Job Description
NIHR Academic Clinical Fellow in Response Mode: Palliative Medicine and Dermatology
University of Bristol

1. Job title & entry level(s):

Academic Clinical Fellow

Palliative Medicine: IMT1
Dermatology: IMT1, IMT2, ST3

2. Duration of post:

3 years (FTE)

Candidates working Less Than Full Time (LTFT) or those who would like to should notify the relevant Local Office at point of offer of your intention to work LTFT and this will be considered against the national eligibility criteria.

3. Hospitals in which training will take place:

Palliative Care: The Palliative Care ACF will be appointed at IMT1 level and will undertake Internal Medicine training across hospitals in the Severn region. Rotations have not been confirmed at this stage. Should you wish to explore this in more detail, please get in touch with the Internal Medicine Training Programme Director.

Following the ACF, the candidate will begin ST4 in palliative care (run through post). The first six months of specialist palliative care training most commonly takes place in a hospice setting, such as St Peter's Hospice, St Margaret's Hospice or Dorothy House Hospice, before rotating around hospital, hospice and community settings for specialist training.

4. Research institutions in which training will take place:

University of Bristol - https://www.bristol.ac.uk/medical-school/study/clinical/

Palliative care: academic clinical fellows will work within the Palliative and End of Life Care Research Group:
Palliative and End of Life Care | Bristol Medical School: Population Health Sciences | University of Bristol led by Professor Lucy Selman

Dermatology: www.bris.ac.uk/caesar in www.bris.ac.uk/capc

5. Timetabling of clinical and research time:

75% clinical 25% research in a flexible way during the working week or months in accordance with pre-agreed arrangements between the clinical and academic supervisors.

6. Description of research component of programme

Palliative Care:

The successful candidate will join a group of committed academics and clinical academics working in palliative and end of life care in Bristol. Education in the core skills in research methodology, applied to palliative and end of life care, will be provided through access to an internationally recognised programme of high quality intensive short courses in epidemiology, medical statistics, qualitative research, health economics, appraisal and synthesis of research. There will also be informal learning opportunities through direct supervision and collaboration with the expert statisticians, epidemiologists, trialists and social scientists within Population Health Science, Translational Health Sciences and the affiliated Clinical Trials Units.

The post holder will be involved in the inception of a research project, be responsible for completing the research protocol, gaining ethical and, where appropriate, NHS governance approvals and executing the research project with senior support, practicing good clinical and research governance. Depending on the project, the post holder will have the opportunity to participate in primary data collection, data analysis and interpretation and presentation of their findings in peer-reviewed publications and at appropriate scientific conferences and patient and public involvement events. The post holder will be supported to gain the experience and track record necessary to apply for an externally funded doctoral research training fellowship and pursue a clinical academic career in palliative care. The successful exit point for ACF trainees will be the award of an externally funded clinical research training fellowship to pursue a PhD, prior to re-joining the academic career path as an Academic Clinical Lecturer.

Particular areas the ACF may wish to pursue in keeping with the current interests of the research group:

- The integration of care between secondary and primary care settings for patients with life-limiting illness
- Identification of people who may have limited life expectancy and/or have palliative care needs
- Grief and bereavement
- Health policy and cultural competence in death and dying

More details of recent research publications and areas of work are available through the website: Palliative and End of Life Care | Bristol Medical School: Population Health Sciences | University of Bristol

Academic environment

The Palliative and End of Life Care Research Group was launched in 2017 and has a dedicated following of multi-disciplinary academic and clinical staff. The group has supervised academic foundation doctors, Primary Care Academic Clinical Fellows, as well as medical undergraduates. Although still relatively new, the group is welcoming and ambitious in its trajectory to impactful research across a range of topics.

The University of Bristol's excellence in health research is recognised by the Department of Health, UK Research and Innovation (UKRI), and Charities through the funding of major research facilities. Other established initiatives include an NIHR ARC (Applied Research Collaboration). Bristol academics in the School have leadership roles in the NIHR Schools of Public Health Research and of Primary Care Research. The University is also a member of the NIHR School for Social Care Research and so the broader environment uniquely covers all three of these NIHR Schools.

Bristol Medical School is a leading centre for research and teaching in health services research, epidemiology and public health, confirmed in the 2021 Research Excellence Framework (REF). Seventy-one percent of our research was rated as 4* (world leading), and 97% as 4* or 3* (world leading or internationally excellent). Research in the School is collaborative and multi-disciplinary. The Medical School is the largest and one of the most diverse Schools in the University of Bristol and has more than 200 postgraduate doctoral research students. The School community is committed to a collegial and respectful working environment, it holds a Silver Athena SWAN

Award in recognition of the ongoing commitment to promote equality, diversity and inclusion within the School.

The School has an excellent track record in obtaining successful personal fellowships from a range of funding bodies and has extensive experience in the supervision and mentoring of research fellows at all stages of their career. Between 2013-2018, 78 prestigious externally funded fellowships were awarded within the School from doctoral to senior level. This includes twenty-nine NIHR Fellowships with six NIHR Doctoral Research Fellowships awarded in 2017/2018 alone.

There is a weekly South West Learning Forum and quarterly research group meetings, which attract clinicians and academics across the South West region. There is good collaboration with the local clinical teams in the acute hospitals and the local hospices (St Peter's Hospice, Weston hospicecare, St Margaret's Hospice and Dorothy House Hospice) and a Health Integration Partnership in palliative and end of life care is currently in development across the Bristol, North Somerset and South Gloucestershire region, to work more closely with local commissioners. The Bristol Palliative and End of Life Care Research Group is most well known for the successful, Wellcome funded public engagement Good Grief Festival, held first in 2020 and now having hosted 120 free events attended by over 17,000 people including talks, interviews, webinars and workshops. Good Grief Festival

Academic training courses
There is a well-developed programme of post-graduate short courses covering research and generic skills training hosted by Population Health Sciences. The courses include teaching input from senior academics in the Centre as well as experts from other institutions in the UK and abroad.

Milestones
Academic milestones will be agreed annually with the ACF and academic supervisors. In the first one to two years, the ACFs will undertake projects which will result in presentations at national meetings and work towards publication(s). During the second and third years the ACF will develop and write a fellowship/grant/trial proposal for submission for funding to a research council or NIHR funding body. In the remainder of their third year they will build on their existing research portfolio and develop a doctoral training fellowship application. Clinical competencies and annual ARCP assessments will be performed with the educational supervisor. These will be reviewed regularly. Academic competencies will be reviewed with the academic supervisor and at the ARCP panel.

Mentoring/supervision arrangements
Academic supervision will be provided by Associate Professor Charlotte Chamberlain and Professor Lucy Selman. The ACF will also be encouraged to work with a mentor, external to the research group, from within a pool of senior academics at the University of Bristol.

Dermatology:

The aim of the post is to establish an academic interest and provide research experience to place the ACF in a strong position to secure funding for a clinical research training fellowship in which to complete a higher research degree (PhD). Hence it is anticipated that the appointee will not previously have undertaken full time research and will not necessarily have defined a research interest but will be selected based on evidence of potential for academic excellence. Candidates who have obtained a research degree at an earlier stage in their career will also be considered.

The academic attachments will ensure exposure to generic academic skills of clinical research and teaching. The ACF will select a substantive research project to pursue in greater depth that should form the basis of a funding application to undertake a research training fellowship (PhD).

Academic dermatology at the University of Bristol is led by Matthew Ridd, a GP and Professor in Primary Health Care with a research interest in the skin and allergy problems commonly diagnosed and managed in primary care. In 2023, the Centre for Applied Excellence in Skin & Allergy Research (CAESAR) was established, in which Prof Ridd directs a programme of applied research work seeking to improve the diagnosis and management of common skin and allergy problems seen in primary care, in particular atopic dermatitis/eczema and food allergy.

CAESAR is a research group within the Centre for Academic Primary Care (CAPC), part of the NIHR School for Primary Care Research. CAPC has a very high national and international profile in academic primary care and an excellent track record in developing clinical academics.

The ACF will choose from a list of/develop and undertake a primary care-orientated dermatology research project. Research skills will be developed "on the job", through short courses or relevant MSc. Trainees have regular individual academic supervision and are part of a supportive peer group.

The post is also an appointment within the NHSE SW Severn PGME. The Training Programme Director, the Director of Teaching and the Head of School of Medicine will oversee the clinical training and progress within the post whilst the School of Clinical Academic Training will provide support and assess the content and progress of the academic component of the post.

7. Description of clinical training component of programme

Palliative Care:

Internal Medicine Training (IMT) forms the first stage of specialty training for most doctors entering palliative medicine training (since 2019). The regional training scheme in Internal Medicine is based at 8 training centres and supervises training of over 165 core Trainees. Details of this rotation will be individualized in accordance with the successful candidate's training needs. It is anticipated that the ACF will likely be based in Bristol to facilitate the academic component of the post, and the rotation will aim to include a dedicated clinical palliative care placement as part of IMT3. All ACFs are expected to complete the same clinical capabilities as other IMT trainees.
The IMT curriculum is available at the following link:
Internal Medicine | JRCPTB

Although the ACF role will begin at IMT1, it is a run through post into specialist Palliative care training. Palliative care aims to prevent and relieve serious health-related suffering for those facing severe or life-threatening illness. Palliative care is delivered in a variety of settings, including hospices, hospitals and in the community. All IMT rotations are within the hospital setting. Palliative medicine has one of the highest job satisfaction ratings for doctors in training.

Dermatology:

The post holder will join the Severn Dermatology higher specialty training rotation based at 3 NHS trusts: Bristol NHS Foundation Trust, Royal United Hospitals Bath NHS Foundation Trust (RUH) and Gloucestershire Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust (GHT). Trainees will be expected to rotate between any of the four trusts most likely will gain experience at each during the training programme.

The senior dermatology team across the region consists of consultants, associate specialists, specialty doctors and clinical nurse specialists and nine whole time equivalent NTN dermatology registrars. UHBW, RUH and GHT are large busy general dermatology departments, each providing a full range of general dermatology services including phototherapy, systemics and biologics, cutaneous allergy and paediatric dermatology. Trainees will all rotate at some point through NBT, which is the regional centre for Mohs surgery and laser dermatology and works

closely with colleagues in plastic surgery and oncology to host the regional specialised skin cancer MDT. Each trust has academic and teaching links to University of Bristol, the University of the West of England and University of Bath.

The specialty leads at UHBW, NBT, RUH and GHT respectively are Louise Newell, Daniel Keith, Naila Dinaniand Anita Takwale. The post-graduate education lead consultants are respectively Shalini Narayan (acting), William Hunt, Sarah Rasool and Emily Davies. The Severn Training Programme Director (TPD) is Charan Singh Thandi. The Head of School of Medicine is Carolyn MacKinlay.

The post holder will integrate into the existing team to provide dermatology services for the local community. The post holder will work with the consultants and other specialist registrar colleagues. There will be the opportunity to develop skills in general dermatology and basic dermatological surgery and gain the required competencies in all sub-specialty fields.

8. Academic Supervisor / Academic Programme Director:

Integrated Academic Training Lead(s):

- Professor Shelley Potter (shelley.potter@bristol.ac.uk)
- Dr Helen Winter (helen.winter@uhbw.nhs.uk)

Academic Lead:

- Palliative Medicine: Associate Professor Charlotte Chamberlain (Charlotte.Chamberlain@bristol.ac.uk)
- Dermatology: Professor Matthew Ridd (M.Ridd@bristol.ac.uk)

9. Clinical Training Programme Director:

- Palliative Medicine:
  - Core (IMT): Dr Abiramy Jeyabalan and Dr Tina Mehta (Abiramy.jeyabalan@nbt.nhs.uk; tmehta@nhs.net)
  - Higher: Dr Natasha Wiggins (natasha.wiggins1@nhs.net)

- Dermatology:
  - Core (IMT): Dr Abiramy Jeyabalan and Dr Tina Mehta (Abiramy.jeyabalan@nbt.nhs.uk; tmehta@nhs.net)
  - Higher: Dr Charankumal Thandi (charankumal.thandi@nbt.nhs.uk)

10. Deanery contact for further information:

Recruitment Hotline: 01454 252 610
Recruitment Inbox: England.acfrecruitment.sw@nhs.net

11. Useful websites for further information:

NIHR Integrated Academic Training Website: http://www.nihr.ac.uk/IAT

BMA Junior Doctor Pay Scales (link to latest pay Circular): https://www.bma.org.uk/pay-and-contracts/pay/junior-doctors-pay-scales/pay-scales-for-junior-doctors-in-england

University Clinical Academic Training website: https://www.bristol.ac.uk/medical-school/study/clinical/

This job description was prepared July 2026