Job Description for NIHR Academic Clinical Fellowship in Old Age Psychiatry (Dementia) <ST1 to ST3>

1. Job Title. NIHR Academic Clinical Fellowship in Old Age Psychiatry

2. Duration of post: Three years

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

4. Timetabling of clinical and research time
Nine months of protected research time is integrated into the 3-year psychiatry training programme. Clinical posts rotate every 6 months and will include one or more Dementia / Old Age Psychiatry placements. Research time is split as separate three-month and six-month units or aggregated as a single nine-month unit within the clinical rotation, typically in year 2 or 3.

5. Description of research component of programme
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. The Mental Health of Older Adults and Dementia (MHOA&D) Clinical Academic Group (CAG) oversees the clinical and academic development of Old Age Psychiatry trainees.

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. There are numerus studies ongoing for biomarkers and clinical trials for NPS in these conditions. The ACF will be mentored to develop a personalized academic training program in Dementia as preparation for a PhD studentship application. They will also be encouraged to broaden their knowledge of translational Old Age Psychiatry research by participating in ongoing projects across the CAG and the UK Dementia Research Institute at KCL. Examples of projects likely to be available for 2026 entry include: i) PREDICTOM and Health Tech Research Centre - to use AI and latest technologies to predict dementia, monitor progression and support care and new treatments; ii) E-DLB/ENLIST – a European consortium to enhance clinical and biomarker cohort studies of dementia with Lewy bodies; iii) CAN-LBD – a multi-site feasibility clinical trial of

cannabidiol for psychosis in Lewy body dementia; iv) cohorts for early cognitive impairment ascertainment and follow-up including PROTECT, an online longitudinal cohort of 50,000 participants and Community Ageing Research in Ethnicities (CARE) Network for diverse ethnic population of about 1000 participants; v) Blood based, CSF and neuroimaging biomarker studies in neurodegenerative disorders (which includes using ultra low-field MRI and SLaM Image Bank, a real-world cohort with linked 16K MRI and clinical data); vi) a range of multi-centre randomised controlled trials of interventions for cognitive and neuropsychiatric symptoms in Alzheimer's disease and other dementias.

6. Description of clinical training component of programme

The South London and Maudsley Specialist Training Scheme is one of the largest in the UK with over 80 different placements across South London. It has a longstanding reputation for being a leading UK psychiatry training scheme that, in partnership with the university department, has helped train a cadre of the UK's leading clinical academics in the specialty. The areas of training covered include General Adult Psychiatry, Old Age Psychiatry, Forensic Psychiatry, Child and Adolescent Psychiatry, Learning Disabilities, and Psychotherapy. There are approximately 80 posts at CT1-3 and it is anticipated the ACF trainees will have clinical placements based geographically within the London Boroughs of Southwark, Lambeth, Lewisham and Croydon. Old Age Psychiatry posts on the rotation provide experience of dementia and late-life mental disorders and include placements on inpatient units for older adults, a specialist unit for neuropsychiatric and behavioural symptoms of dementia, memory clinics and older adult community mental health teams. Old Age ACFs are guaranteed rotation to one or more of the Old Age Psychiatry placements.

The standard training trajectory post qualification is for a trainee to complete three years as a ST1-3 trainee and during that time to gain their Membership of the Royal College of Psychiatrists; as part of this training over three years all trainees will have access to structured teaching up to one day a week. Candidates would also be expected to participate in workplace-based training and assessment and to meet the Annual Review of Competency Progression (ARCP) criteria for progression through training. For candidates appointed at ST2 progression to ST4 would be dependent on both success in the MRCPsych and the ARCP process.

There is an extensive postgraduate teaching programme based on a weekly protected day for postgraduate education that includes the Grand Round, lectures, Journal club, psychotherapy training and the Maudsley Training Programme / IoPPN MRCPsych course. For trainees that have obtained MRCPsych the postgraduate education day can be used as an additional dedicated research day. ACFs will have formal academic and educational supervision from an Old Age Psychiatrist. The post will attract an NTN in Old Age Psychiatry, with run through to the Old Age Psychiatry higher specialty training programme.

The post-holder will take part in the out-of-hours (on-call) rota throughout the duration of the post, including during research placements. Flexibility in timetable will be considered, where possible, if this impacts on research projects.

7. Academic Programme Director name:

Dr Latha Velayudhan

8. Clinical Programme Director name:

Dr Richard Haslam (Academic TPD)

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 31-July-2026