# Academic Clinical Fellowship in General Surgery

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<th>Description of ACF Programme:</th>
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| **Title:** General Surgery  
**Duration:** 3 years |

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<th>Lead NHS Hospital/Trust and contact details:</th>
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| Southampton General Hospital  
Southampton, Hants SO16 6YD  
Tel: 023 8077 7222 |

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<th>Research Institution in which training will take place:</th>
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| Southampton University  
University Road  
Southampton  
SO17 1BJ |

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<th>Research Objectives:</th>
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<td>The objectives of the training programme are for the trainee, over three years:</td>
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1. To undertake the equivalent of 27 months of full-time specialist training in surgery in accredited hospital posts and a total of 9 months within an appropriate Research Division in the University of Southampton Faculty of Medicine over a 3 year period.

2. To undertake generic research methods training through a programme run by the Faculty of Medicine’s Postgraduate School.

3. To develop a research proposal for an externally funded research training fellowship to be undertaken within one of the Research Divisions under the supervision Professor John Primrose.

4. To obtain relevant training in research design, methods and systematic review.

5. To submit applications for Clinical Training Fellowships in national competition usually from CRUK, MRC, Wellcome Trust or the Department of Health. These may be in partnership with the Surgical Royal Colleges.

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<th>Arrangements for protected research time:</th>
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<td>The academic clinical fellow will have protected time for research training during the second and third years of the academic clinical fellowship programme. This configuration has been agreed with the Postgraduate Dean and the Specialist Training Committee in Surgery. There would be considerable flexibility in allocation of sessions within the training programme so that the gradually increasing emphasis on research training as compared with clinical service training might be accommodated during the third year. It is possible to, for instance, combine the academic time to form a single 9 month period of research training.</td>
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Funding to support laboratory research is available through Southampton University. These funds are administered competitively by the Faculty of Medicine Research Management Committee. Funding applications should be developed with the principle supervisor and submitted in the year prior to the research commencing.

**Description of research component of programme:**

The research infrastructure is described as above ([www.som.soton.ac.uk](http://www.som.soton.ac.uk)). Most of the Divisions were rated 5 or 5* the Research Assessment Exercise 2001. Appropriate research areas include the molecular and cell biology of cancer, cancer genetics, cancer/stromal interaction and artherogenesis. University Surgery is also currently involved in the coordination of a number of large scale clinical trials and the development of an accredited clinical trials unit is well underway. Research involving epidemiology and clinical trials methodology would also be appropriate. Five surgical trainees have completed PhDs thorough this system in the last 3 years. The Cancer Sciences Division has CRUK funded centre, which included in it remit the development of surgical cancer research.

**Description of clinical component of programme (up to 500 words):**

The trainee will join the Wessex Specialist Training Programme in Surgery, which is co-ordinated through the Wessex Deanery. Experience offered will cover the training needs of future consultants in all aspects of General Surgery, as well as academic career development. The post will lead to accreditation (CCT) in General Surgery with an established interest in one of its subspecialties. The three years will be spent in clinical posts rotating through an appropriate combination of the following hospital trusts:

- Isle of Wight Healthcare NHS Trust
- North Hampshire Hospital NHS Trust, Basingstoke
- Poole Hospital NHS Trust
- Portsmouth Hospital NHS Trust
- Royal Bournemouth and Christchurch Hospital NHS Trust
- Salisbury Healthcare NHS Trust
- Winchester and Eastleigh Healthcare NHS Trust
- Southampton University Hospitals NHS Trust
- West Dorset General Hospitals NHS Trust

It is envisaged that the first year will be spent in one of the peripheral hospital NHS Trusts, with the subsequent two years being spent in Southampton. Programmes of specialist training in General Surgery have been approved by JCST through the SAC in General Surgery. The Southampton University Hospitals NHS Trust position is based at Southampton General Hospital and, during this period, the academic clinical fellow will undertake generic research training as well as specialist research training utilising the unique resources of the appropriate Research Division. The divisional structure of the Faculty of Medicine is found on the web site ([www.som.soton.ac.uk](http://www.som.soton.ac.uk)). Mostly surgical trainees have in the past undertaken research in either the Cancer Sciences Division or Community Clinical Sciences (epidemiology and Health Services Research). Research within other Divisions may be equally appropriate.

If the appointee is in ST1 or ST2 they will be admitted a “run through” programme to CCT.
subject to rigorous review prior to continuing beyond the 3rd year of the programme.

The General Surgical clinical services are divided into clinical groupings (Upper I/HPB, Colorectal, Breast and Endocrine and Vascular Surgery) with University academic involvement in each. There is a consultant complement of 17 of which 4 are full time academics (2 Professorial, 1 Reader and 2 Senior Lecturers). In addition there are a variable number of lecturers, up to 3. The GI and breast services work closely with oncologists, gastroenterologists and hepatologists as appropriate within structured MDTs. The vascular surgery group work closely with interventional radiologists and cardiovascular physicians. Training will involve the multidiscipline management of surgical patients and training in operative surgery. It is anticipated that the academic trainee will remain on the acute rota for the whole period in post.

The clinical programme will include appropriate clinical sessions plus on call and an agreed number of flexible sessions devoted to research, research training and other academic activities. The clinical programme will vary depending on the appropriate subspecialty interest being undertaken.

Milestones and timing of achievement of academic and clinical competencies

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<th>Year 1</th>
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<tr>
<td>1. Initial clinical training in the generality of surgery and passing the new MRCS examination.</td>
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<td>2. Attendance at autumn introductory course provided by University of Southampton Postgraduate School of Medicine.</td>
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<td>3. Identification of topic of interest for research project and initial literature review.</td>
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<td>4. Identification of research questions to be addressed in pilot study.</td>
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<td>5. Identification of specific learning needs for the project and appropriate courses.</td>
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<th>Year 2</th>
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<td>1. Continuing clinical training in surgery in appropriate accredited posts at Southampton University Hospitals NHS Trust post.</td>
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<td>2. Obtaining ethical committee and NHS Research &amp; Development proposals for exploratory project if required.</td>
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<td>3. Attendance at relevant internal and external training courses.</td>
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<td>4. Initial laboratory or clinical data collection for pilot study.</td>
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<th>Year 3</th>
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<tr>
<td>1. Continuing clinical training in appropriate accredited posts at Southampton General Hospital. Completion of laboratory or clinical data collection and writing up of pilot research project.</td>
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<td>2. Submission of Clinical Training Fellowship application to external funding agencies.</td>
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How will ACF programme link to CL phase of IAT Pathway?
It is envisaged that a successful fellowship application will lead to a further three years funding culminating in a PhD. Some of this time may be spent in clinical training. This would lead to eligibility to apply for a lecturer position within the Medical Faculty. In the unlikely event of failure to obtain a Clinical Training Fellowship trainee would continue in the specialist training programme within the Wessex rotation and either submit a DM dissertation or make further attempts to obtain substantive funding.

Trainee centredness:

The training will be centred on the trainee’s own needs, identified early during the first year, and there will be dedicated supervision during the post. The fellowship will be tailored towards achievement of successful external funding.

Quality assurance of the programme:

The research methods training will be provided through the established Postgraduate School at the University of Southampton Medical Faculty, and through accredited Masters level modules which are all quality assured through the QAA process. The academic supervisor has completed the postgraduate research supervision training provided by the University and the School is establishing training mentors for PhD and postdoctoral fellows.

The Wessex Specialist Training Programme in Surgery has been successfully training surgical trainees for over 20 years. It incorporates all of the acute NHS Trusts within the region. It is nationally renowned as being a well supervised and innovative training programme. The University of Southampton has long tradition in providing research training for a succession of trainees and clinical academics. In the past many of these trainees have undertaken DM programmes, but more recently a high proportion have undertaken PhDs.

The strategy of allowing surgical trainees to develop research proposals within multidiscipline Research Divisions has proved highly successful. In the last 3 years 5 surgical trainees have undertaken PhD programmes through Clinical Training Fellowships funded following competition from the CRUK, MRC, Wellcome and the Surgical Royal Colleges. To date Clinical Training Fellowships have been obtained for all surgical trainees who expressed an academic interest.

Mentoring arrangements:

Mentorship will be provided by the academic and clinical supervisors to the fellow. This will be co-ordinated by Professor Primrose (academic lead) and Mr James Smallwood (service lead). Professor Primrose is a past member of the SAC in General Surgery and has a significant role within CRUK. He is therefore in an ideal position to link service and academic/research requirements. Further mentorship and supervision can be undertaken through the normal governance arrangements for postgraduate research at the University of Southampton’s Faculty of Medicine. This will include mentorship through supervision of emerging PhD programmes, and senior authorship of research fellowship applications to major funding agencies.

Academic Lead (University) for the IAT Programme:

Professor Eugene Healy
**Academic Supervisor (University) Details:**

Professor John Primrose  
Professor of Surgery  
University Surgical Unit, F Level Centre Block  
Southampton General Hospital  
Southampton, Hants SO16 6YD  
Tel: 023 8079 6144  
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Email: j.n.primrose@soton.ac.uk

**Deanery Programme Training Director Details:**

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Mr Andrew Miles  
Training Programme Director for General Surgery (ST3+)  
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**Deanery Programme Manager Details:**

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SO21 2RU  
Tel: 01962718434  
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**Confirmation that ACF posts attract an NTN(a):**

This post will attract an NTN.