Job Description for NIHR Academic Clinical Fellowship in Urology ST1-ST2

1. Job Title
Academic Clinical Fellowship in Urology, Imperial College London

2. Duration of post.
Fixed term 3 years

3. Research institutions in which training will take place

Research will be based in the Department of Surgery and Cancer in the Faculty of Medicine at Imperial College London. The ACF post in urology will be hosted by Imperial Prostate (http://imperialprostate.org.uk https://www.imperial.ac.uk/department-surgery-cancer/research/cancer/groups/imperial-prostate/) which is a multidisciplinary collaboration or urological surgeons, radiologists, imaging and computer scientists, researchers in molecular biopsy of novel therapeutics, and commercial entities. Projects will be supervised primarily by Professor Hashim Ahmed in urology with co-supervision sought from appropriate experts dependent on the interests of the candidate. Academic mentorship will be provided by the academic lead for urology. Imperial also benefits from having a Clinical Academic Training Office (CATO) which acts as a focus to support our ACLs and ACFs.

4. Timetabling of clinical and research time

The ACF will have a total of nine months protected research time over the 3 years. As a craft specialty we take an integrated approach to ACF research time, so the successful ACF candidate will be timetabled for 1 week in every month to ensure continual engagement in the research programme as well as clinical surgical work.

5. Description of research component of programme

Prostate diseases (enlarged prostate and prostate cancer) are predominantly a disease of men over the age of 65. Prostate cancer is expected to almost double in incidence by 2030 to over 60,000. The screening, diagnostic and treatment pathway requires significant innovative approaches and our research programme has so far attracted £70M in total grant awards since the new Chair in Urology (Ahmed) was installed in March 2017. Professor Rakesh Heer and Mr Taimur Shah (Clinical Associate Professor) are part of the group and we all work collectively to improve outcomes for prostate diseases.

Traditional local therapies, such as surgery and radiotherapy, for prostate cancer in patients can cause significant complications and side-effects whilst systemic therapies can lead to lethargy, hot flushes, breast problems, osteoporosis/fractures, and metabolic syndrome. There is an urgent need to identify men who can avoid treatment and in those who do require it, for novel approaches that reduce or delay the impact of therapy.

Similarly, one third of men over the age of 65 years will suffer urinary symptoms of enlarged benign prostate tissue. These can lead to poor quality of life, infections, retention of urine requiring catheterization which have considerable societal burden as well as individual burdens. There is a need for novel and innovative approaches to determine those at risk as well as approaches to minimize the impact of traditional surgical approaches which can lead to complications and long-term side-effects.

The priorities for Imperial Prostate in the next 5 years for the ACF programme is to refine the surgical or minimally-invasive access treatment approach to the prostate to improve the therapeutic ratio. Research themes are early diagnosis and screening of prostate cancer, focal therapy for prostate cancer and combination therapies with ablation as well as investigation and validation of novel robotic surgery methods. We are also developing a programme in improved diagnosis and treatment for benign prostate hyperplasia,

The research programme has an international track record in delivering step-wise changes clinical care by raising the key questions and hypotheses in prostate cancer. It then delivers answers through the MRC Complex Methodology framework and the IDEAL guidelines by framing the questions in a structured approach through conduct of systematic reviews, phase I/II single centre studies, phase II multicentre studies and pivotal phase III trials. The programme also evaluates novel trial methodology such as surgical and cancer interventions in cohort multiple RCTs and multi-arm multi-stage RCTs. Translational biology science research occurs in mechanistic work led by Professor Charlotte Bevan to determine the progression and development of metastatic cancer, drug resistance and novel approaches to therapeutics. We have been successful in a convergence science area towards deep machine learning in radiomics and histology to develop artificial intelligence tools that can predict therapeutic effects of local and systemic therapies in collaboration with Professor Andrea Rockall. There is a strong theme of collaboration with commercial entities.

Generic research training can be sought through enrolment into MSc programmes for generic training in clinical trials or clinical epidemiology as well as a formalised training programme with the Imperial Clinical Trials Unit (ICTU).

6. Description of clinical training component of programme

The ACF will join the London Deanery Training Programme in core surgical training and subsequent broad training in core urology. The programme is fully supported by the Urology and surgery specialty training committee. Surgical and urology training is through the Northwest London rotation with attachments in West Middlesex Hospital/Chelsea and Westminster, Northwick Park, Hillingdon, Wexham Park and major and specialist operative training in uro-oncology at Charing Cross Hospital. We regularly have medical students rotating through the urology units and will expect the successful candidate to participate in teaching or medical students and in other programmes such as our annual Imperial Prostate Masterclass usually held in April.

An academic and clinical educational supervisor will be assigned to the successful candidate and although the ACF post is supernumerary you may be required to join an on-call rota commensurate with your experience and level of experience and according to the needs of each Trust and placement.

7. Academic Programme Director name

Professor Nick Watkin *Email: nick.watkin@nhs.net*
Professor *Dan Leff* *Email: d.leff@imperial.ac.uk*

Academic Supervisor
Professor Hashim Ahmed, Chair of Urology

8. Clinical Programme Director name

Mr Paul Ziprin, Consultant Surgeon, Imperial College Healthcare NHS Trust

9. Programme contact for further information (phone or email)

Professor Hashim Ahmed
Email: hashim.ahmed@imperial.ac.uk

10. NHSE 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
https://www.nihr.ac.uk/explore-nihr/academy-programmes/integrated-academic-training.htm

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

Yes

This job description was prepared on 18th August 2026