JOB DESCRIPTION

ACADEMIC CLINICAL FELLOWSHIP

IN

PSYCHIATRY CORE TRAINING

CT1 LEVEL

September 2017
Academic Clinical Fellow (Psychiatry Core Training)

The post will be appointed at CT1 level and provide funding for up to three years. The principal aim of the ACF scheme is to allow academically gifted clinical trainees the opportunity for 25% protected research training alongside completion of core psychiatric training and to formulate and submit an externally funded Research training Fellowship (RTF) (e.g. MRC, Wellcome Trust). It is anticipated that all successful ACFs completing RTFs would be in a strong position to compete for Clinical Lecturer posts following award of their higher research degree, as per the Integrated Academic Training programme.

The Cambridge Psychiatry ACF programme

Core research posts are supported by a variety of funding streams including HEFCE, the Medical Research Council, the Wellcome Trust and The Stanley Foundation. The department holds two strategic awards from the Wellcome Trust in adolescent brain development and the Neuroimmunology of mood disorders and Alzheimer’s disease. In recent years the department has also gained substantial UK National Institute of Health Research funds including a 9 million pound renewal of the Collaboration for Leadership in Applied Health Research and Care now encompassing the East of England (CLAHRC EoE). The Department is also part of a successful recent bid by the University of Cambridge to host an NIHR Biomedical Research Centre with funding for mental health and neurodegeneration research.

The Department of Psychiatry in Cambridge is particularly well placed to train academic psychiatrists in research and teaching that can support the critically important goals of enhancing the practice and application of both type 1 (bench to bed-side) and type 2 (bed-side to health-service) translational research. We have strong links with both NHS and academic structures. The establishment of Cambridge University Health Partners (CUHP; the academic health sciences centre for Cambridge) and recent changes in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Foundation Trust (the local Mental Health Trust) will foster ever closer collaboration between the NHS and the University Department of Psychiatry. The Department of Psychiatry also has strong collaborative links with other groups, including the MRC Cognition and Brain Unit, the University Department of Experimental Psychology, the Wolfson Brain Imaging Centre and the Institute of Public Health.

The Department has international expertise in several fields of psychiatry. The Head of Department is Professor Ed Bullmore who is a widely respected expert in the fields of neuroimaging and schizophrenia. Internationally recognised authorities working in the department also include Prof Peter Jones who is Deputy Director of the Clinical School and Director of CLAHRC EoE (in the field of Epidemiology, Psychoses and Applied Health research), Prof Simon Baron-Cohen (in Autism), Prof Barbara Sahakian (Neuropsychology), Prof Paul Fletcher (Functional Neuro-imaging and Cognitive Neuroscience), Prof John O’Brien (Old Age Psychiatry and Dementia research), Dr Graham Murray (Psychoses and Neuroimaging), Dr Paul Wilkinson (Child and Adolescent Psychiatry) and Dr Karen Ersche (Addiction).

The Department of Psychiatry is responsible for the development, delivery and examination of psychiatry teaching in the Clinical School and members of the department have senior roles in postgraduate medical education under the auspices of the East of England Deanery.

ACADEMIC TRAINING: The academic training will be overseen by the Head of Department – Prof Ed Bullmore, together with the ACF trainee’s selected research Mentor. The objectives of academic training will be: i) to complete a module of didactic research training focused on generic research skills (e.g. research
governance and ethics, data protection, statistical methods, experimental design); and ii) within an individual, trainee-centred programme, to formulate an original research protocol, undertake a feasibility study / generate pilot data, analyse experimental data, and write a research report to publication standard as part of the process of developing a training fellowship application. To support this, the post holder will receive 25% protected research training time during their time as an ACF. The majority of this time will be provided in a block that is likely to be taken during the CT2 year.

Fellows will be supported to select a mentor or supervisor from an approved list of senior academics and this supervisor will provide one-to-one tutorial style support for the Fellow's preparation of a Research Training Fellowship application. Fellows will be able to meet all key members of the Department and gain an overview of the research structure of the department and available research areas. They will decide upon a project and research supervisor appropriate to their career goal, areas of interest and abilities. The programme will then focus on the fellow's emerging research interests and academic career plans with the development of a Training Fellowship application. These objectives are intended to give Fellows a basic grounding in research methodology and an opportunity to develop a study, including completing pilot work, in an area of personal scientific interest, supporting the development of a strong Research Training Fellowship application.

Didactic training in generic research skills will be delivered through the Department and University educational programmes, including the Graduate School of Biological, Medical and Veterinary Sciences, which include numerous courses in generic research skills. Fellows will also be able to access more specific research training and project support through the MRC/Wellcome Trust Behavioural and Clinical Neurosciences Institute and the MRC Cognition and Brain Sciences Unit. Clinical research studies are well supported by access to the Wellcome Trust Clinical Research Facility and the Wolfson Brain Imaging Centre.

Fellows will also be encouraged to participate appropriately in a range of programmed educational activities including the teaching provided to first year PhD students through a weekly lecture series jointly organised by Psychiatry, Experimental Psychology and the MRC Cognition and Brain Sciences unit, the weekly postgraduate lectures organised by clinical and academic psychiatry departments, weekly journal clubs and clinical case presentations, Behavioural and Clinical Neurosciences Institute seminars, etc. Fellows will select which programmes to attend at the various stages of their training after consultation with their supervisors.

CLINICAL TRAINING: As well as an academic mentor, each Fellow will have a clinical supervisor who will be a Consultant Psychiatrist with experience in postgraduate clinical training. Core clinical work will be 3 days/week, with 0.5 day/week MRCPsych course attendance in term time (this protected time will be used for research outside term time). During their ACF, Fellows will rotate through suitable approved training posts in the established and well-respected Eastern Region Psychiatry Core Training rotation. The clinical attachments undertaken by the Fellows will provide relevant core and psychiatric sub-speciality skills to provide a suitable basis for individuals' research interests and their future inclusion in the specialist register.

MENTORING: Each Fellow will be mentored by the Head of Department (HoD) in their first year of Fellowship. By the end of this time the Fellow, with the HoD, will have identified a research supervisor with whom they will then carry out development and feasibility work and prepare a Research Training Fellowship application.

MILESTONES:

Months 1-12: The main aims of this period will be: a) to acquire substantial clinical experience in core psychiatry areas; b) during the protected academic time, to acquire generic, transferable
research skills through a didactic course of training on research methodology and to explore possible research interests in depth with potential supervisors; c) to have been supported to have identified, by the end of the first year, the most appropriate research mentor. Fellows will also be expected to have entered for the Part 1 MRCPsych examinations.

Months 12-24: During this period the Fellow will spend the majority of their research time in the research laboratory of the research mentor preparing a training fellowship proposal for a funding body. This will include: i) generation of pilot data/undertaking of feasibility study; ii) acquisition of more focused training around the chosen project; iii) writing of the fellowship proposal with the mentor.

Months 24-30: Fellows will use this period to gain further clinical training while finalising their application / awaiting the results of the fellowship application. They will by this time be expected to have completed the first part of the MRCPsych exam and to have entered for the second part.

MONITORING: This will be conducted in joint academic and clinical appraisals by the HoD (or nominee) and the Clinical Tutor. In addition there will be at least fortnightly meetings with the research mentor once identified. The Fellow's progress will also be assessed in yearly ARCPs which will include review of both clinical and academic progress.

Organisation of the Clinical Training Scheme
The scheme is under the overall supervision of the Eastern Deanery Postgraduate School of Psychiatry (Head of School: Dr Chris O'Loughlin) on which the trainees are represented.

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The NCCRCRD website - www.nccrcrd.nhs.uk

For further information please contact: Health Education East of England Recruitment Helpdesk: recruitment.eoe@hee.nhs.uk.

Alternatively, please visit the NIHR website: http://www.nihr.ac.uk/funding/academic-clinical-fellowships.html.

The scheme is approved by the Royal College of Psychiatrists / GMC.