# Job Description for NIHR Academic Clinical Fellowship in Neurology (Mental Health) <IMT1 – IMT3>

**1. Job Title:** NIHR Academic Clinical Fellowship in Neurology

**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 successful candidate will undergo Internal Medicine Training in the South London Deanery; 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 to become a 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 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 IMT ARCP Decision Aid 2019.pdf (jrcptb.org.uk)

**5. Description of research component of programme**
King's College Hospital hosts some of the largest neurology and neurosurgery services in the UK and works closely with Maudsley Hospital and neurorehabilitation units. King's has world-leading expertise in both clinical neurological disorders and mechanism-focused research e.g. neurodevelopment, pain, brain repair, neurodegeneration, epilepsy, headache and brain tumours. Neuro-specialty research is highly integrated with mental health, with close collaborations including bioengineering, imaging, computational science, immunology, cancer and advanced medical therapies, e.g. CAR-T cell therapies. This makes King's an ideal place for IATs to undertake clinical and translational research.

The School of Neuroscience is ranked 4th globally for highly-cited publications. External research funding is >£22m p/a. Research infrastructure includes MRC Centre for Neurodevelopmental Disorders; Maurice Wohl Clinical Neuroscience Institute; King's Centre of the UK Dementia Research Institute; and NIHR Clinical Research Facility integrated with the NIHR Maudsley BRC and an NIHR BioResource for Mental and Neurological Health.

The ACF will be mentored to develop a personalized academic training program that will prepare the ACF to apply for a PhD after the ACF has finished. Potential research areas include:

1. Health data science and AI for brain MRI abnormalities

2. Trials of novel therapies, including:
   - calcitonin gene-related peptides for migraine
   - transcranial magnetic stimulation in spinal cord injury prior to trials of advanced gene therapies

3. Neuromodulation
   - intracranial electrophysiology using electrodes externalised after deep brain stimulation surgery during motor and cognitive paradigms, neuromodulatory therapies
   - task-dependent modulation of epileptogenic EEG to understand mechanisms underlying epileptic activity

4. Novel biomarkers
   - Cognitive and pain biomarkers and outcome measures in long COVID

**Innovative/Interdisciplinary approaches**
Core to these projects is training on the broader setting of clinical research to ensure the benefits of research reach all groups and communities. This includes the pivotal role of patient and public involvement and engagement (PPIE) to maximize the impact of research.

**Suitability of the partnership**
King's excels in training IATs in this theme: ACFs and CLs have a strong track record of retention in clinical academia and securing further funding. Since 2012, 7 ACFs and 3 CLs have been trained and published 39 papers. One current CL has secured a £7.7M ARIA grant; another is Co-I on a £975K LifeArc grant. One CL (2015) has progressed from an MRC Clinician Scientist Fellowship to a Dunhill Medical Society Fellowship.

**7. Academic Programme Director name:** Dr Gerald Finnerty

**8. Clinical Programme Director name:** Dr Laszlo Sztriha

**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 job description was prepared on 6 August 2026