ACF (Multiple Long-Term Conditions) – General Practice OR Public Health Medicine, Programme Details in conjunction with Edge Hill University

Post availability

There is one post available in either General Practice OR Public Health Medicine.

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

Details about the Edge University Health Research Institute, Edge Hill Primary and Integrated Care Research Centre and ACF training programme can be found via the links below:

https://www.edgehill.ac.uk/research/healthresearchinstitute/

https://www.edgehill.ac.uk/research/healthresearchinstitute/epic-research-centre/

https://www.edgehill.ac.uk/research/healthresearchinstitute/integrated-clinical-academic-training-office/

https://multilinknihr.com/

Academic Training

Each ACF will be supported by a named clinical and educational supervisor for their clinical placement, and an academic supervisor from the University for their research training. The academic supervisor oversees progress, provides tailored feedback, and supports training needs, career development, performance, and flexible working arrangements.

ACFs will have the opportunity to undertake a Master of Research (MRes), tailored to individual training needs and supported by senior NIHR-funded academics. The programme develops advanced skills in critical appraisal, evidence synthesis, and

a broad range of research methods, including quantitative, qualitative, and mixed-methods approaches. Trainees also benefit from the Graduate School's Research Development Programme, mapped to Vitae principles, as well as specialist sessions such as AI in health and social care research.

In addition, ACFs gain full access to Faculty-wide training in research methodology, fellowship preparation, career development, international seminar series, and networking events. Resources include the Faculty intranet (*The Researcher's Journey*), short courses, statistics training, and an annual postgraduate research conference to develop presentation skills. Central University training and Research Office support further strengthen grant writing, funding applications, and open research expertise.

Further opportunities include postgraduate programmes in clinical education and leadership. Each ACF is paired with a senior mentor through the FHSCM Research Mentorship Programme, aligned with the NIHR Mentorship Programme. They also benefit from the Doctoral and Fellowship Academy, led by successful NIHR award-holders, alongside a buddy scheme and near-peer mentoring.

Additional support includes peer review of funding applications, writing workshops, "work in progress" seminars, and dedicated networking events for academic doctors. The Faculty has hosted national NIHR ACF conferences, providing excellent opportunities to connect across disciplines and regions. ACFs also benefit from close partnership with the Service User and Carer Council, which works with academics, professionals, families, and service users to co-produce high-quality, patient-focused research and care standards.

Research Areas / Environment

The EHU Primary and Integrated Care Research Centre (EPIC), led by Prof Greg Irving (Academic GP and NIHR National Specialty Lead for General Practice), is a thriving centre of 30 members with approximately £10 million in grant income. Current awards include the NIHR MLTC Team Science Award, NIHR Mental Health Leadership Award, NIHR inSIGHT Award, and the UKRI Health Inequalities Award. EPIC works closely with national and international partners, including the Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine (LSTM) through the NIHR-funded Multilink consortium.

EPIC conducts internationally recognised research into the management and delivery of primary and integrated care for people with multiple long-term conditions (MLTC), aligned with NIHR and Integrated Care System (ICS) priorities such as the 20CorePlus5 framework and NHS@home. Our research has informed primary and integrated care policy at the WHO, OECD, and European Commission. EPIC also leads the NIHR inSIGHT study, analysing digital-first primary care across 20 countries, developing a framework for

adoption now hosted on the WHO Learning Hub, and contributing to the Darzi Report.

EPIC leads the Deep End Cheshire and Mersey network, supporting primary care in areas of high deprivation such as Knowsley (the most deprived borough in England). With NIHR and RCGP support, the network addresses health inequalities and MLTC challenges through research, workforce development, and education. Current NIHR-funded work includes co-designing a Deep End Research Toolkit to strengthen workforce, education, advocacy, and research capacity.

The research environment is further enriched by the Health Research Institute (HRI), a cross-University network of around 100 academics spanning computer science, biological sciences, psychology, education, and workforce management. The HRI fosters interdisciplinary collaboration through think tanks, seminars, mentorship, writing and funding workshops, and events with NIHR support services and major funders.

We maintain strong partnerships with local NHS Integrated Care Boards, Wrightington, Wigan and Leigh NHS Trust, Mersey and West Lancashire Teaching Hospital Trust, the North West Imaging Academy, and the Cheshire & Merseyside Social Care Teaching Partnership. EHU also collaborates with industry via the Liverpool City Region Life Sciences Investment Zone, the Lancashire Innovation Network, and the £5m NIHR Commercial Research Development Centre, contributing to platform trials such as PANORAMIC and AGILE, as well as industry-funded projects through Innovate UK and NIHR i4i programmes.

Academic Clinical Fellows (ACFs) will also join the Research Academic Society (RAS), a joint initiative with the University of Central Lancashire. RAS connects NIHR Academy clinical academic posts, providing a vibrant forum for collaboration, peer learning, and annual events such as the Red Rose Research Conference and research showcases attracting around 200 delegates.

Research Facilities

The Faculty of Health, Social Care and Medicine (FHSCM) offers a state-of-the-art training environment within a purpose-built £14 million facility, featuring some of the best clinical education resources in the UK, including a cutting-edge Clinical Skills and Simulation Centre located alongside the £17 million Life Sciences building. Alongside the Ormskirk campus, the Faculty has established teaching and research sites at Aintree University Hospital, St James' Manchester, and Alder Hey Children's Hospital, supported by strong partnerships with NHS and local authority organisations. A Civic Agreement with Wigan Local Authority further underpins our commitment to impactful, collaborative research and education.

Learning and research support is centred in the £27 million Catalyst Centre, offering extensive e-journal and book collections, study skills workshops, academic writing support, and one-to-one guidance. ACFs also have full access to University IT services, specialist research software, and the virtual learning environment. Comprehensive wellbeing, mental health, and inclusion services ensure trainees are supported both academically and personally. The sports science labs and clinics provide further specialism, including musculoskeletal applications in automated motion analysis, electromyography, isokinetic dynamometry, biochemistry, body composition, etc.

Clinical Training

You can find out more about the clinical training programmes in the North West via the following links:
https://www.nwpgmd.nhs.uk/GP
https://www.nwpgmd.nhs.uk/Public_Health

Clinical person specifications can be found via the following link - Person Specifications | Medical Hub

Useful Links
https://www.oriel.nhs.uk/Web/Vacancies
https://www.nwpgmd.nhs.uk/nihr-academic-clinical-fellowships-glance
https://medical.hee.nhs.uk/medical-training-recruitment/medical-specialty-training/person-specifications/person-specifications-2025
https://www.nwpgmd.nhs.uk/specialty-schools

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