# Academic Clinical Fellowship in Obstetrics & Gynaecology

<table>
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<th>Description of ACF Programme:</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Title:</strong> Obstetrics &amp; Gynaecology</td>
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<td><strong>Duration:</strong> 3 years</td>
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<th>Lead NHS Hospital/Trust and contact details:</th>
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<tr>
<td>Southampton General Hospital</td>
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<tr>
<td>Southampton, Hants SO16 6YD</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tel: 023 8077 7222</td>
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<th>Research Institution in which training will take place:</th>
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<tr>
<td>Southampton University</td>
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<tr>
<td>University Road</td>
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<td>Southampton</td>
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<td>SO17 1BJ</td>
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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 0.75 full-time specialist training in Obstetrics and Gynaecology, in accredited hospital posts within the Wessex Region, focussed on the Princess Anne Hospital and Developmental Origins of Health and Disease (DOHaD) Division in the School of Medicine, University of Southampton 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 under the supervision of Professor Nick Macklon and Miss Ying Cheong (senior lecturer).

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

5. To develop a research proposal to be undertaken within one of the School's Divisions (most likely DOHaD) and to submit applications for Clinical Training Fellowships in national competition to the MRC, Wellcome Trust or the Department of Health. These may be in partnership with the Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists.

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<th>Arrangements for protected research time:</th>
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It is envisaged that all 3 years will be spent in (or near to) Southampton so that the trainee can maintain project continuity and close contact with the academic supervisors. The proposal would be for ‘day release’ across the 3 years, rather than block release, as this will fit best with the trainees ongoing clinical commitments. However, depending on availability of back-fill for clinical duties, block release may be required.

The academic clinical fellow will therefore have protected time for research training during all three years of the Academic Clinical Fellowship programme, and this will be permitted by modifying weekly clinical activities accordingly. There would be considerable flexibility in allocation of sessions within the training programme, in discussion with the trainee’s clinical supervisors, so that a gradually increasing emphasis on research training as compared with clinical service training can be accommodated as the fellowship progresses, particularly into the third year.

Description of research component of programme:

This will be carried out in one of the Divisions of the School of Medicine (www.som.soton.ac.uk/research). The School was placed within the top 10 nationally in the 2008 Research Assessment Exercise, with major strengths in cancer sciences, hospital based clinical subjects and primary care. The School has a leading international reputation for the developmental origins of health and disease. This work is co-located in the DOHaD Division (Director: Professor Mark Hanson), to which the Fellow is likely to be attached for the research component of their training. Potential research themes include epidemiology; endocrinology and metabolism; human nutrition; maternal, fetal and neonatal physiology; and early human development and stem cells. Research in the Division utilises a range of clinical, genetic, physiological and epidemiological tools investigate the biological mechanisms that ‘programme’ animals and humans in early life – a theme which is particularly relevant and valuable to an academic trainee in obstetrics and gynaecology. The Division has a strong track record in training basic and clinical scientists, investigators who can undertake the integrative, cross-disciplinary research which is now needed in the post human genome era.

Milestones and timing of achievement of academic and clinical competencies

<p>| Year 1 | 1 | Initial clinical training in the general Obstetrics and Gynaecology and passing the relevant MRCOG exams depending on level of ST at entry. |
| | 2 | Attendance at the autumn introductory course provided by University of Southampton School of Medicine. |
| | 3 | Identification of topic of interest for research project, literature review, completion of outline study design. |
| | 4 | Identification of research questions to be addressed in the pilot study. |
| | 5 | Identification of specific learning needs for the project and commencement of appropriate courses. |
| Year 2 | 1 | Continuing clinical training in Obstetrics and Gynaecology in appropriate accredited posts. |
| | 2 | Obtaining Ethical Committee and NHS Research &amp; Development proposals for |</p>
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<th>Year</th>
<th>Task</th>
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<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Continuing clinical training in appropriate accredited posts.</td>
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<td>2</td>
<td>Completion of laboratory or clinical data collection and writing up of pilot research project.</td>
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<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Submission of Clinical Training Fellowship application to external funding agencies.</td>
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Exploratory project if required.

Attendance at relevant internal and external training courses.

Laboratory or clinical data collection for pilot study.

**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 team in the School of Medicine 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 have established training mentors for PhD and postdoctoral fellows.

The Wessex Specialist Training Programme in Obstetrics and Gynaecology has been successfully training in Obstetrics and Gynaecology for over 20 years. It incorporates all of the acute NHS Trusts within the region and is nationally renowned as being a well supervised and innovative training programme. The University of Southampton has a long tradition of 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 Obstetrics and Gynaecology trainees to develop research proposals within multidisciplinary Research Divisions has been highly successful. Over the last 6 years it has trained 57 postdoctoral scientists of whom 23 have won career development fellowships (21 AMRC, 1 DH and 1 German Research Council). The Division has attracted 185 outside grants totalling over £20.5m including £3.3m in programme funding. In addition, the MRC Epidemiology Resource Centre has received over £15m in core funding. International collaborations have generated £1.3m. The Division has a success rate of 40% for competitive funding. It has trained
77 PhD and 42 DM students of whom 26 have pursued a career in research. Over the last 6 years, the Division has produced almost 1250 peer-reviewed research papers, 500 scholarly reviews, 44 policy papers and 8 patents.

**Mentoring Arrangements:**

Mentorship will be provided by the academic and clinical supervisors to the Fellow. This will be co-ordinated by Professor Nick Macklon (academic lead) and Miss Ying Cheong (Senior Lecturer, Obstetrics and Gynaecology). Professor Nick Macklon, the Chair in Obstetrics and Gynaecology, who has extensive experience in the supervision of trainees and PhD students. Miss Ying Cheong will co-supervise the trainee on a daily basis. Both academic supervisors are involved with multiple clinical as well as laboratory studies. They are both in the ideal position to link service and academic/research requirements. Further mentorship and supervision will be undertaken through the clinical and educational supervisors in the Princess Anne Hospital and using established governance arrangements for postgraduate research. This will include mentorship through supervision of emerging PhD programmes, and senior authorship of Research Fellowship applications to major funding agencies.

**Specific support provided to trainee**

The trainee will join the Wessex Specialist Training Programme in Obstetrics and Gynaecology for 3 years, which is co-ordinated through the Wessex Deanery. Experience offered will cover the training needs of future consultants in all aspects of Obstetrics and Gynaecology, as well as academic career development. The post will contribute to accreditation in Obstetrics and Gynaecology with an established interest in one of its subspecialties.

The Obstetrics and Gynaecology clinical services in Southampton are divided into clinical groupings (Reproductive Medicine, Urogynaecology, Gynaecological Oncology, Fetal Medicine, General Obstetrics and Gynaecology) with University academic involvement in each. There is a consultant complement of 18 of whom two are full time academics (Professor and Senior Lecturer). Training will involve the multidisciplinary management of Obstetrics and Gynaecology patients. It is anticipated that the academic trainee will remain on the acute rota for the whole period in post. The out of hours component may need to be reduced by 25%, depending on back fill arrangements.

The clinical programme will include fixed sessions plus on call, with 0.25 time (on average over the 3 years) devoted to research, research training and other academic activities. The clinical programme will vary depending on the appropriate subspecialty interest being undertaken.

**Academic Lead (University) for the IAT Programme:**

Professor Eugene Healy  
Professor of Dermatology  
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### Academic Supervisor (University) Details:

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### Deanery Programme Training Director Details:

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### Deanery Programme Manager Details:

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### Confirmation that ACF posts attract an NTN(a):

This post will attract a NTN.