ACF Renal Medicine Programme Details in conjunction with The University of Manchester

Post availability

There is 1 post with a research theme of Primary Care and Community Care in the following specialties;

- General Practice ST1
- Geriatric Medicine ST1, ST4
- Renal Medicine ST1, ST4

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 Nephrology in Manchester is nationally leading, with a strong clinical-academic supervisory team spanning clinical and laboratory-based research across the whole of Nephrology. The Greater Manchester Academic Nephrology Programme is one of the largest and most comprehensive renal research networks in the UK, spanning the University of Manchester, Manchester University NHS Foundation Trust, Northern Care Alliance (Salford Royal), Royal Manchester Children's Hospital, and Lancashire Teaching Hospitals. Adult and paediatric nephrology departments among the largest in Europe, with research spanning basic science through to late-phase clinical trials. The Greater Manchester Renal Clinical Research Network is amongst the top 5 NIHR recruiting centers in clinical trials in nephrology and transplantation in UK. Our aim is to understand aetiology, improve clinical outcomes and patient pathways in renal disease and its therapies. Nationally leading research in areas of CKD, immune-mediated kidney disease, renovascular and cardiovascular disease in CKD, glomerulonephritis and vasculitis, acute kidney injury, frailty, and renal replacement therapy (dialysis medicine). There is a strong track record of research and innovation in advanced kidney disease, blood purification, and organ transplantation. The programme has a sustained competitive grant funding from Kidney Research UK, NIHR HTA, and other national funders. The research consortium has over 90 active staff members including 10 appointed Clinical Professors in Nephrology, Senior lecturers, Scientists and Academic fellows in PhD/MD programmes. All principal investigators have extensive experience of supervising higher degrees and can provide mentorship, support and practical guidance to both ACFs and clinical lecturers. It has a strong track record of delivering clinical trials both early phase to late stage through a dedicated clinical research facility, clinical trials network and commercial research delivery centers. Our aim is simple: to attract individuals of the highest caliber with a genuine passion for a clinical academic career.

Academic Training

Nephrology in Greater Manchester has a highly successful track record of supporting ACFs. The Nephrology ACF training will aim to support candidates to become independent researchers in their chosen field. There is unique opportunity to further access funded PhD/MD Renal Research fellowship programme across three Renal centers. The nephrology centers in Greater Manchester, have supported >50 funded PhD/MD fellowships in the past 10 yrs and ~500 publications. Many ACFs have been able to secure national and international positions to continue their research journey.

The aim of the ACF programme is to enable trainees to prepare and secure a competitive clinical fellowship. This is achieved by focusing on the core skills required for research and ACFs will have the opportunity to contribute to and complete research projects prior to their fellowship application, which should result both in presentations at national and international meetings and publications in peer reviewed journals. Each ACF will be allocated an academic supervisor in keeping with their area of research interest with whom they will agree goals for each year of their training. The supervisor will help them formulate an individualised programme for their research time and to develop a suitable project for a fellowship application. In addition, each ACF will enter the University of Manchester's mentorship programme which provides personal and careers guidance for junior academic doctors by a senior clinical academic not necessarily in the same discipline. The Fellowship Academy within the University provides advice, guidance and help with preparing for fellowship applications at all levels.

Trainees entering as ACFs at ST1 or ST2 are allocated 25% of their time to research while they complete their core medical training and obtain the MRCP. The research time is usually organised as 2 months in the first year and 4 months in the second year. ACFs will be provided with 4 x 2 weekly taster sessions during the first placement to sample different types of research before choosing an area to focus on. Once at ST3, or if entering at ST3, then the 25% time may either be on a week-by-week basis or in a 3-month block.

Research Areas / Research Environment

Linked to Academic Renal Centers at Manchester Royal Infirmary, Salford Royal (Northern Care Alliance), and Lancashire Teaching Hospitals, which combine to deliver one of the UK's largest tertiary nephrology services, and one of the most diverse research portfolios in breadth and depth.

- Clinical themes: Chronic kidney disease, Acute kidney injury, glomerular disease, vasculitis, CV disease in nephrology, Renovascular disease, Dialysis science, Transplantation, Rare diseases, primary care research
- Cross-cutting themes: Healthcare service delivery, AI and digital science, and multispecialty research (cardiology, diabetes, pharmacy, older age, cancer), Genomics
- Ongoing Phase 1–4 academic and commercial trials, with access to international collaborators and global industry partners.

- Several Professors of Nephrology within the supervising team, many holding active NIHR and commercial grants providing direct ACF exposure to high-quality national and international research.
- Local pump-priming funding via the Kidneys for Life charity, plus strong links to the National Kidney Federation, Kidney Patient Association, and a dedicated Greater Manchester Kidney Patients' Network for PPI.

Training is available across: Phase 1–4 trials, developmental biology, genomics, cell matrix and glomerular cell biology, clinical pharmacology, precision medicine, transplant immunobiology, epidemiology, blood purification techniques, biomaterials and device innovation, advanced and novel analytical methodologies in large-scale databases,, QI methodology, bioinformatics and artificial intelligence techniques.

Research Facilities

The Greater Manchester Academic Nephrology Programme benefits from excellent infrastructure and state-of-the-art facilities for biomedical research and highly qualified researchers of national and international reputation. The research infrastructure includes dedicated research laboratories, NIHR Clinical Research Facility for complex trials and links to the Biomedical Research Centre, University of Manchester, Citylabs and the Academic Corridor of Innovation at Oxford Road, Central Manchester. Additional support includes

- Access to developmental biology and cell matrix research labs at the University of Manchester, led by academic renal physicians.
- Large patient cohorts and follow-up databases in Salford and Manchester; Health e-Research Centre for bioinformatics and AI; Digital Experimental Medicine Team and Clinical Data Science Unit.
- Dedicated Renal Research Labs and Transplantation Immunology Lab at MFT, plus a Clinical Research Facility for interventional and experimental renal studies.
- Access to biomaterials scientists and engineers for device and technology development.
- Twice-yearly academic meetings across Manchester and Salford for clinicians, researchers, and patients.
- Dedicated Kidneys for Life (KFL) Research Grants programme - pilot project funding accessible across the Greater Manchester renal academic network

Clinical Training

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

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

Related: Greater Manchester Academic Nephrology Network (gmann.co.uk) · Kidney Research UK

For further details Contact:

Renal ICAT Programme Lead

Professor Sandip Mitra, Manchester University Hospitals, University of Manchester

Sandip.mitra@mft.nhs.uk · Tel 0161 276 6509

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