Job Description for NIHR Academic Clinical Fellowship in NEUROLOGY (Dementia Research Theme), IMT1 - IMT3

1. Job Title. Academic Clinical Fellow in Core Medical Training (Neurology)

2. Duration of post. Posts will commence between IMT1 and IMT3 level and will last for 3 years; candidates not going on to full-time research will revert to clinical positions to complete their run-through training.

3. Research institutions in which training will take place
Research will take place within Imperial College London and the wider Imperial Academic Health Sciences Centre. It will usually be based either at Charing Cross Hospital, the Hammersmith Hospital or Imperial's White City Campus.

4. Timetabling of clinical and research time
Block release will be used for protected research time. This may consist of a six-month block or two three-month blocks followed by further protected research time as required.

5. Description of research component of programme
The aims of the research component of the programme are to enable the appointed Clinical Fellow to develop clinical and research excellence with a focus on dementia and neurodegeneration (an NIHR priority area). They will undertake neurology or neuroscience-related research with a view to applying for a further, peer-reviewed, externally- funded PhD Fellowship or another award.

The ACF will integrate with existing research within the Department of Brain Sciences at Imperial College London. Clinical dementia research at Imperial is complemented by cutting edge clinical and basic science facilities. There is particular strength in neuroimaging, with access to state-of-the-art magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) and positron emission tomography (PET), with ICHT being a leading site in Europe for the clinical application of PET in Dementia. A range of neurophysiological laboratories are available for transcranial electrical stimulation, vestibular, intracranial neuronal recording and multi-channel EEG.

Imperial Brain Sciences leads internationally in dementia research. Uniquely it has been awarded two Centres within the UK Dementia Research Institute (DRI), which is driving UK innovation across dementia and neurodegeneration. UK DRI is a key component of the National Dementia strategy and both ICL Centres have been established with very significant investment. Through its links to UKDRI, ICL Brain Sciences will focus on cross-disciplinary and innovative approaches to dementia research. There are particular strengths in molecular and functional neuroimaging, neurotechnology, systems and synthetic biology and bioinformatics and neuroepidemiology. The DRI Care & Technology Centre links the Faculties of Medicine and Engineering and focusses on applying engineering and computing advances to support patients living with dementia in their homes. Much of work of the Centre is applicable to the complex health needs of an ageing population including multimorbidities, and the effects of living with chronic conditions. Brain Sciences also forms one Centre within the Dementia Imaging Platform UK, with recent investment in state-of-the-art MRI/PET scanning allowing detailed phenotyping of a range of dementias.

Imperial is also a key partner in the NIHR Translational Research Collaboration in Dementia with an excellent record in Experimental Medicine Research across dementia subtypes. Commercial and non-commercial interventional studies are carried out at the Imperial Memory Unit (Charing Cross Hospital). Imperial researchers are also part of the ACORD collaboration (https://www.mrcctu.ucl.ac.uk/our-

research/neurodegenerative-diseases/acord-collaboration/), training the next generation of clinical researchers in clinical trials methodology.

Imperial College London has an excellent track record in supporting ACF in a wide range of disciplines. The appointed candidate will have full access to the support and programmes available to current ACFs in other disciplines. The ACF will be encouraged to attend courses to provide generic research skills such as ethical aspects of research, good clinical practice and public involvement in research, time management, personal effectiveness, leadership and partner and leader roles. You will be assigned a mentor in addition to your research and clinical supervisors. You will have access to bursaries to support attendance at conferences as well as consumables for your research.

6. Description of clinical training component of programme

Successful candidates will complete or have completed IMT1-IMT3 in general and acute medicine and from ST4 onwards transition onto the combined Neurology and GIM curriculum.

The Department of Brain Sciences is fully integrated with the West London Neuroscience Centre, which includes consultant neurologists, neurosurgeons, neuroradiologists, and clinical neurophysiologists. The Centre serves a population of 2.5 million. Neurological Clinical Trials take place across Multiple Sclerosis, Parkinson's and Alzheimer's Disease. A Hyperacute stroke unit is located at Charing Cross Hospital, and one of London's four Major Trauma Centres is based at St Mary's Hospital. Many NHS consultants hold honorary appointments in Imperial College London and are encouraged to pursue clinical research. Clinical research is focused on common conditions and translation. Notable examples of this interaction are in the genetics of epilepsy, stem cell therapy in multiple sclerosis, repurposed treatments in Alzheimer's Disease, spinal cord injury, the impact of head injury on the structural integrity of the brain and cognitive function, the functional-anatomical correlates of stroke recovery and the neurochemistry of neurodegenerative disorders researched with positron emission tomography.

The successful candidate with complete their Internal Medicine Training (IMT1-IMT3) in NW London; 25% of their time will be dedicated to research time which translates to 3 months in each year of the three training years. Internal Medicine Training (IMT) forms the first stage of specialty training for most doctors training in medical 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.
Although Academic trainees are additional to normal numbers, experience managing the acute unselected take is mandatory as is experience in Intensive care Medicine, Geriatric Medicine and outpatients. 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%20April%2025%29_3.pdf

Candidates will complete training in Internal Medicine Stage 1 by completing the relevant IMT1 - IMT3 year rotating though relevant posts. These posts will not necessarily be specialty posts and will be devised based on clinical training need as agreed with the Training Program Directors to ensure a broad range of training in Internal Medicine and sign off for IMT Stage 1 by the end of the ACF. 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 IMT 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 and the year of entry and any relevant prior (and evidenced) training.

From ST4 ACFs will join the clinical neurology rotations across Charing Cross, Hammersmith, St Mary's, Chelsea and Westminster, Ealing, and Northwick Park Hospitals as well as the National Hospital for Neurology and Neurosurgery. Placements will vary depending on service demands. Candidates may take part in the neuroscience on-call rota, which includes neurology and neurosurgery, as well as medical the on-call rota. For trainees entering the programme at IMT3 level, the focus of training will be on general and unselected medicine and competencies for IMT will be the focus of this year. The clinical supervision will be the overall responsibility of the IMT TPDs in this sector and this year will be located in a district general hospital of the sector and not in an Imperial site (location can be discussed and mutually agreed with the IMT TPDs in advance of commencing the programme)

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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
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 14 August 2026