ACF Paediatrics Programme Details in conjunction with The University of Manchester

Recruitment to posts starting in August 2027

Post availability

Academic Clinical Fellowship (ACF recruitment) – NHS England in conjunction with NIHR and Manchester University

There is 1 post available in either of the following specialties;

- Plastic Surgery
- Paediatrics
- Dermatology

Overview

You can find generic information about Academic Clinical Fellowships in the North West plus links to the National Institute for Health Research's guidance via https://www.nwpgmd.nhs.uk/nihr-academic-clinical-fellowships-glance

The Academic Clinical Fellowship (ACF) post in Paediatrics is a collaborative post between the School of Paediatrics in the North Western Deanery and Academic Paediatrics within the Faculty of Biology, Medicine and Health at the University of Manchester. The clinical training delivered through ST1-3 posts will provide a wealth of early clinical experience across general paediatric and sub-specialties both in district and tertiary hospital settings. Research training will be delivered by internationally recognised leaders in one of several paediatric sub-specialties, with the ACF being able to select his/her area of interest. Our paediatric research groups are supported by major funding bodies (CRUK/MRC/Wellcome Trust/NIHR) and disease-specific charities (in recent years the Children's Division generated £5.7M in grant income), and our researchers are publishing in high impact journals (Cell, Nature, Nature Genetics, New Engl J Med and The Lancet) and producing findings that are changing practice and translating into patient benefits (new treatments for relapsed leukaemia, new diagnostic tests for growth disorders, new treatments for allergic diseases)

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Academic Training

Academic paediatrics in Manchester has significant strengths across several disciplines, supported by recent external peer review of research activity within the Manchester University NHS Foundation Trust (MFT).

The ACF will have an academic supervisor in his/her chosen field of paediatrics, and an academic mentor/advisor from another discipline for independent advice. The ACF scheme is being overseen by the Manchester Academic Health Science Centre (MAHSC) Integrated Clinical Academic Training (ICAT) Group. The ACFs are being supported by Dr Thomas Blakeman, who organises a programme of monitoring over three years with an Induction/Planning meeting in the first year, and Project Planning and Project progress meetings in each year. These meetings will provide the data for assessment of academic competency at the ARCP.

After the first six months (when ideas will be formulated), time will be dedicated to identifying the appropriate fellowship funds, developing a proposal, gaining experience in the techniques required, generating preliminary data and establishing a mid-term personal development plan. Support in these tasks will be provided by the academic supervisor and members of the ICAT group.

Research Areas / Research Environment

Those disciplines supported by academic paediatricians include: Allergy, Inflammation and Immune Disorders, Endocrinology/Diabetes/Bone disorders, Inborn Errors of Metabolism, Haematology/Oncology, Neonatology, Nephrology, Respiratory and Rheumatology. Each discipline has a portfolio of research opportunities, and prospective ACFs will be provided with a brochure on each of these disciplines to inform their choice. The first phase of the program will be flexible to ensure the ACF can choose an area of research.

Allergy & Immune Disorders: The clinical unit is based at RMCH. Research interests include primary immunodeficiency diseases, atopic dermatitis, anaphylaxis, the pathogenesis of autoimmune disorders, the effects of nutrition on immunity and the delivery of vaccine studies. There is one Senior Lecturer (Arkwright) and three NHS consultants, all with honorary Senior Lecturer Contracts at the University and six specialist nurses. The Unit has established close connections with the **Lydia Becker Institute of Immunology and Inflammation Research** www.bmh.manchester.ac.uk/research/domains/infection-immunity-inflammation-repair/immunology/**,** allowing for investigation of clinical allergy and immunology diseases using the latest scientific methods.

Endocrinology / Diabetes / Bone disorders: The clinical unit, one of the largest in the UK, is based at RMCH, with the scientific research and associated staff located in purpose-built facilities within the hospital. Paediatric endocrine projects are focused on the clinical, biochemical, and molecular characterisation of normal and disordered growth and development, providing a fertile environment for developing an academic fellow. The NHS unit comprises three Professors

(Banerjee, Padidela, Patel), four NHS consultants (all with research portfolios), two diabetes consultants, six endocrine and three diabetes nurse specialists. Nationally commissioned highly specialised services for managing congenital hyperinsulinism and metabolic bone disorders are provided.

Haematology & Oncology: The unit, based at RMCH and the Christie Hospital, is the second largest in the UK. The unit has extensive early and late phase clinical trials capacity, and translational and basic research units (within the CRUK Manchester Institute). There are two Chairs in Paediatric Oncology (Brennan, Kilday) and close liaison with the Chair of Teenage and Young Adult (McCabe) Cancer (Radford). There are two Clinical Senior Lecturers (Makin, Meyer) and research staff in nursing, laboratory science and data management. The NHS team includes ten consultants in paediatric oncology and haematology at RMCH with excellent collaborative links with other sub-specialty teams (in particular surgery and neurosurgery). A large bone marrow transplant and gene therapy program is run at RMCH by Professor Rob Wynn. Overall, the unit offers comprehensive opportunities for research into cancer predisposition (especially Fanconi anaemia), in early phase clinical trials in oncology and haematology, in cellular therapies for leukaemia and in gene therapies for inherited disease.

Inborn Errors of Metabolism: The clinical unit is based in RMCH and is associated with the clinical and laboratory Genetic services in St Mary's Hospital. The unit has interests in disease mechanisms in storage disorders (and includes nationally commissioned services), developing more effective diagnostic tools, and generating novel therapeutic approaches including enzyme replacement trials in storage disorders and haematopoietic stem cell transplantation for a range of metabolic disorders. There are three NHS consultants and three specialist nurses conducting a cutting-edge profile of clinical trials into novel therapies for these rare diseases.

Neonatology: The clinical unit is based in St Mary's Hospital, and is the lead centre for neonatal care in the North West. There is one Hon. Professor (Mitchell) and Head of Research (Dr Ajit Mahaveer), who direct the research portfolio that covers the prevention and treatment of brain injury in newborns and clinical trials in neonates. There are 14 NHS consultants.

Nephrology: 2,000 patients are reviewed annually in the Paediatric Nephrology Department at RMCH, including 120 with kidney failure. The University of Manchester and CMFT are at the forefront of translational research into children's and genetic kidney disease. Our aims for the next decade include defining the genetic basis of kidney diseases in our cohorts; discovery of predictive biomarkers and preclinical trials of novel therapies (e.g. precursor cells and growth factors) to delay the need for dialysis. Our principal investigators include international experts in kidney cell and matrix biology (Professor Rachel Lennon, Director for Wellcome Centre for Cell Matrix Research) and clinical trials in glomerular disease, kidney transplantation and bladder dysfunction. Funding is from the MRC, NIHR, the Wellcome Trust and the major kidney research charities. They also have strong existing research links locally (e.g. Genomic

Medicine in MFT and the Wellcome Centre for Cell Matrix Research and the Manchester Tissue Regeneration and Stem Cell Network) and nationally (e.g. the UK Regenerative Medicine Platform, the Medicines for Children Research Network, the UK Registry for Rare Kidney Diseases, the UK Vesicoureteric reflux DNA Collections).

The clinical unit is based at RMCH, with laboratory facilities in the School of Biological Sciences. Research strengths include kidney development, both normal and abnormal, basic mechanisms of kidney disease and clinical trials of new drug therapies, including early phase pharmacokinetic and -dynamic studies (in collaboration with MCRN and WTCCRF). There is one Professor (Lennon) and four NHS consultants, and 4 specialist nurses

Respiratory: The clinical unit is based in RMCH, with close research and clinical links to the adult Respiratory group at the North West Lung Centre, Wythenshawe Hospital. Research interests include risk factors for the development of asthma and allergic disease in children, novel diagnostic tests and biomarkers for asthma, pharmacological and non-pharmacological treatments of asthma, novel lung function testing, symptoms, cystic fibrosis and infection. Funding is from MRC, NIHR, Asthma and Lung UK, Innovate UK and Cystic Fibrosis Foundation. Respiratory is one of 8 disease areas funded in the recent >£60M Manchester NIHR Biomedical Research Centre. This theme has an active paediatric research stream. Several clinical trials in asthma, CF and ILD (through the CRN) also take place within the department. RMCH is host to the largest paediatric CF clinic in the country and also one of the largest severe asthma, PCD and long term ventilation populations. There is one academic consultant (Professor Clare Murray), and eight NHS consultants, a number with honorary senior lecturer status.

Rheumatology: Paediatric and Adolescent Rheumatology at RMCH have a, research active clinical team (Dr Phil Riley). There are strong links with the NIHR Manchester Musculoskeletal Biomedical Research Unit (BRU) and the University of Manchester Centre, involved in basic science through to applied and population-based research. Current research includes curatorship of several large national prospective cohorts and several biologics registers with associated biobanks. Other NIHR studies are in SLE, Juvenile dermatomyositis, paediatric vasculitis and adolescent rheumatology. Additional departmental research interests include transitional care, chronic pain and impact of chronic disease on vocational development and development of self-management skills during adolescence.

These units provide a very fertile environment for developing an academic career across a range of paediatric disciplines. It will also be possible to undertake research in other units/areas, for instance Paediatric Intensive Care, Gastroenterology and Neurology. These teams do not have academics on their staff but they have an active portfolio of research directed by NHS consultants. If the ACF wished to undertake research in these areas, then appropriate academic support would be provided to the NHS team. It is important to

emphasise that all of the units support research undertaken in a cross-discipline setting with the potential for collaboration with for example Genetics, Nursing, Psychology or Developmental Psychiatry.

Research Facilities

MFT is host to the Greater Manchester Clinical Research Networks (GMCRN), supporting research to take place in NHS, public health and social care settings across Greater Manchester, East Lancashire and East Cheshire. RMCH is host to one of the four NIHR Manchester Clinical Research Facility dedicated experimental research facilities, providing the infrastructure for delivering early and later phase clinical trials in children.

The paediatric ACF program for 2025 incorporates expertise from the Manchester Collaborative Centre for Inflammation Research (MCCIR) that is a joint initiative between the University of Manchester, GlaxoSmithKline and AstraZeneca.

Each of the specialty disciplines has access to laboratory facilities, where applicable.

Clinical Training

You can find out more about the clinical training programmes and clinical person specifications in the North West via the following link
https://nwpgmd.nhs.uk/Specialty_Schools/Paediatrics#contacts

Other useful Links
https://www.oriel.nhs.uk/Web/Vacancies
https://www.nwpgmd.nhs.uk/nihr-academic-clinical-fellowships-glance
https://specialtytraining.hee.nhs.uk/Recruitment/Person-specifications

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