Job Description for NIHR Academic Clinical Fellowship in Neurology
ST4 level

1. Job Title. Academic Clinical Fellow in Neurology -ST4 level

2. Duration of post.
This post will commence at level ST4 and will last for up to three years. The fellow will spend 25% of their time in research across the three-year duration of the post. During the research block applicants will gain exposure to a variety of aspects of undergraduate and postgraduate medical education and associated research and will be expected to use this time to prepare pilot data and an application for funding for a research fellowship. At the end of the programme, the fellow will either progress to full-time research through approved Out of Programme Research (OOPR), subject to securing external funding, or return to clinical training at an appropriate level following clinical benchmarking. The fellow will be appointed at ST4 for 3 years. It should be emphasised that within the South Thames Deanery this is a run-through post.

3. Research institutions in which training will take place

St George's University Hospitals NHS Trust, and other hospitals within the London Deanery rotation. The academic component will be hosted by City St George's, University of London.

4. Timetabling of clinical and research time

The ACF will spend 9 months (25% of the programme) undertaking research. This is usually distributed evenly across the three years, e.g. three months per year; alternative arrangements may be considered.

5. Description of research component of programme

City St George's, University of London, is a prominent public research institution formed through the merger of City, University of London, and St George's, University of London. This union combines the strengths of both universities, offering a comprehensive range of programmes in health, medical sciences, business, law, and the arts. The university operates across multiple campuses, with the School of Health & Medical Sciences based in Tooting, South London, co-located with St George's Hospital—a major trauma centre. This integration provides a dynamic environment for translational research and patient-centred care.

The trainee will be based in the Neurosciences and Cell Biology Research Institute at City St George's, University of London and will have access to a wide range of possible research and training opportunities in academic neurology working with one of the lead investigators within the Neurosciences Research Centre, part of the Neurosciences Clinical Academic group (N-CAG). Members of the research centre are nationally and internationally recognised in their fields and have particular interests in:

- Movement Disorders and Neuromodulation including Deep Brain Stimulation, dystonia, and psychiatric symptoms of Parkinson's disease (Prof Morgante, Dr Ricciardi);
- Neuromuscular disorders and Neurogenetics including channelopathies, myotonic dystrophy, MND, SMA and Huntington's disease (Prof Matthews, Dr Galtrey and Dr Lahiri),
- Cognitive disorders (Prof Garrard and Dr Clark)
- Stroke (Dr Pereira).

NIHR posts are supported by research, training, and travel grants. Application to an external funding organization for project grant support would be encouraged and supported, and City St George's has an excellent record of obtaining fellowship funding. Further information can be obtained at http://www.sgul.ac.uk/research. Many of the Principal Investigators are Clinical Academics who are involved

in conducting clinical studies and trials hosted by St George's NIHR Clinical Research Facility, which focuses on Phase 1-3 trials. Neurology PIs have worked on investigator-initiated trials and commercial studies with several international companies, including Novartis, Vertex, Edgewise, Roche, UCB and Eli-Lilly.

In year 1, the successfully appointed ACF will have the opportunity to meet with the various Professors and Senior Lecturers in order to identify the opportunities for research projects and supervision. By the end of year one the Fellow should have developed a relationship leading to an agreement with the leader of one of the groups for support and guidance in a research project.

Once they join the Centre for Neurosciences Research, they will commence work on their chosen project but will also have the opportunity to take part in a range of further educational activities to stimulate their interest, which include weekly research as well as other departmental and educational meetings. Trainees will receive training in generic research skills suitable to their experience and in accordance with the curriculum required by the NIHR. Opportunities include the St George's research competencies course alongside MSc in Clinical Neurosciences and Genomics modules.

We additionally collaborate with fundamental scientists across City St George's, University of London and "wet lab" projects with skills training are readily offered, alongside opportunities to learn skills in bioinformatics, and public health research.

6. Description of clinical training component of programme

The successful candidate will undergo Neurology training within the South West London sector in accordance with the Neurology, GIM and Stroke curricula. Twenty-five per cent of training time will be protected for research, equivalent to approximately three months per year.

Clinical training will take place in rotational posts based at St George's University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust in London. St George's Hospital has a great strategic advantage as the main healthcare provider in South west London. It houses the Atkinson Morley Neurosciences Centre, which provides specialist neurological, neurosurgical and stroke services.

Clinical training in Neurology at St George's Hospital

St George's neurology department has a reputation as a friendly, progressive, specialist multidisciplinary group working together to improve the care of local patients as well as the delivery of regional services in a dynamic and expanding tertiary neurosciences centre.

The Neurology service includes a regional TBI service for Southwest London and Hyper Acute Stroke Unit providing specialist stroke services to the population of southwest London. The unit houses a total of 116 beds, including 38 adult neurosurgical beds split on to two wards with a 6 bedded day unit with overnight stay facility, 20 hyper-acute stroke and 16 acute stroke beds and 12 beds in a dedicated neuro-intensive care unit.

Successful applicants will be part of the St George's Neurology Training scheme. They will be able to make progress towards the Neurology, Stroke and GIM curricula requirements at St George's Hospital and partner hospitals within the training programme. Clinical opportunities include:

- cover the neurology/stroke wards

- see neurology/stroke referrals, including thrombolysis/thrombectomy calls
- contribute to the neurology/stroke on-call rotas
- attend outpatient neurology/stroke clinics
- teach medical students and other staff on the unit.
- attend the weekly multidisciplinary meetings.
- contribute to departmental research/audit/governance projects

7. Academic Programme Director name
Prof Emma Matthews, Prof of Neurology and Consultant Neurologist: ematthew@citystgeorges.ac.uk
Professor Nidhi Sofat (IAT Program lead) 020 8725 0042 nsofat@sgul.ac.uk

8. Clinical Programme Director name
Dr Anthony Pereira, Consultant Neurologist and Honorary Reader of Neurology: anthony.pereira@stgeorges.nhs.uk

9. Programme contact for further information (phone or email)
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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 post attracts an NTN(A) linked to Neurology

This job description was prepared on 24/08/2026