ACF Clinical Oncology in conjunction with The University of Manchester

Post availability

There is 1 post with a research theme of Clinical Therapeutics & Pharmacology & Industry in the following specialties;

- Respiratory Medicine ST1, ST4
- Haematology ST1
- Medical Oncology ST1

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

Academic Training

Applicants for these academic posts are encouraged to get in touch with Professor Ananya Choudhury to discuss available research prospects, opportunities and collaborators within Clinical Oncology.

All our research leaders have extensive experience of training the next generation of clinical and non-clinical academics with >100 MD/PhDs between them funded by external & competitive doctoral programmes, many becoming research leaders with national clinical fellowships (CRUK, NIHR, MRC).

The RRR group has a long history in teaching radiobiology and physics to clinical oncologists for their specialist exam (FRCR), and run the annual Advanced Radiotherapy Christie Summer School, which recruits world-wide and ran for the seventh time in 2022. The International Proton School launched in 2019. Colleagues lead & teach on University masters courses, external international training courses e.g. ESTRO, PTCOG, FRCR, and have successfully developed the AHP Doctoral Academy providing formal academic training to radiographers to achieve future academic research careers.

The Christie NHS Foundation Trust has one of the largest clinical trials units in Europe with some of the highest recruitment to clinical trials from early phase to phase III. Many of our researchers have unique collaborations with industry

which underpins the investigation of new technology and innovative preclinical and translational science.

Suitability of the partnership to host ACF and/or CL posts to support this theme

The Christie NHS Foundation Trust is the largest cancer centre in Europe serving a diverse population. We have an established training scheme with an excellent track record for ACFs and ACLs. Feedback has been that the department is supportive and the trainee experience is excellent. To date we have had a number of clinical trainees complete postgraduate research degrees with a platform science/bioinformatics component. Mentorship is an important part of scheme.

Innovative / interdisciplinary / new research approaches in this area

The Radiotherapy-Related Research Group have connections across industry from big pharma through to smaller biotech, from advanced radiotherapy technology to innovative state of the art software and analytical methods. The group are part of Manchester Experimental Cancer Medicine Centre with a thriving programme of radiotherapy early-phase trials focusing on pioneering radiotherapy protocols and combining radiation with novel agents. There is a strong biomarker discovery and validation programme aligned to clinical trials allowing for bench to bedside and back to bench research. The real time outcomes modelling in the context of all patients treated rather than just those who are eligible for clinical trials provides a unique opportunity to investigate the effects of co-morbidity, polypharmacy and other societal effects on the outcome of cancer which is not always available from clinical trials. The multi-disciplinary nature of the group allows for collaborative research across diverse health sciences alongside the analytical sciences.

Research Areas / Research Environment

The Manchester Cancer Research Centre (MCRC) was established on 2006 by three founding partners: The University of Manchester (UoM), Cancer Research UK (CRUK), the world's leading cancer charity, and The Christie NHS Foundation Trust (The Christie) the largest single-site cancer treatment centre in Europe. It is a unique collaboration that brings together the expertise, vision and resources of its partner organisations, all of which have outstanding individual reputation in the field of cancer research. The partners implement, through co-investment, a common research strategy targeting future research development and recruitment to build strength and depth in priority research areas. This creates the integrated approach across research organisations to progress changes in patient diagnosis and treatment within the NHS, and to carry out important prevention and early detection research. It is embedded within Manchester's research and healthcare systems and the creation of Greater Manchester (GM) Cancer gives it an unrivalled opportunity to rapidly implement cutting-edge research into standard clinical practice.

Cancer research is a major strength of the UoM and one of its five 'research beacons of excellence'. It is home to a CRUK core-funded Institute, and is recipient of major CRUK investment via the Manchester Centre award and RadNet Manchester. GM has been successful by expanding its NIHR Biomedical Research Centre (BRC) that has a significant focus on all aspects of a patient's cancer journey from Prevention through to Survivorship. UoM continues to build strength and depth in basic, translational and clinical cancer research in order to become a top five Comprehensive Centre for Translational Cancer Research in the world, a metric characterised by the transformation of the clinical care of cancer patients through developing and implementing an integrated personalised medicine strategy.

Prof Peter Hoskin leads the Radiation Related Research (RRR) Group alongside Profs Tim Illidge, Corinne Faivre-Finn, Marcel van Herk, Ranald MacKay, and Ananya Choudhury. The RRR Group of the MCRC is a thriving group that embraces clinical and basic radiobiology and radiotherapy. This RRR was reviewed as one of the 3 centres of excellence for radiotherapy research within the UK. The Christie is one of two proton therapy facilities within the UK. There is an excellent research physics group and a unique facility of a dedicated research MR-linear accelerator.
Radiotherapy - Manchester Cancer Research Centre

Our research is underpinned by experimental medicine and early phase studies carried out using the latest technology and the most up-to-date treatment methods; it is supported by state-of-the-art biological, clinical and technical infrastructure with GCP-capable laboratories. Research interests differ according to tumour site but broadly encompass preclinical translational laboratory work through to advanced radiotherapy, adaptation and delivery. The radiobiology and radiogenomics research that is being conducted by Profs Ananya Choudhury and Robert Bristow is world-leading.

Each tumour site group has a research lead in clinical oncology (Prof David Thomson (Head and neck), Prof Corinne Faivre Finn (Lung), Prof Ananya Choudhury (Genito-urinary), Dr Gerben Borst (CNS), Prof Peter Hoskin (Gynae/Genito-urinary) and Prof Tim Illidge (Lymphoma). The RRR group meets with laboratory scientists, physicists and research radiographers. PhD projects are designed by members of this group and financially supported through the CRUK centre status, Astra Zeneca CRUK, other research councils, charities and the Department of Health.
Radiotherapy - Manchester Cancer Research Centre
In addition, there is a world leading Advanced Radiotherapy Physics Group led by Prof Marcel van Herk and Prof Marianne Aznar focusing on innovation in technology, AI and machine learning for the manipulation of big data. PRECISE is the only proton research group with access to a dedicated research room and beamline.

Research Facilities

The Christie is the biggest radiotherapy facility in Europe, delivering 120,000 doses per annum across GM, and has the UK's largest radiotherapy multidisciplinary research group, with big data and ePROM infrastructure. The Christie houses the a national Proton Therapy (PT) centre (one of two in the UK) and the only dedicated proton Research Room for in vitro experiments informing the next-generation of clinical trials. The strength of the UoM-Christie partnership (with CRUK) is exemplified by the £150m new Paterson building (opened May 2023) promoting interaction, integration and collaboration between researchers and clinical staff through co-location.

- Largest Clinical Oncology department in the UK (54 Clinical Oncology consultants, 83 clinical medical physicists with 45 specialising exclusively in radiotherapy).
- Broadest research portfolio (AI, big data, biomarkers, clinical, genomics, hypoxia, immunology, modelling, physics, radiobiology, radiogenomics, translational research in clinical trials).
- A big data infrastructure providing access to anonymised Christie patient treatment and follow-up data which led to a step-change in the number of real-world data studies supported (>20 in 2019) and that links with a distributed learning infrastructure for multi-national big data/AI projects, e.g., 20,000+ lung cancer patients in a federated database.
- Only centre with routine large-scale collection of electronic Patient Reported Outcome Measures.
- Only centre with all the latest state-of-the-art radiotherapy technologies (SABR, protons, MR-linac).

Clinical Training

https://www.nwpgmd.nhs.uk/Specialty_Schools/Medicine/Clinical_Oncology

You can find out more about the clinical training programmes in the North West via the following link - https://www.nwpgmd.nhs.uk/specialty-schools

Clinical person specifications can be found via the following link - Person Specifications 2026 | Medical Hub

Useful Links

https://www.oriel.nhs.uk/Web/Vacancies
https://www.nwpgmd.nhs.uk/nihr-academic-clinical-fellowships-glance
https://www.nwpgmd.nhs.uk/specialty-schools

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