Job Description for Locally Funded Academic Clinical Fellowship in Plastic Surgery ST3

1. **Job Title:** Academic Clinical Fellowship ST3 in Plastic Surgery

2. Duration of post: 3 years.

3. Research institutions in which training will take place:
UCL Division of Surgery and Interventional Science

4. Timetabling of clinical and research time:
The academic training will be delivered in three-month blocks of protected academic time (25% annually). The training program will therefore be 75% clinical and 25% academic. This structure will ensure that potential geographic distribution of the trainee does not compromise academic training.

5. Description of research component of programme
This project aligns with the "Population Health" theme, focusing on conditions associated with high and increasing burn of long-term morbidity, healthcare utilization and inequity in outcomes that can be addressed through reconstructive surgery. The overarching aim of the research programme is to use computational methods to generate meaningful evidence that improves outcomes and enhances equity of care whilst augmenting efficiency in research output.

The Academic Clinical Fellow (ACF) will develop a research portfolio embedded within a highly active and collaborative academic environment. The intention is that they would build on the department's established portfolio of clinical trials and translational research. This includes active involvement in the WAFER and LYMPHA trials as well as developing work on chronic wounds, sustainable surgical practice and lab-based work on fibroblast senescence reversal. The ACF will contribute to the delivery and analysis of these studies while developing independent research questions, extending the group's work into novel prospective studies. A key strength of the unit is its ongoing commitment to sustainable surgical practice and improving surgical education. The ACF will be expected to contribute meaningfully to not only to work on surgical and clinical efficiency but also to the development of novel training methodologies.

The ACF will be supported by senior academic clinicians and scientists and will work within a multidisciplinary team that includes clinicians, researchers and data scientists. Given the increasing

scale and complexity of population health data, the ACF will either bring with them or develop expertise in programming, statistical analysis and evaluation or large, complex datasets through computational methods. Whilst not essential, an ideal applicant would allow the group to more deeply integrate computational and data-driven methodologies into their existing workflows. There is an ever-growing need for clinicians who can both ask the right questions and answer them themselves by implementing technologies derived from the rapidly developing machine learning and large language model space. This includes opportunities to contribute to emerging areas. The research group envisages using large language models to interpret information dense biological data such as single-cell sequencing data arising from research on fibroblast senescence reversal as well as the development of in-silico models to test surgical and pharmacological interventions aimed at bringing about this reversal. Candidates with prior experience in using computational methods to accelerate clinical research will be highly desirable.

The department has a strong and growing educational portfolio. With four UCL MSc programmes and a Medical Education PhD candidate, the ACF will need to play an active role in teaching at an undergraduate and postgraduate level. The ACF will be encouraged to develop educational initiatives, particularly those that integrate research, sustainability, and digital innovation.

Through engagement with the clinical, computational, and educational arms of the research group, the ACF will be well positioned to develop their own independent research portfolio. The programme will support the development of key academic skills, including critical appraisal, systematic review, trial methodology and experimental design alongside the development of innovative computational tools to address previously unexplored research avenues.

By the end of the ACF appointment, the trainee is expected to have enrolled within PhD or other research fellowship and demonstrated the ability to contribute to, develop and lead complex clinical and computational research projects, contribute to high-quality publications and establish a clear academic trajectory in reconstructive surgery and population health research.

6. Description of clinical training component of programme

This ACF will be a 3-year appointment, entering at ST3 level and running until ST5 at which point, satisfactory to ARCP, the applicant will continue onto ST6 and through the remainder of their training. The three ACF years are therefore equivalent to ST3, ST4 and ST5 posts. The clinical training of the

ACF will be in line with non-academic specialty trainees and despite 25% of their time being protected research time, they will be expected to acquire equivalent surgical skills in both elective and emergency settings in line with their non-academic contemporaries.

The ACF will be based at the Royal Free Hospital initially and will rotate through other Plastic Surgery Departments in the region. The ACF will be expected to attend the Regional Training Programme and take an active role in relevant local and national training programmes and courses either through attendance or delivery. At the completion of the ACF post, if the candidate meets the criteria, the ACF can apply for a Clinical Lecturer number in which case they would convert their number to a CL number.

7. Academic Programme Director name:
Prof Afshin Mosahebi – Academic Supervisor
Nick Watkin – Academic TPD
Dan Leff – Academic TPD

8. Clinical Programme Director name:
Helen McEvoy - Clinical TPD
Matt Ives – Clinical TPD

9. Programme contact for further information
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10. HEE 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:
NIHR IAT https://www.nihr.ac.uk/explore-nihr/academy-programmes/integrated-academic-training.htm

12. Confirmation that the post attracts an NTN (A):
Yes