### Description of ACF Programme:

**Title:** Surgery (surgical oncology)  
**Duration:** 3 years

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

Mr Simon Sleight ([simon.sleight@salisbury.nhs.uk](mailto:simon.sleight@salisbury.nhs.uk))

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

University of Southampton, Cancer Sciences Unit

### Arrangements for protected research time:

9 months is spent out of clinical service.

### Research Objectives:

To obtain preliminary data to support application for a clinical research training fellowship (CRTF)

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

The programme aims to give the successful candidate 9 months research experience within the Cancer Sciences Unit at the University of Southampton. In the successful surgical ACF programme the 9 months research in the 3 years is taken as a single block to facilitate backfill. He/she will join one of the research groups in CSU and achieve enough preliminary data to support a clinical research training fellowship application. To date all of the ACFs in the programme have been able to achieve CRTF (including from the MRC) or Clinical Lecturer posts. The CSU has numerous Group leaders with programme grants: The surgical lab programmes include:

- Prof A Mirnezami - Molecular pathology of colorectal cancer, Role of microRNAs in disease progression, Role of Epithelial-to-Mesenchymal transition in colorectal cancer progression.

- Prof T Underwood (Head of Cancer Sciences) - The role of the tumour microenvironment in oesophageal cancer (EAC) with current focus in on cancer associated fibroblasts and immune cells. Funding >£1.35M (CRUK)

- Prof R Cutress - The role of bag-1 in the progression of breast cancer and development of bag-1 as a therapeutic target Funding >£500k BCC and other funding bodies.

The centre has an excellent track record. Three full Professors in surgery (2 of whom were NIHR Lecturers) have obtained clinician scientist posts from MRC, CRUK and AMS. Of the ACFs appointed to the programme all have obtained Clinical Training
Fellowships (one from the MRC) and/or a CL post. The ACF’s have subsequently secured major publications and have obtained external grant funding (e.g. from the HTA).

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

The clinical programme is identical to the normal core deanery programme (appointments have generally been early stage) with a year in a hospital near Southampton, a year in Southampton and 9 months in research in the Cancer Sciences Unit. Research may be taken at the beginning of the 3 year term or at the end. Posts will include general surgical specialties (colorectal, HPB, oesophagogastric and breast) as well as vascular and urology. The ACFs are expected to achieve the same ISCP competencies as the other core trainees.

**Specific support provided to trainee**

Laboratory training as part of post graduate school, regular lab meetings and meetings with academic supervisor.

**Milestones and timing of achievement of academic and clinical competencies**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year 1</th>
<th>Clinical competencies as defined by ISCP</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Research may be carried out in this year or year 3.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>-Preliminary data to support CRTF application</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>-Peer review publications</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year 2</th>
<th>Clinical competencies as defined by ISCP</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year 3</th>
<th>Clinical competencies as defined by ISCP</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>For research see year 1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

Surgery has an Academic Foundation Programme that provides many of the applicants for the ACF posts. Surgery also has a regular NIHR CL post available. The CRUK Centre has dedicated Clinical Research Training Fellowships to allow progression.

**Trainee centeredness:**

Research programme is tailored to meet the trainee’s needs as is the lab training. There is flexible clinical involvement during the 9 month research especially in emergency care to ensure opportunity to achieve appropriate competencies.
Quality assurance of the programme:

The clinical programme has Deanery quality assurance. The research programme is quality assured by the normal mechanisms within the Post Graduate School and the Cancer Sciences Division.

Mentoring Arrangements:

An independent mentor is provided separate from the Academic Supervisor.

Academic Lead (University) for the IAT Programme:

Prof Elaine Dennison  
Director of Clinical Academic Training  
Faculty of Medicine  
University of Southampton  
Southampton General Hospital  
Southampton SO16 6YD  
Tel 023 80777 222  
emd@mrc.soton.ac.uk

Academic Supervisor (University) Details:

Prof JN Primrose  
 Prof TJ Underwood

Education Supervisor (Trust) Details:

Mr John Knight

Clinical Supervisor(s) Details:

Various and varied

Deanery Programme Training Director Details:

Mr Simon Sleight

Deanery Programme Manager Details:

Ms Sue Ksous  
Training Programme Manager for Surgery  
Wessex Deanery  
Sparrowgrove  
Otterbourne  
SO21 2RU  
Tel: 01962 71834  
Fax: 01962 718401  
Email: Sue.Ksous@hee.nhs.uk
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Confirmation that ACF posts attract an NTN(a):</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>This post will attract a NTN</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>