



Health Education East of England

Multi-Professional Deanery

JOB DESCRIPTION

**NIHR Academic Clinical Fellow in General Surgery or
Urology (CST (NTN(A))**

CT1 ST3

October 2017

NIHR Academic Clinical Fellow in General Surgery or Urology (CST (NTN(A)

Objective of the posts

These ACF posts are aimed at trainees in surgery with outstanding potential for development as clinical academics. They provide an exceptional opportunity for combined clinical and academic training. The posts allow trainees to combine first class clinical training in General Surgery or Urology and are centred within Cambridge University Hospitals NHS Trust (Addenbrooke's Hospital), with research training in the world-class academic environment of Cambridge University and other partners on the Cambridge Biomedical Campus. We aim to attract the brightest and the best into an academic career in surgery (either General Surgery or Urology) and to provide them with clinical training in surgery while also, through exposure to the outstanding academic opportunities available, helping them to develop a highly competitive application for a research training fellowship leading to a PhD. The posts will be appointed with a NTN (A) and will allow the appointees to undertake intensive clinical training with 25% of their time protected for research.

Programme Directors

The programme for the Academic Clinical Fellows will be coordinated by Professor Nicholson, who will also provide overall academic leadership for the programme. Mr Gnanapragasam (Academic Urology Group) will provide additional academic input to support the training programme for ACFs in Urology. The clinical aspects of the core training programme will be overseen by Mr Jah, local director of the Addenbrooke's general surgery basic surgical training programme, Mr Kasra Saeb-Parsy, (Local organiser for junior Urology trainees) and Ms E Grey, Regional Director for BST. Additional oversight into Clinical Training will be provided by Mr N Jamieson (Head of the School of Surgery), Mr Praseedom (General Surgery Training Programme Director), Mr Wiseman (Urology Training Programme Director) and Mr Tev Aho (Urology Training Committee Chair).

Duration of the post and academic context

The Academic Clinical Fellow posts are for a maximum of three years and carry an academic national training number- NTN (A). It is expected that the post holders will compete for and successfully secure a competitive research training fellowship within the three year tenure of the post, allowing them to complete research towards a higher degree (PhD or MD). After completion of a research training fellowship it is anticipated that the post holders will continue higher surgical training within Health Education East of England towards CCT in either General Surgery or Urology. They will also be in a strong position to apply for the post of Clinical Lecturer or compete for an Intermediate Fellowship to pursue their academic career. If the post-holder fails to obtain a competitive research fellowship, the programme directors in conjunction with Health Education East of England will assess their clinical progress and if this is satisfactory they will continue to higher surgical training on a non academic track.

Clinical and Research Training

The Academic Clinical Fellows will, after appointment, be provided with an individually tailored training programme that will comprise 25% research and 75% clinical training. In each of the three years of the scheme the post-holders will undertake blocks of three months full time research during which they will have no clinical on call commitments. The trainees will rotate through selected specialties in general surgery and urology spending between 3 and 9 months attached to individual clinical units. During the clinical attachments ACFs will be exposed to the full range of elective and emergency surgical activity provided by the units.

Clinical Training.

The clinical attachments will be chosen from the following: upper GI Surgery, colorectal surgery, hepatobiliary surgery, transplantation surgery, urology, vascular surgery, breast surgery, intensive care (all based at Addenbrooke's Hospital) and cardiothoracic surgery (based at Papworth Hospital). It is also envisaged that in year two, ACFs will spend a period of 6 months undertaking clinical training attached to a surgical unit within one of the regions district general hospitals. Addenbrooke's hospital is a major centre for surgery and provides secondary care for the local catchment area, as well acting as a tertiary referral centre for many types of surgery. The hospital is a supra-regional/regional centre for organ transplantation and a regional cancer centre. Within the general surgical and vascular surgical disciplines the full range of surgical services are provided, including major open surgery, advanced laparoscopic surgery, endovascular surgery, day-case surgery and endoscopy. The Urology Directorate provides a full range of specialist and general services for the region, including robotic surgery, complex stone surgery and reconstructive surgery and is also a major designated cancer centre in the region. In Addenbrooke's Hospital, the general emergency take is shared by the colorectal and the upper GI surgical teams. Vascular surgery on call is provided by a separate rota at Consultant level. There are also separate on call consultant teams for transplantation, hepatobiliary surgery and Urology.

Research training

The Post holders will, with guidance from Professor Nicholson (and in the case of Urology Academic Clinical Fellows, Mr Gnanapragasam), select the research areas in which they wish to focus for each of the three month full time research blocks from a wide range of opportunities on the Cambridge Biomedical campus. The opportunities available cover the entire spectrum from basic laboratory research in areas relevant to surgical disease through to health service research. There are particular academic strengths in transplantation, vascular surgery, surgical oncology and urological cancers but also exciting research opportunities in a number of other areas.

The medical research undertaken in Cambridge is world leading. In the last research Assessment Exercise (RAE) which assessed the quality of research in all subjects in UK Universities, Cambridge's aggregated quality profile across subjects covered by the medical panels was the highest of any UK Medical School, with 80% of research assessed as world leading or internationally excellent. There have been several recent developments on the Cambridge Biomedical Campus, including the opening of the Cancer Research UK Cambridge Research Institute in 2007 and the Institute of Metabolic Science in 2008. The partnership between the Clinical School and Cambridge University was awarded one of five NIHR Comprehensive Biomedical Research Centres and Cambridge Health Care Partners were designated as an Academic Health Science Centre.

The University Department of Surgery in Cambridge is one of the largest and most active in the UK. There is a strong emphasis on clinical research and the overall research strategy is to improve the surgical management of disease through developments in both basic and translational research. There is a major focus on applied clinical research and a key feature of the department is the close integration of University and NHS surgeons. University surgeons in parallel with directing programmes of research play an important role in the development and delivery of specialist surgical services. Similarly, many NHS surgeons are, in addition to their clinical responsibilities, undertaking high quality clinical research supported through close collaboration with University colleagues.

The research undertaken by the Academic Clinical Fellows will be supervised jointly by the most appropriate senior surgeon and/or relevant senior scientist and the aim will be to ensure that within 12-18 months the Academic Clinical Fellow have acquired relevant background knowledge, undertaken essential preliminary studies and prepared a competitive application for a research training fellowship. The University Department of Surgery will allocate a mentor (not their research supervisor) to each Academic Clinical Fellow to support and guide them as their career progresses. In addition to undertaking work on their chosen project they will attend weekly research meetings and relevant training sessions in generic research skills provided by the University of Cambridge.

Applicants who wish to discuss the post are invited to contact the academic leads:
General Surgery - Professor M Nicholson: mln31@cam.ac.uk
Urology – Mr VJ Gnanapragasam: vjq29@cam.ac.uk

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NIHR website: <https://www.nihr.ac.uk/funding-and-support/>