Academic Clinical Fellowship in Medical Oncology 2027

Description of ACF Programme:
Title: Medical Oncology Duration: 3 years
Lead NHS Hospital/Trust and contact details:
University Hospitals Southampton Trust Department of Medical Oncology Southampton General Hospital Southampton SO16 6YD Professor Andrew DAVIES Cancer Sciences Unit Faculty of Medicine, University of Southampton Somers Cancer Research Building Southampton General Hospital Southampton 023 8079 6186 a.davies@southampton.ac.uk
Research Institution in which training will take place:
Name: University of Southampton School of Cancer Sciences Faculty of Medicine University of Southampton Somers Cancer Building Mailpoint 824 Southampton General Hospital Southampton SO16 6YD And Wessex Medical Oncology Rotation University Hospitals Southampton Southampton

The rotation may include time spent at the Royal Bournemouth Hospital, Bournemouth and Queen Alexandra Hospital, Portsmouth
Arrangements for protected research time:
The post will cover 2 years and 3 months of clinical training, at the end of which 9 months of protected research time will be used to learn research methodology, undertake a research project and prepare for a Clinical Research Fellowship application to complete a higher degree. Clinical duties will be back-filled during research time. We will ensure protected research time for this individual who will be an addition to the existing middle grade team during the final 9 months. It is anticipated, consistent with the Integrated Academic Training programme that the ACF will compete for a Clinical Lecturer post on completion of their higher degree.
Research Objectives:
The objectives of the training programme are for the trainee, over three years: 1. To undertake the equivalent of 27 months of full-time specialist training in medical oncology in accredited hospital posts and a total of 9 months within an appropriate Research Division in the University of Southampton Faculty of Medicine over a 3-year period. 2. To undertake generic research methods training through a programme run by the Faculty of Medicine's NIHR Postgraduate School. 3. To gain research experiences as an embedded member of one of the Cancer Sciences Unit [or collaborators], University of Southampton research groups. 4. To develop a research proposal for an externally funded research training fellowship. 5. To obtain relevant training in research design, methods and systematic review. 6. To submit applications for research training fellowships in national competition such as MRC, Wellcome Trust, National Institute of Health Research & Cancer Research UK.
Description of research component of programme (up to 500 words):
The Faculty of Medicine and the NHS Trust in Southampton have closely aligned research strategies and a shared emphasis on attracting and training the best clinical academics. The candidate may also undertake some of their research component in the School of Cancer Sciences in the University of Southampton, Faculty of Medicine. The bulk of the School is housed in modern well-equipped laboratories in the Somers Building on the Southampton General Hospital Site. A £25m Cancer Immunology Centre opened in the Summer of 2018, integrating a wealth of expertise in the field in single space.

(http://www.southampton.ac.uk/youreit#new-centre). The Southampton Centre for Cancer Immunology was the first in Europe, and is world leading in bringing together multidisciplinary research themes to help understand responses and improve outcomes to immunotherapy in cancer. The ACF will be able to interact with basic scientists, translational clinical academics and the Clinical Trials Unit who will be able to deliver these outputs to patients.

The Southampton Clinical Trials Unit was established in 2006 with core funding from Cancer Research UK and NIHR, providing clinical trial development and management (http://www.southampton.ac.uk/ctu/index.page). In 2022 it received a significant uplift in core funding enabling delivery of clinical trials across all cancers. Its portfolio includes early detection studies, early phase and large scale later phase research. Southampton hold programmatic funding from Cancer Research UK and has multiple project grants form a broad range of funding partners. There is major infrastructure support from the National Institute of Health Research and Cancer Research UK to the Experimental Cancer Medicine Centre (http://www.ecmcnetwork.org.uk/network-centres/southampton/). The Wessex Investigation Science Hub provides infrastructure support for clinical trials translational endpoints in a purpose build laboratory. (http://www.southampton.ac.uk/medicine/research/WISH%20Lab/wishlab.page).
Southampton hosts a Therapies Acceleration Programme. Our infrastructure includes also includes an NIHR Biomedical Research Centre (BRC), a NIHR ClinicalResearch Facility (operating to MHRA phase I accreditation standards) and the Genomic Medicine hub as part of the NHSE genomics consortium with Oxford and Birmingham.

Cancer Sciences also host the Clinical Informatics Research Unit (CIRU), an applied research unit exploring the management, analysis and use of healthcare data. CIRU delivers global health data solutions such as the EDGE clinical trial platform. Southampton in a hub of AI innovation, hosting the UKRI Trustworthy Autonomous Systems Hub where we are exploring multi-omic analysis of cancer cohorts. Southampton's critical mass and delivery capabilities is underscored and evidenced by eleven novel biotherapeutics moving from Cancer Sciences discovery programmes to clinical development phase.

There will be plenty of opportunity to become involved in the design and delivery of clinical trials ranging from first in human to late phase.

The Southampton Academy of Research is a joint NHS/University venture undertaking, the centralised pan-professional training hub and main point of contact for health professionals, research scientists and clinical research staff. It provides information and advice on research-related careers, training, funding and mentorship. As a research-intensive Faculty of Medicine our international research reputation. All our ACF become part of the Southampton Clinical Academic Training Scheme (SoCATS) which provides an optimal training ecosystem to acquire research skills, support and for professional development.

The NIHR cancer network in Wessex is one of the best performing in the UK, with 14,675 patients taking part in clinical trials over the last 5 years (31% interventional) and over

65,000 since 2000.Southampton is consistently among the top 3 Trusts in the country for recruitment to NIHR cancer trials.

The mission of the Unit focuses on the synergy of excellence in clinical and basic research, delivering high quality translational programmes to improve cancer treatment. Current research strengths focus on cancer immunology and immunotherapy and the molecular mechanisms of malignancy. All groups within the division have strong collaborative links with basic medical scientist as well as to the well-organised multidisciplinary teams in clinical practice in the Southampton Cancer Centre. More can be learnt of the breadth of our research interests at :http://www.southampton.ac.uk/medicine/academic_units/academic_units/cancer_sciences.page

The School of Cancer Sciences has extensive experience of matching students to projects, both full-time and part-time, clinical and non-clinical. Career tracking is a priority of the Units Executive Group and the track record of Clinical Trainees passing through the Unit is one of excellence.

The trainee will work closely with their academic supervisor to assess and direct their learning needs. They will have the opportunity to attend a variety of courses to gain core research skills

Key themes

Cancer Sciences have a clear focus on applying discovery science at the translational interface with human cancer in particular in cancer immunology and the tumour microenvironment. Translation is supported by broad expertise in preclinical modelling and extensive collaborations with biotech and pharma. There is a strong ethos of interdisciplinary research across the University with expertise in structural biology, chemistry, glycobiology; systems and computational biology; imaging; peptidomes; artificial intelligence/machine learning and data science. Within this, Cancer Sciences pursue a number of broad themes. The successful candidate will be embedded within one of these groups

Antigen processing and immunomodulation

Antibody therapeutics and cancer vaccines

Lymphoid malignancies

Tumour microenvironment

Genetic and modifiable risk factors in breast cancer

Description of clinical component of programme (up to 500 words):

The ACF will gain broad experience of non-surgical cancer management during the first two years and 3 months. This will include experience in administration of both outpatient and inpatient chemotherapy, including high dose treatments with haemopoietic progenitor cell rescue. Training will be provided in all aspects of administration of chemotherapy and biological therapies and will include assessment of response to treatment, the management of toxicities of treatment and the presentations and complications of malignant disease. In addition, the ACF will gain experience of both radiotherapy and palliative medicine. During the first two years the post will rotate in order to give a broad general experience. They will gain both inpatient and outpatient experience and will be expected to assist in the supervision of junior medical staff and be responsible for day to day management of inpatients. Skills already learned and practical procedures such as chest drains, lumbar puncture etc will be reinforced during this period. There are weekly multidisciplinary meetings for most tumour sites which trainees are expected to attend as part of their clinical attachment.

During their training they will have the opportunity to attend Clinical Oncology clinics and gain experience of the appropriate use of radiotherapy in the treatment of malignant disease, its effects and complications.

They will be required to attend the taught course in Oncology at The Institute of Cancer Research, a day-release modular programme leading to a Postgraduate Certificate, Postgraduate Diploma or MSc in Oncology. The overall aim of the course is to encourage proactive problem solving and reflective approaches to medical or clinical practice, producing graduates who are well equipped with the highly refined intellectual, scientific and clinical skills necessary for leadership careers in twenty-first century oncology. This course will fulfill many of the aims of the Medical Oncology Core Curriculum. At the end of the initial clinical training it is expected that they will have acquired a sound knowledge of basic cancer science, the aetiology and prevention of cancer, its clinical features and treatment and aspects of supportive care and palliative medicine.

Experience will be gained in the care of patients in phase I, II and III trials and it is anticipated that the ACF will be involved in the initial development of clinical trial protocols, and the coordination of trials, recording and reporting of results. A dedicated and fully-staffed NIHR Clinical Research Facility is also located in the hospital immediately adjacent to the Medical Oncology ward, for the conduct of early phase clinical trials work (http://www.uhs.nhs.uk/ClinicalResearchinSouthampton/Research/Facilities/NIHR-Southampton-Clinical-Research-Facility/NIHR-Southampton-Clinical-Research-Facility.aspx)

The trainee will also be expected to develop a clear understanding of the regulatory process of clinical trials and participate in the peer review of clinical trials. For multi-centre trials they will be expected to attend investigator meetings in order to discuss the trials with participants from other centres. The trainee will be expected to work closely with the clinical research team of research nurses and clinical trials associates. With increasing experience they will be expected to take full responsibility for conduct of the studies and planning new ones. In addition, they will be expected to present the results of clinical research projects both locally

and at national and international meetings as appropriate. Publication of the results in peer reviewed journals is expected. There are delivery teams for both early phase and late phase research

The ACF post holder will be encouraged to develop an area of site specialist interest. The Unit treats a large number of patients with most major tumour sub types and will therefore offer the opportunity to specialize in one of a number of tumours including breast cancer, lymphoma, urologic malignancy, germ cell tumours, gynaecological cancer, gastrointestinal cancer, melanoma and lung cancer. They will be able to sub specialise in one or more of these areas and will be given an active role in the development of Unit protocols and of the clinical trials activity.

The ACF will be expected to attend certain management courses during their period of employment. These will provide education in various aspects of management, including hospital management, financial management and contracting, information technology, interviewing and selection, and dealing with litigation and other complaints.

They will be encouraged to attend Directorate meetings and will be required to participate in clinical governance procedures including audit and the development of clinical guidelines.

Many medical students spend their 5th year module attached to the Unit. The ACF will be required to undertake some ward teaching of medical students and training of junior medical staff in preparation for the MRCP examination. In addition, the Unit has responsibility for 4th year studies in depth, the scientific basis of medicine course and the 3rd year oncology module. They will be expected to assist in these teaching activities. A course in Oncology for qualified nurses is conducted two yearly and they will be involved in the programme of lectures for this course. Frequent postgraduate meetings and medical grand rounds take place to which the Unit regularly contributes and they will be expected to participate in these.

Throughout the period of *clinical* training there will be a commitment to out of hours cover. This will be voluntary during the research period.

Trainees in Wessex have an excellent experience, rating highly in the. GMC Training survey amongst the top three nationally. Recruitment success is high with many high-quality applications for the NIHR Medical Oncology Scheme each year. Wessex Medical Oncology trainees have a >95% pass rate in the Speciality Exit examination.

Specific support provided to trainee

- 30 days study leave in years 1 and 2 to attend the ICR MSc in Oncology.
- Bimonthly off-site regional educational days (when not attending the ICR course)
- Experience in a Consultant led clinical service exposing to a wide variety of tumour types.
- Excellent Clinical, Educational and Academic Supervision

- Training in clinical trials set-up, governance and management. Exposure to many novel agent studies.
- Interaction with World class researcher in the Cancer Sciences Unit and ability to choose project to their best fit
- Ability to attend a range of courses applicable to research methodology
- Academic meetings held in Cancer Sciences Unit and weekly oncology journal clubs

Milestones and timing of achievement of academic and clinical competencies

Year 1	
1	Full time clinical duties: achieve clinical competances required for stage of training in Medical Oncology
2	Complete year 1 of Oncology course
3	Identification of topic of interest for research project and initial literature review.
4	Identification of specific learning needs for the project and appropriate courses.
5	Attendance at appropriate NIHR Training Programme courses and meeting
Year 2	
1	Full time clinical duties: achieve clinical competances required for stage of training
2	Complete year 2 of Oncology course (optional)
3	Identification of research supervisor and project. Acquisition of knowledge of prior art
4	Academic competencies in utilising current software for database building, statistical analyses and reference management; understanding principles of data handling, confidentiality and sharing for pilot study data collection; processing, cleaning & analysis of data in collaboration with existing studies; submitting applications within the research governance framework.
5	Obtaining ethical committee and NHS Research & Development proposals for exploratory project if required.

6	Attendance at relevant internal and external training courses.
Year 3	
1	3 months of clinical duties: Pro rata attainment of clinical competencies as deemed appropriated by ARCP panel
2	9 months: Full time research. Core skills in research methodology and project specific competencies.
3	Application for Clinical Research Fellowship

How post links in to the NIHR approved Research Training Programme at your locality:

Mandated attendance at NIHR training programme courses provided by the Faculty covering aspects such as trial design, GCP, statistics, grant and paper/abstract writing, time management etc. Attendance and presentation at host Academic Trainees meetings.

Trainee centeredness:

The trainee will have a personalised academic training plan that articulates with the clinical training plan. The last 9 months of the programme will be protected full time research with no clinical commitments. The trainee will meet regularly with their Academic Supervisor to ensure that goals are being met in addition to regular Educational Supervisors meetings.

They will be support by SoCATS.

There is an extensive and mature mentoring scheme across the Faculty of Medicine. There are numerous opportunities for networking with regular academic seminars, journal club and annual conference. There is an annual SoCATS dinner

Quality assurance of the programme:

- Regular review from Academic Supervisor, reporting in the Head of the Unit and Academic Training Lead for University.
- Feedback from Clinical and Educational supervisors along with structured feedback provided by the MSc Oncology course Tutors and Director provided by the Institue of Cancer Research
- Sucessful transition at ARCP and feedback from Programme Training Director
- Required completion of NIHR courses and course work through accredited modules

- Academic outputs of trainee including presentations, papers and sucessful completion of application for Clinical Research Fellowship

Mentoring Arrangements:

The trainee will be at liberty to choose an appropriate academic mentor with the approval of the Academic Supervisor. This would typically be from an individual within the CSU but may be provided by an alternative individual from the Faculty under the governance of arrangements for postgraduate research at the University of Southampton's Faculty of Medicine. This will include mentorship through supervision of emerging PhD programmes, and senior authorship of research fellowship applications to major funding agencies.

Academic Lead (University) for the IAT Programme:

Name: Professor Elaine Dennison

Position: Professor of Musculoskeletal Epidemiology

Address: Faculty of Medicine, University of Southampton, Building 85, Life Sciences

Building, Highfield Campus, Southampton, SO171BJTelephone: 023 8070 4021

Email: emd@mrc.soton.ac.uk

Academic Supervisor (University) Details:

Name: Professor Andrew Davies

Address: Cancer Sciences Unit
University of Southampton, School of Medicine
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SO16 6YD

Telephone: 023 8079 6186
Email: a.davies@southampton.ac.uk

Education Supervisor (Trust) Details:

Name: Dr Judith Cave
Consultant Medical Oncologist
Associate Director of Medical Education

Department of Medical Oncology

Level D East Wing Southampton General Hospital Tremona Road Southampton SO16 6YD Judith.cave@uhs.nhs.uk 023 8120 8639
Clinical Supervisor(s) Details:
Clinical supervision will be provided by the Consultant Medical Oncologists through which the ACF will rotate through during clinical training. Exposure to a broad range of tumour types will be provided during their 2 year 3 month rotation.
Deanery Programme Training Director Details:
Name: Dr Ben Smalley Position: Consultant Medical Oncologist Wessex Medical Oncology Programme Director Address: Oncology Outpatients B Level Portsmouth Hospitals University Trust Cosham Portsmouth PO6 3LY Email: Benjamin.smalley@nhs.net
Deanery Programme Manager Details:
Katie Luckhurst Education Programme Manager Email: england.medicine.wx@nhs.net
Confirmation that ACF posts attract an NTN(a):
This post will attract an NTN