# Academic Clinical Fellowship in Neurology

## Description of ACF Programme:

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

<table>
<thead>
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<th>University Hospitals Southampton Trust</th>
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<tr>
<td>Department of Neurology</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wessex Neurosciences Centre</td>
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<td>Southampton General Hospital</td>
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<td>SO16 6YD</td>
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Dr Ian Galea  
Senior Lecturer and Honorary Consultant Neurologist  
023 81205340  
I.Galea@soton.ac.uk

## Research Institution in which training will take place:

| Name: University of Southampton |

We are the Local Education and Training Board for Wessex
Address:
Clinical Neurosciences, Clinical & Experimental Sciences
Faculty of Medicine, University of Southampton
Mailpoint 806, Level D
Southampton General Hospital
Southampton SO16 6YD
UK

and

Wessex Neurology Rotation
University Hospitals Southampton
Southampton

Possible rotations to Poole General Hospital, Poole and Queen Alexandra Hospital, Portsmouth

Arrangements for protected research time:

The post will cover 2 years and 3 months of clinical training and 9 months of protected research time will be used to learn research methodology and prepare for a Clinical Research Fellowship (Doctoral Training) application for a higher degree. Clinical duties will be back-filled by a LAT or an additional NTN. The job description will ensure protected research time for the ACF. The exact arrangement for protected research time, that is whether this will be in blocks or as a weekly split, and its timing, will be arranged between the trainee, Programme Director and the Academic Supervisor, and will depend on the following variables: clinical experience of the trainee, service needs, trainee needs, timing and full/part-time equivalent of clinical cover.

Research Objectives:
The objectives of the training programme are for the trainee, over three years:

1. To undertake the equivalent of 27 months of full-time specialist training in medical neurology in accredited hospital posts and a total of 9 months within Clinical Neurosciences 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 NIHR Postgraduate School.

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

4. To gather preliminary data and develop a research proposal for an externally funded Clinical Research Fellowship (Doctoral Training).

5. To submit such an application for a Clinical Research Fellowship (Doctoral Training) in national competition such as MRC, Wellcome Trust, National Institute of Health Research, MS Society, Health Foundation & Cancer Research UK.

6. To present preliminary data in national / international conferences and possibly publish such data in high impact journals.

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

The research component of this post will be conducted in Clinical Neurosciences, which is part of the Clinical and Experimental Sciences Academic Unit within the Faculty of Medicine. The current Clinical Neurology research programme includes multiple sclerosis, other autoimmune central nervous system diseases and subarachnoid haemorrhage. Translational research in these areas is carried out in collaboration with neuropathologists, medical physicists, chemists, biologists and psychologists. Research is funded by the Multiple Sclerosis Society, Medical Research Council, Association of British Neurologists, Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council, Wessex Medical Research, Cancer Research UK and industry (Bio Products Laboratory Limited, Evgen, Merck-Serono, Bristol-
Research is managed by subject-based collaborative research teams: STRIMS (Southampton Translational Research In Multiple Sclerosis) and SCRISH (Southampton Collaborative Research In Subarachnoid Haemorrhage), which are composed of research-active people in the field, from across the University and Trust. A number of successfully funded research projects are in progress including the prospective clinical studies SIMS (Systemic Infections in Multiple Sclerosis) and HASH (Haemoglobin After Subarachnoid Haemorrhage). Members of the research teams have been invited to speak at international conferences, are members of steering committees (eg MS Register), have published in high impact journals (eg Brain, Neurology, Annals of Neurology, Stroke), and their work has been covered by journal podcasts and editorials. Medical students doing research projects with the teams have been awarded regional (Altounyan Prize) and national (Best poster) prizes, attesting to the quality of research training delivered by the group.

These successes have occurred as a result of a strategic drive from the Faculty of Medicine to strengthen Clinical Neurology research to complement the wide span of basic neuroscience disciplines across campus. Significant investments have made in neuroimaging, with a state-of the-art Siemens Skyra 3 Tesla scanner with dedicated research time, and a further commitment from the University to contribute 500K to maintain a leading edge in magnetic resonance imaging.

The trainee will identify the topic of their choice from the research programme, and develop their own project under supervision. Guidance will be given to enable appropriate matching of the trainee and their skills to the project and its timing. The ACF will spend a total of 9 months research time within the group. During the first 2 years, the ACF will have an opportunity to interact with various team members in order to plan their period of research and to refine their interests. It is anticipated that they will remain within this group and apply for a Clinical Research Fellowship (Doctoral Training), having acquired basic research skills, critical evaluation abilities and preliminary data. 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 clinical component of the training is based at the Wessex Neurological Centre, which is a major Regional Neurosciences Centre with Neurosurgery. General Neurological training is offered in the setting of a District General Hospital as well as within the Regional Centre.
Broad experience in the neurosciences is provided by virtue of a "hub and spoke" principle in the provision of neurological service and the presence of a major neurosurgical centre.

One year of the training programme will be spent at a DGH currently Poole Hospital or Queen Alexandra Hospital, Portsmouth. Training is provided in all the major neurosciences including neurological intensive care and there is a comprehensive range of specialist services in the neurological sub-specialties.

Continuous training in general neurology is provided throughout the programme. The service commitment to general neurological out-patients includes, on average, two clinics per week. There are currently six weekly general neurological out-patient clinics. Trainees will attend clinics held by individual Consultants in rotation, normally at four monthly intervals.

The neurological in-patient service is divided into work-based roles. These cover: main neurology ward, short-stay and day case wards, clinic (including specialist muscle and epilepsy clinics), stroke, medical liaison, senior registrar and sabbatical. Trainees will rotate between these roles. The senior registrar and sabbatical roles are only available to trainees in their last 2 years of training. The senior registrar will give advice at intermediate level on difficult cases. The on call rota provides additional acute neurology experience.

In certain sub-specialties continuous training is given throughout the programme. In particular, trainees attend weekly meetings in neuroradiology and have regular exposure to neuropathology and neuro-physiology.

Continuous training is provided in the neurosciences at the weekly combined neurosciences half-day meetings. Trainees are expected to present cases at grand rounds and to attend presentations in research and by visiting speakers. The programme includes presentations in paediatric neurology.

Trainees will be involved in audit throughout the programme and expected to present their results at the academic half-day meeting.

In addition to training in general neurology, the programme allows for career development on a year by year basis:

- Attachment to sub-specialties including neurophysiology, neurosurgery and neurorehabilitation
- Increasing clinical responsibility for the provision of a ward referral service within the Southampton University Hospitals NHS Trust
- A sabbatical period in the last 2 years of training
The training programme is for 5 years and the trainee would be expected to cover all subspecialty training as per neurology curriculum.

Junior Doctors hours are constantly under review throughout all hospitals in Wessex; on call / shift commitments are therefore subject to change. Banding arrangements may differ as individual Trusts determine rotas at local level. Full details of banding are available from the Medical Personnel Department of the relevant Trust.

Specific support provided to trainee

- Experience in a Consultant led clinical service exposing to a wide variety subspecialties.
- Excellent Clinical, Educational and Academic Supervision.
- A programme of organised neurology curriculum teaching has been arranged through the Wessex Courses Centre in the Postgraduate Dean's Office. There are monthly sessions which are attended by Specialist Registrars from Oxford and Southampton. The course follows the National Curriculum of the ABN and takes place in Southampton or Oxford alternately.
- Subspecialty Training and Career Development with attachments or clinic attendance in the following specialties: district hospital neurology, neuropsychology, medical liaison role, vascular disease, movement disorders including botulinum toxin administration, cognitive disorders, neurogenetics, peripheral nerve, multiple sclerosis, epilepsy, myasthenia, muscle disease, neurological rehabilitation, neuroradiology including interventional neuroradiology, neurosurgical procedures on appropriate cases, intensive care neurology. Length of attachment and service commitment will vary between these specialties. Acquisition of clinical competency will always be at the centre of these attachments / attendances.
- Study leave.
- Training in setting up new studies and/or clinical trials, governance and management.
- Interaction with researchers leading the edge in their area and ability to choose a project to their best fit.
- Ability to attend a range of courses applicable to research methodology.
- Academic meetings held in Academic Unit and the Wessex Neurosciences Centre, including joint meetings.

Milestones and timing of achievement of academic and clinical competencies

The exact milestones and timing of achievement of clinical competences will vary depending on the stage on the clinical experience and stage of training of the ACF when they start the post. The acquisition of clinical competencies and progression through the ARCP will not be
different from that of a non-academic post during the 27 month clinical component of the ACF.

With respect to academic milestones and timing of achievement, these are broad guidelines since exact timing of achievement will depend on how time is split between clinical and research time (ie one block, several blocks or split weeks):

| Year 1 | 1. Identification of topic of interest for research project, additional research supervisors if necessary and initial literature review. |
| Year 1 | 2. Identification of specific learning needs for the project and appropriate courses. |
| Year 1 | 3. Attendance at appropriate NIHR Training Programme courses and meetings. |
| Year 2 | 1. Academic competencies in utilising current software for database building, statistical analyses and reference management; understanding principles of data handling, confidentiality and sharing for pilot study data collection; processing, cleaning & analysis of data in collaboration with existing studies; submitting applications within the research governance framework. |
| Year 2 | 2. Obtaining ethical committee and NHS Research & Development proposals for exploratory project if required. |
| Year 2 | 3. Sample collection. |
| Year 2 | 4. Data collection / analysis. |
| Year 2 | 5. Attendance at relevant internal and external training courses. |
| Year 3 | 1. Data analysis. |
| Year 3 | 2. Application for Clinical Research Fellowship (Doctoral Training). |

How post links in to the NIHR approved Research Training Programme at your locality:
Mandated attendance at NIHR training programme courses provided by the Faculty covering aspects such as trial design, GCP, statistics, grant and paper/abstract writing, time management etc. Attendance and presentation at host Academic Trainees meetings.

Trainee centredness:

The trainee will have a personalised academic training plan that articulates with the clinical training plan, facilitated by regular liaison between the trainee, Academic Supervisor, Educational Supervisor and Programme Director. Academic representation on ARCP panels will be ensured. The trainee will meet regularly with their Academic Supervisor to ensure that goals are being met in addition to regular Educational Supervisors meetings. The trainee will be encouraged to develop their own project within the academic group’s research programme, helped by close supervision. Integration of subspecialist clinical skills and research topic will be encouraged and facilitated.

Quality assurance of the programme:

- Regular review from Academic Supervisor, reporting to the Head of the Unit and Academic Training Lead for University.
- Feedback from Clinical and Educational supervisors
- Successful transition at ARCP and feedback from Programme Training Director
- Completion of NIHR courses and course work through accredited modules where applicable
- Academic outputs of trainee including presentations, posters and papers
- Submission of application for a Clinical Research Fellowship (Doctoral Training)
- Success in the Clinical Research Fellowship (Doctoral Training) application

Mentoring Arrangements:

The trainee will be at liberty to choose an appropriate academic mentor with the approval of the Academic Supervisor. This would typically be an individual within the Academic Unit but may be provided by an alternative individual from the Faculty under the governance of arrangements for postgraduate research at the University of Southampton’s Faculty of...
**Academic Lead (University) for the IAT Programme:**

Name: Professor Eugene Healy  
Position: Professor of Dermatology  
Address:  
   Clinical Neurosciences, Clinical & Experimental Sciences  
   Faculty of Medicine, University of Southampton  
   Mailpoint 806, Level D  
   Southampton General Hospital  
   Southampton SO16 6YD  
   UK  
Telephone: 023 8077 7222  
Email: E.Healy@soton.ac.uk

**Academic Supervisor (University) Details:**

Name: Dr Ian Galea  
Position: Senior Lecturer in Neurology  
Address:  
   Clinical Neurosciences, Clinical & Experimental Sciences  
   Faculty of Medicine, University of Southampton  
   Mailpoint 806, Level D  
   Southampton General Hospital  
   Southampton SO16 6YD
**Education Supervisor (Trust) Details:**

Name: Dr Ashwin Pinto  
Position: Consultant Neurologist  
Address:  
Wessex Neurological Centre  
Mailpoint 101  
Southampton General Hospital  
Southampton SO16 6YD  
Telephone: 023 8120 6783  
Email: Ashwin.Pinto@uhs.nhs.uk  

Clinical Supervisor(s) Details:

Clinical supervision will be provided by the Consultant Neurologists working at the Centre or in the District General Hospital depending on the clinical attachments during the ACF.

**Deanery Programme Training Director Details:**

Name: Dr Haider Katifi  
Position: Consultant Neurologist
Address:

Wessex Neurological Centre
Mailpoint 101
Southampton General Hospital
Southampton SO16 6YD

Telephone: 023 8120 6781
Email: haider.katifi@uhs.nhs.uk

Deanery Programme Manager Details:

Name: Mrs Elizabeth Martin
Position: Training Programme Manager for Medicine
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Fax: 01962 718401
Email: elizabeth.martin@nesc.nhs.uk

Confirmation that ACF posts attract an NTN(a):

This post will attract a NTN.