# 2013 Academic Clinical Fellowship in Dermatology

## Description of ACF Programme:

<table>
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<th>Title: Dermatology</th>
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<td>Duration: 3 years</td>
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## Lead NHS Hospital/Trust and contact details:

University Hospital Southampton NHS Foundation Trust (UHS)  
Southampton General Hospital  
Southampton, Hants SO16 6YD  
Tel: 023 8077 7222

## Research Institution in which training will take place:

University of Southampton  
University Road  
Southampton  
SO17 1BJ

## Arrangements for protected research time:

During the first year, the ACF will undertake training in dermatology, which (as per training for non-ACF dermatology trainees in UHS) includes a day for research each week; this research time will be spent in the academic dermatology unit in Southampton. It is envisaged that nine months of the second year will be spent in full time research in the academic dermatology unit in Southampton to allow more substantial engagement with the research topic to be developed.

The 25% salary will be used to employ a locum to cover this nine month period during year two of the programme to allow the period of full-time research. This research period will allow the ACF to gain in-depth research experience and to obtain pilot data in order to apply for a research training fellowship (e.g. to MRC, Wellcome Trust, etc.); the project and training fellowship application will be conducted in conjunction with his/her senior academic supervisor. The ACF will then rejoin the Wessex rotation which (as per training for non-ACF dermatology trainees) includes a day for research each week during which time the ACF will continue to undertake research on his/her project in the academic dermatology unit in Southampton.

During this third year the trainee will continue to obtain pilot data and undertake preparation for research training fellowship interviews.

In the event that the trainee wishes to exit early from the training programme they will revert into the normal job plan of the clinical trainees and re-join the Wessex Dermatology rotation.
Research Objectives:

1. To undertake the equivalent of 2 years and 3 months full time specialist training in Dermatology in an accredited STIR post in the Wessex Dermatology Rotation, and in the Academic Dermatology Unit, Faculty of Medicine, University of Southampton.
2. To undertake generic research methods training through a programme run by the Southampton Clinical Academic Training Scheme (SoCATS).
3. To gain relevant training and experience in research design, methods and data interpretation.
4. To expose the trainee to laboratory based research within the Faculty of Medicine
5. To pilot a research project (clinical or laboratory-based) in order to generate preliminary data for development of a proposal for a research training fellowship
6. To submit a competitive application for a research training fellowship to the MRC, Wellcome Trust.

Description of research component of programme (up to 500 words):

The Southampton Academic Dermatology Unit is one of the major academic and research dermatology centres in the UK and has an international reputation for skin research. It is placed within the Clinical Experimental Sciences Division (rated as 95% of its research being at international level in the 2008 RAE) which comprises approximately 200 researchers.

The research in the academic dermatology unit is focused on molecular processes in skin resulting from interactions with environmental factors including ultraviolet radiation, allergens and irritants, which result in a variety of neoplastic and inflammatory skin disorders. Specifically, the research examines mechanisms underlying susceptibility to skin cancer, cutaneous immunology and the generation of allergic reactions involved in contact dermatitis and drug allergies. The investigative approaches range across the spectrum of translational research, using cellular and molecular laboratory methods, transgenic studies and a strong emphasis on clinical research in humans, capitalising on the availability of the Wellcome Trust Clinical Research Facility and adjoining Biomedical Research Unit.

The academic dermatology unit was established in 1998, and the department has a good publication record, and has secured a number of prestigious grants, fellowships (including Wellcome and MRC) and industrial grants. The department has a core of scientific personnel comprising clinical academics, post-doctoral scientists and graduate PhD students. The current head of the academic dermatology unit, Prof Healy, has the additional experience of having trained along the MRC fellowship route at Clinical Training, Clinician Scientist and Senior Clinical Fellowship levels.

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

The trainee will join the Wessex Specialist Training Programme in Dermatology, which is coordinated through the Wessex Deanery. Experience offered will cover the training needs of future consultants in all aspects of this specialty, as well as academic career development. The post will ultimately lead to accreditation (CCT) in dermatology. The three years will be spent in
clinical posts rotating through an appropriate combination of the hospital trusts within the Wessex region which will be chosen according to the trainees need, although it is envisaged that the majority of the time will be spent in Southampton. The Wessex dermatology programme provides a very strong clinical training environment closely integrated with a high level academic setting. The programme is based in a major teaching hospital and a number of district general hospitals: University Hospital Southampton NHS Foundation Trust (UHS), St Mary’s and Haslar Hospitals in Portsmouth and Christchurch and Poole Hospitals in Dorset.

It is envisaged that the fellow will spend an amount of their time in the Southampton department which comprises 9 consultants, 6 of whom are NHS staff and 3 are academic. The department offers the most comprehensive range of dermatology training within the Wessex rotation and provides a solid grounding in evidence-based practice. The research component of each year will be in the academic dermatology unit in Southampton, under the supervision of Prof Healy, to allow the trainee to absorb the academic approach to clinical practice which characterises the department. It will also allow the trainee to engage with the research programmes in the department with a view to initiating ideas about the nature of the research project to be developed during the training. During the full time clinical component of the training the fellow will have two protected research sessions per week.

During the first year the research time, which will be held in Southampton, will be used for training in the fundamentals of clinical research including design of research questions and methodologies, information gathering, statistics, critical appraisal of the literature, ethics and governance, presentation skills and scientific writing. In addition, the fellow will attend courses/workshops which cover aspects of research relevant to his/her research project and will undertake suitable training and preparation in research methodology so that he/she has the necessary skills and approvals to conduct the project under appropriate supervision. During the subsequent years, the research will continue in the academic dermatology unit in Southampton and the fellow will build upon his/her research skills while undertaking his/her project in order to obtain pilot data. The trainee will not have any formal clinical commitments during the 9-month research block in the second year, but with the approval of Prof Healy may undertake limited clinical duties which are advantageous for the research project (for example in ascertainment and procurement of clinical samples). After the full-time research block, during the remaining training the research time will continue to take place in the academic dermatology unit in Southampton, but again with the approval of Prof Healy the trainee may undertake limited clinical duties which are advantageous for the research project during some of that time. The emphasis during the entire fellowship will be to ensure that the trainee receives a solid foundation upon which to build his/her future clinical academic career.

Milestones and timing of achievement of academic and clinical competencies:

The following milestones will be applied:

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<td>1 Initial clinical training in dermatology will be carried out as for all StRs in the Wessex Dermatology Training Programme and will be assessed using the national measures (Directly Observed Procedural Skills, mini Clinical Evaluation Exercise,</td>
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Multi-source Feedback, Case-Based Discussions, etc.) and by quarterly meetings with the educational supervisor.

2. Attendance at autumn introductory course provided by University of Southampton Postgraduate School of Medicine.

3. Identification of research question to be addressed in pilot study through an iterative process of discussion and planning with the academic supervisor(s).

4. Identification of specific learning needs for the project and appropriate courses.

5. Obtaining ethical committee and NHS Research & Development approval for exploratory project as appropriate and initial generation of pilot data.

6. Attendance at relevant internal and external training courses and attendance at annual national/international conferences of relevance to the project.

### Year 2

1. Continuing clinical training in dermatology in an accredited dermatology training rotation post, with the relevant competency based assessments (DOPS and miniCEX) and the knowledge-based assessments.

2. Continued data collection for pilot study.

3. Attendance at relevant internal and external training courses and attendance/presentation of data at annual national/international conferences of relevance to the project.

4. Preparation and submission of clinical research fellowship application to external funding agencies.

### Year 3

1. Continuation of hospital component of clinical training.

2. Continuation of data collection and presentation at national/international conference(s).

3. Writing up and submission of pilot research project for publication.

4. Preparation for research training fellowship interview.

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**How post links in to the NIHR approved Research Training Programme at your locality:**

It is envisaged that a successful fellowship application will lead to a further three years in full-time clinical research, culminating in a PhD. There would then be a natural progression to a clinical lecturer position within the Faculty of Medicine. In the event of failure to obtain clinical research fellowship funding for the full-time three year research period culminating in a PhD, the research fellow could return to the Dermatology specialist training programme within the Wessex rotation.

**Trainee centredness:**

The training will be centered on the trainee’s own needs, identified early during the first year, and by 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/Clinical Academic Training Scheme at the University of Southampton Faculty of Medicine. The academic supervisors have completed the postgraduate research supervision training provided by the University.

Mentoring arrangements:

Mentorship will be provided by the academic and clinical supervisors to the fellow. This will be co-ordinated by Prof Healy (academic lead). 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 the emerging PhD programme and of research fellowship applications to major funding agencies.

Academic Lead (University) for the IAT Programme:

Professor Eugene Healy
Professor of Dermatology
University of Southampton
Southampton General Hospital
Southampton SO16 6YD
Tel 023 8077 7222
E.Healy@soton.ac.uk

Academic Supervisor (University) Details:

Professor Eugene Healy
Professor of Dermatology
University of Southampton
Southampton General Hospital
Southampton SO16 6YD
Tel 023 8077 7222
E.Healy@soton.ac.uk

Education Supervisor (Trust) Details:

This will be confirmed once the appointee is in post

Clinical Supervisor(s) Details:

This will be confirmed once the appointee is in post

Deanery Programme Training Director Details:
Professor Eugene Healy  
Professor of Dermatology  
University of Southampton  
Southampton General Hospital  
Southampton SO16 6YD  
Tel 023 8077 7222  
E.Healy@soton.ac.uk

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<th>Deanery Programme Manager Details:</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mrs Elizabeth Martin</td>
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<tr>
<td>Specialty Programme Manager for Medicine</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wessex Deanery</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sparrowgrove</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Otterbourne</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SO21 2RU</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tel: 01962 718432</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fax: 01962 718401</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><a href="mailto:elizabeth.martin@wessexdeanery.nhs.uk">elizabeth.martin@wessexdeanery.nhs.uk</a></td>
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