### Description of ACF Programme:

**Title:** Medical Oncology  
**Duration:** 3 years

### Lead NHS Hospital/Trust and contact details:

University Hospital Southampton NHS Foundation Trust  
Tremona Road  
Southampton SO16 6YD  
02380 777222

### Research Institution in which training will take place:

University of Southampton  
Cancer Sciences Division, School of Medicine  
University of Southampton  
University Road  
Southampton  
SO17 1BJ

### Arrangements for protected research time:

The post will cover 2 years and 3 months of clinical training, at the end of which 9 months of protected research time will be used to prepare for a Clinical Research Fellowship application and preparation for a higher degree. Clinical duties will be back-filled by a LAT. The job description will ensure protected research time for this individual who will be an addition to the existing middle grade team during the final 9 months. It is expected, consistent with the Integrated Academic Training programme that the ACF will compete for a Clinical Lecturer post on completion of their higher degree.

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

The research component of this post will be conducted in the Cancer Sciences Division (CSD) of the University of Southampton, School of Medicine. The bulk of the CSD is housed in modern well equipped laboratories in the Somers Building and the Tenovus Cancer Building on the Southampton General Hospital Site. A new Clinical Trials Unit was established in 2006 with core funding from Cancer Research UK. Southampton is a Cancer Research UK Clinical Centre. Core funding to the division also comes from programme grants from the Leukaemia Research fund, Cancer Research UK, the Tenovus Cancer Charity, with major infrastructure support from the Department of Health via the Experimental Cancer Medicine Centre. It is a Leukaemia and Lymphoma Research Centre of Excellence and member of the charity's Therapies Acceleration Programme. The mission of the Division focuses on the synergy of excellence in clinical and basic research, delivering high quality translational programmes to improve cancer treatment.
Current research strengths focus on cancer immunology and immunotherapy and the molecular mechanisms of malignancy. All groups within the division have strong collaborative links with basic medical scientist as well as to the well-organised multidisciplinary teams in clinical practice in the Southampton Cancer Centre.

The CSD has a has extensive experience of matching students to projects, both full-time and part-time, clinical and non-clinical. Career tracking is a priority of the Division’s Executive Group and the track record of Clinical Trainees passing through the Division is one of excellence.

The ACF will spend 9 months embedded within a group with in CSD. It is anticipated that they will remain within this group and apply for a Clinical Research Fellowship, having acquired basic laboratory skills, critical evaluation and preliminary data. During the first 2 years, the ACF will have an opportunity to interact with Group Leaders in order to plan their period of research and to refine their interests. The trainee will work closely with their academic supervisor to assess and direct their learning needs. They will have the opportunity to attend a variety of courses to gain core research skills.

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

The ACF will gain broad experience of non surgical cancer management during the first two years and 3 months. This will include experience in administration of both outpatient and inpatient chemotherapy, including high dose treatments with haemopoietic progenitor cell rescue. Training will be provided in all aspects of chemotherapy administration and will include assessment of response to treatment, the management of toxicities of treatment and complications of malignant disease. In addition, the ACF will gain experience of both radiotherapy and palliative medicine. During the first two years the post will rotate in order to give a broad general experience. They will gain both inpatient and outpatient experience and will be expected to assist in the supervision of junior medical staff and be responsible for day to day management of inpatients. Skills already learned and practical procedures such as chest drains, lumbar puncture etc will be reinforced during this period. There are weekly multidisciplinary meetings for most tumour sites which trainees are expected to attend as part of their clinical attachment.

During their training they will have the opportunity to attend Clinical Oncology clinics and gain experience of the appropriate use of radiotherapy in the treatment of malignant disease, its effects and complications.

They will be required to attend the taught course in Oncology at The Institute of Cancer Research, a day-release modular programme leading to a Postgraduate Certificate, Postgraduate Diploma or MSc in Oncology. The overall aim of the course is to encourage proactive problem solving and reflective approaches to medical or clinical practice, producing graduates who are well equipped with the highly refined intellectual, scientific and clinical skills necessary for leadership careers in twenty-first century oncology. This course will fulfill many of the aims of the Medical Oncology Core Curriculum. At the end of the initial clinical training it is expected that they will have acquired a sound knowledge of basic cancer science, the aetiology and prevention of cancer, its clinical features and treatment and aspects of supportive care and palliative medicine.
Experience will be gained in the care of patients in phase I, II and III trials and it is anticipated that the ACF will be involved in the initial development of clinical trial protocols, and the coordination of trials, recording and reporting of results. A dedicated and fully-staffed Wellcome Trust Clinical Research Facility is also located in the hospital immediately adjacent to the Medical Oncology ward, for the conduct of early phase clinical trials work.

The trainee will also be expected to develop a clear understanding of the regulatory process of clinical trials and participate in the peer review of clinical trials. For multi-centre trials they will be expected to attend investigator meetings in order to discuss the trials with participants from other centres. The trainee will be expected to work closely with the clinical research team of research nurses and clinical trials associates. With increasing experience they will be expected to take full responsibility for conduct of the studies and planning new ones. In addition, they will be expected to present the results of clinical research projects both locally and at national and international meetings as appropriate. Publication of the results in peer reviewed journals is expected. The Cancer Research UK Clinical Centre includes a Clinical Trials Unit, a Data Office and a team of research nurses. These members of staff along with senior medical staff will provide appropriate support and supervision.

The ACF post holder will be encouraged to develop an area of site specialist interest. The Unit treats a large number of patients with most major tumour sub types and will therefore offer the opportunity to specialize in one of a number of tumours including breast cancer, lymphoma, urologic malignancy, germ cell tumours, gynaecological cancer, gastrointestinal cancer and lung cancer. They will be able to sub specialise in one or more of these areas and will be given an active role in the development of Unit protocols and of the clinical trials activity.

The ACF will be expected to attend certain management courses during their year period of employment. These will provide education in various aspects of management, including hospital management, financial management and contracting, information technology, interviewing and selection, and dealing with litigation and other complaints.

They will be encouraged to attend Directorate meetings and will be required to participate in clinical governance procedures including audit and the development of clinical guidelines.

Many students spend their 5th year module attached to the Unit. The ACF will be required to undertake some ward teaching of medical students and training of junior medical staff in preparation for the MRCP examination. In addition, the Unit has responsibility for 4th year studies in depth, the scientific basis of medicine course and the 3rd year oncology module. They will be expected to assist in these teaching activities. A course in Oncology for qualified nurses is conducted two yearly and they will be involved in the programme of lectures for this course. Frequent postgraduate meetings and medical grand rounds take place to which the Unit regularly contributes and they will be expected to participate in these.

Throughout the period of clinical training there will be a commitment to out of hours cover. This will be voluntary during the research period.

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 will lead to eligibility to apply for a lecturer (or clinician scientist position) for subsequent post-doctoral training.

Academic Lead (University) for the IAT Programme:

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Clinical Supervisor(s) Details:

As above

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Confirmation that ACF posts attract an NTN(a):

This post will attract a NTN A