Job Description for NIHR Academic Clinical Fellowship in Paediatrics (ST1-4)

1. Job Title.
Academic Clinical Fellow (ACF) in Paediatrics at ST1-4 level. Successful candidates will be expected to be able to demonstrate their commitment and potential for a clinical academic career, and alignment of their research interests with research strengths at LSHTM.

2. Duration of post.
The ACF post is for the equivalent of three years whole time equivalent (WTE), or until transfer to a research fellowship, whichever comes first. Thereafter, trainees will continue with Paediatric training.

The aim of this post is to identify and nurture outstanding candidates who plan to pursue an academic career in Paediatrics and Child Health. The Academic Clinical Fellowship (ACF) programme will combine core training in Paediatrics with formal academic studies at Queen Mary University of London. We aim to exploit the unique combination of clinical and research excellence to train the next generation of academic leaders in Paediatrics. Therefore, trainees will gain clinical competence comparable with their non-academic peers whilst developing a competitive academic edge that will increase their chances of success in research training fellowship applications. We anticipate the successful exit point for ACF trainees will be the award of an externally funded clinical research training fellowship to pursue a PhD or MD as Out-of-Programme-Research (OOPR) while maintaining their paediatric training number; thereafter re-joining the academic career path as an Academic Clinical Lecturer. Those unsuccessful in gaining research training fellowship funding will continue seamlessly in clinical training, although they will still be eligible to apply for other research funding.

3. Research institutions in which training will take place
The post-holder will be affiliated with Barts and The London, Queen Mary University of London, Faculty of Medicine and Dentistry and, as for all ACF positions, will be employed by the NHS Trust providing training in each part of the programme.

Centre for Endocrinology, William Harvey Research Institute, within the Faculty of Medicine and Dentistry, Queen Mary University of London (QMUL). QMUL has paediatric academic expertise within a range of specialties. Paediatric Endocrinology is based within the Centre for Endocrinology, William Harvey Research Institute, on the Charterhouse Square campus in Barbican. The Centre for Endocrinology comprises both clinicians and basic scientists carrying out paediatric and adult multidisciplinary research, with a major international reputation in adrenal, pituitary, puberty and growth research. The primary supervision will be under Professor Li Chan, Professor of Molecular Endocrinology and Metabolism and Honorary Consultant in Paediatric Endocrinology.

4. Timetabling of clinical and research time

ACF posts are 3 years in duration, during which time 25% of the trainee's time is dedicated to research (i.e a total of 9 months across 3 years).

We have flexibility to organise the clinical component to suit the specific training needs of the successful applicant which is coordinated by the clinical academic training programme director. The appointee will have on-call clinical commitments which will vary depending upon the varying shift systems and training/service requirements. The exact division of research time will be guided by the proposed research project. Typically, these posts are divided into a 6-month research block and a 3-month research block which can be taken together or as two separate blocks. Academic training time must be agreed, prior to the commencement of

training, with the training programme director as well as the academic supervisor. Academic blocks are undertaken in ST2+.

5. Research training

The post-holder will conduct research within the remit of our group's work in '*Adrenal and metabolic dysfunction over a life course'.*

We have an established programme of work investigating mechanisms underlying paediatric adrenal and metabolic disorders (including conditions such as primary adrenal insufficiency (PAI), ACTH excess/Cushing's syndrome, Paediatric obesity and Down Syndrome) and the long-term consequences over a life course. As a laboratory our research spans the use of cellular and in vivo models, electronic health records, studying genetics, as well as analysis of clinical samples to determine biological mechanisms, with the aim of establishing novel drug targets and therapies.

Over the years, we have generated cellular and in vivo models of PAI, Cushing's syndrome (CS), obesity, and Down syndrome. A major thrust of the laboratory is to utilise these unique resources to develop advanced therapies for the treatment of adrenal and metabolic diseases. Potential projects include the development and testing of such therapies, e.g., antisense oligonucleotides, RNA interference, and CRISPR/Cas9 genome editing (delivered through viral and non-viral vectors). Working with collaborators in gene therapy, engineering, and industry, these projects aim to (1) target specific genes and proteins to rescue or cure adrenal and metabolic disorders and (2) test therapies in cells and in vivo models. Other potential projects are also available and fall within the remit and interests of the laboratory.

The Fellow will therefore join a thriving research theme and wide network of national/international researchers with access to multiple laboratory techniques on one campus, within the Centre for Endocrinology. Research training will range from clinical diagnostics, broad molecular biology training and in vivo models. The trainee will be supported by a group of experienced clinicians, clinician scientists and basic scientists. The fellow will have the opportunity to interact with industrial partners and develop an understanding of the drug discovery process from in vitro analysis to preclinical testing in cellular/in vivo models. We are an inclusive, friendly and supportive clinically and research active department. The department and our team have a long illustrious track record of supporting academic clinical trainees (ACFs, clinical PhDs and Clinical Lecturers) to advance in clinical academia. We look forward to being joined by an enthusiastic and engaged new team member with this ACF appointment.

The Centre for Endocrinology at the WHRI comprises 80 researchers, bringing together paediatric and adult, and basic and clinical researchers. It has an international reputation for basic and translational research, with research income over the last 5 years in excess of £13M, a major contribution to the Faculty of Medicine and Dentistry UOA1 REF submission and clinical researchers leading on and participating in numerous multi-centre national and international clinical trials. The paediatric endocrinology team has consistently delivered ground-breaking discoveries and developed an international patient-referral base, providing access to unique patients and families. Our Discovery Science and Experimental Medicine successes include major advances in understanding the genetic causes of familial pituitary adenoma, familial glucocorticoid deficiency, the timing of puberty and childhood growth disorders, providing new insights into the cellular processes/mechanisms regulating pituitary tumour development, steroidogenesis and human growth and puberty. Over the years the department has evolved to build on metabolism research. This programme therefore builds on the multifaceted cross institute Barts Charity funded metabolism network and the Life Long Health multidisciplinary theme (that was co-led by Professor Chan). We remain committed to our ethos of harnessing the close collaboration of excellent basic science and outstanding clinical expertise to achieve world-leading bidirectional translational activity.

6. Description of clinical training component of programme

ACFs will undertake the same clinical programme as other Paediatric trainees. Progression is competency-based, which means that ACFs are expected to incorporate the academic blocks without falling behind their non-ACF peers in clinical progression. The paediatric curriculum (Progress + https://www.rcpch.ac.uk/education-careers/training-assessment/progressplus) developed by the Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health (RCPCH) consists of 11 curriculum domains, such as procedures, communication, leadership and team working. There is a learning outcome for each domain, with learning objectives defined for the core and specialty stages of paediatric training. These define the standard the trainee must meet to progress satisfactorily. It captures the skills, knowledge and behaviours required, including the General Medical Council's (GMC) Generic Professional Capabilities for all doctors in training. The standards of assessment at each level of training are all mapped to Good Medical Practice.
The RCPCH Trainee toolkit is written for trainees by trainees and covers the essential elements on what to expect from a training post. Less than fulltime training guidance can be found here.

The purpose of the assessment system is to reassure the individual, the profession and the public as well as employers and regulatory bodies that a trainee is fit to practice. Workplace based assessments (also known as supervised learning events) will be used at regular intervals throughout training. Attainment of the MRCPCH theory exam will be mandatory for progression beyond ST3, with attainment of full MRCPCH (passing the clinical exam) by the end of ST4. Individual trainee e-portfolios and trainer's reports must also be provided. RCPCH requires all new specialty registrars (StRs) to register as junior members of the RCPCH in order to access the new GMC approved Assessment System for Paediatric Training, which is mandatory for progression through training, and to be able to use the e-portfolio.

There are 30 training sites in London, divided into 3 sectors – NW, NE and Central, South. For LSHTM ACFs their Level 1 training will be based in the NE and Central sector. More information in training in London can be found on the LSP website.

Please note – these posts offer only general paediatric training and do not guarantee progression into specialty training. This is particularly relevant for those wishing to train in areas such as Paediatric Cardiology or Genetics – candidates still have to compete for these places, because the ACF offers academic rather than clinical training in these specialties.

ACF applicants need to either hold a National Training Number in paediatrics, or if they do not currently hold an NTN to successfully complete benchmarking.

7. Academic Programme Director name

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8. Clinical Programme Director name

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9. Programme contact for further information (phone or email)

- *Academic Lead*

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- *Clinical Lead*

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- *Academic Supervisor*

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Professor of Molecular Endocrinology and Metabolism and Honorary Consultant in Paediatric Endocrinology

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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 10th August 2026.