes of dementia research encompassing genomics, biomarkers and technology for dementia prognosis and diagnosis, including PREDICTOM study pioneering use of AI for early detection of Alzheimer's disease, technology for cost-efficient diagnosis of cognitive impairment, and big data including DATAMIND, MRC Data Hub for Mental Health Informatics Research and Development.

The MHOA&D CAG has a particular research interest in cognitive and neuropsychiatric symptoms in neurodegenerative disorders, including Alzheimer's, Parkinson's and Lewy body dementia.

6. Description of clinical training component of programme

The ACF will join the IMT or Geriatric Medicine training programmes depending on the level of training, and proceed to the South East London Geriatrics Specialist Registrar Training Programme, which has a very high standard of training and is sought after by trainees. It was one of only two such programmes in the UK to have no vacancies and contributed to South London trainees being 1st for clinical supervision and 2nd for overall satisfaction nationally in GMC surveys. This award winning training group have secured grant funding to improve the training programme year on year with the development of innovative, curriculum-mapped, educational opportunities and the introduction of clinical academic trainees into the rotation.

The Departments of Ageing and Health at GSTT and King's College Hospital have produced significant leaders in Geriatric Medicine, including two clinical professors, and Readers and Senior Clinical Lecturers. They have been responsible for world leading enhancements in patient care, including Proactive Care for Older people undergoing Surgery (POPS), Geriatric Oncology Liaison (GOLD). Unique training opportunities include participation in the clinical trials, joint/integrated training with acute medicine, palliative care and general practice, and dedicated ST posts in liaison with old age psychiatry, memory assessment, care home intervention, and home treatment team services. We provide teaching and regular, trainee-led academic meetings which provide a platform for staff and trainees to share/publish audit and research.

Description of the clinical component of the training program for IMT1-3

The successful candidate with undergo their Internal Medicine Training in London; 25% of their time will be dedicated to research time which translates to 3 months in each year of IMT1-3 training years. Internal Medicine Training (IMT) forms the first stage of specialty training for most doctors training in physicianly specialties and will prepare trainees for participating in the acute medical take at a senior level and managing patients with acute and chronic medical problems in outpatient and inpatient settings. It is a three-year programme which will continue to develop doctors working as the medical registrar and provide them with the skills needed to manage patients presenting with a wide range of general medical symptoms with an emphasis on comorbidity and an ageing population. Although Academic trainees are supernumerary, experience managing the acute unselected take is mandatory as is experience in Intensive Care Medicine, Geriatric Medicine and outpatients. Trainees will receive mandatory simulation training during their programme. The Annual Review of Competency Progression (ARCP) decision aid defines the targets that have to be achieved for a satisfactory ARCP outcome at the end of each training year for trainees in IMT and can be accessed via this link: https://www.thefederation.uk/sites/default/files/uploads/IMT%20ARCP%20Decision%20Aid%20%28updated%20August%202026%29_0.pdf

Main duties of the postholder for IMT3

To complete training in Internal Medicine Stage 1 by completing the IMT3 year, rotating through posts which offer Internal Medicine. These posts will be devised based on clinical training and aligned to the curriculum.

Description of the clinical component of the Training program for IMT3

The ACF will join the program at IMT3 level and will complete rotations in Internal Medicine to ensure a broad range of training in Internal Medicine and sign off for IMT Stage 1. Clinical work during this time will focus on managing the acute unselected medical take, the ongoing care of medical inpatients and outpatient work as outlined in the IMT stage 1 curriculum training. Opportunities will include the local and regional IMT3 training as well as simulation training. Specific rotations and rotation locations will be devised with the IMT Training Program Directors based on the clinical training needs of the ACF but will not routinely include this specialty.

7. Academic Programme Director name
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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 31-July-2026