

## Institute of Cellular Medicine

### Clinical Research Associate in Hepatology (Autoimmune Liver Disease)

Vacancy Ref: A109780R

#### MAIN DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

1. Working with the investigators to deliver stratified medicine projects in autoimmune liver disease (including the UK-PBC Stratified Medicine programme and the UK-AIH programme).
2. Development and delivery of the fellow's own research programme to MD or PhD level according to the wishes of the fellow in one of the targeted disease areas. The fellow will get detailed project development and delivery support from the Faculty members who include some of the UK's leading academic Hepatologists.
3. Presenting data at local, national and international meetings.
4. Developing appropriate study reports, including manuscript preparation for publication in high impact factor journals.
5. Attending appropriate training in research techniques provided by the university
6. Maintaining an up-to-date knowledge of the relevant literature and apply this to the project where applicable.
7. Participating as an active team member of the research team by input into other ongoing projects in the Group.
8. The post-holder will be part of the Autoimmune Liver Disease team delivering the outpatient clinic service.
9. The post-holder will participate in audit and clinical governance activity related to the Autoimmune Liver Disease Service in line with local and national guidance and requirements. The post-holder will participate constructively in departmental meetings, including the Autoimmune MDT, and in continuing professional development, appraisal and risk management.
10. Working with the investigators to deliver publicly and commercially funded clinical trials linked to the hepatology stratified medicine programmes.
11. Identification of suitable participants for the studies, undertaking the screening assessments for the studies and participating in the formal recruitment process for the studies as delineated in the study ethical approvals.

12. Acting as the point of contact for study participants who wish to ask questions about the study.
13. Providing clinical support to the study nurses and Clinical Research Facility.
14. Assisting in data collation, critical analysis and interpretation and reporting progress to relevant trial and project funders.

## **Research Role Profile**

As part of our commitment to career development for research staff, the University has developed 3 levels of research role profiles. These profiles set out firstly the generic competences and responsibilities expected of role holders at each level and secondly the general qualifications and experiences needed for entry at a particular level. It is unlikely that any single member of staff will be applying all these competences at any one time but he or she would be expected to display most of them over a period of time.

Please follow this link to our [Research Role Profiles](#)

## **Person Specification**

### **Knowledge (inc. Qualifications)**

#### *Essential*

- Full registration (and with a licence to practise) with the General Medical Council (GMC).
- MB BS or equivalent
- Possession of MRCP
- Applicants that are UK trained, must be working towards completion of an NTN in gastroenterology/hepatology. Applicants who are non-UK trained, will be required to show evidence of equivalence

### **Skills (professional, technical, managerial, practical)**

#### *Essential*

- Able to take responsibility for participating in delivering service with supervision
- Interested in sub-specialisation in Autoimmune Liver Disease
- Able to teach at undergraduate and postgraduate levels and to non-medical staff
- Potential to undertake independent research
- Understanding of research methodology
- Well organised
- Motivated and conscientious
- Able to work as part of a team but also independently
- Willing to learn new techniques and concepts
- Good teaching and communication skills

#### *Desirable*

- A demonstrated capacity to teach in higher education
- Good Clinical Practice for Clinical Trials certificate

## **Experience and Achievements (paid or unpaid)**

### *Essential*

- Broad general experience in gastroenterology/hepatology
- Interest in development and delivery of novel therapies in advanced liver disease
- Understanding of Clinical Governance and individual responsibilities
- Participation in CPD scheme and, where relevant, evidence of participation

### *Desirable*

- Presentation of research work at national or international meetings
- Publications in peer reviewed journals
- Teaching and mentoring experience
- Experience in undertaking clinical audit and/or research

## **Other**

### *Essential*

- Able to work effectively as part of a multidisciplinary team
- Flexible attitude to work pattern
- Supportive attitude towards work colleagues
- Enthusiastic and ability to work under pressure
- Aware of own limitations
- Able to communicate effectively with colleagues, managers, other staff, patients and relatives
- Able to work efficiently and manage time well
- Ability to present effectively to a wide audience and able to respond to queries
- Able to present ideas clearly and logically
- Satisfactory DBS check and Health clearances.

## **Additional Background Information**

This post is for a Clinical Research Associate in Hepatology with a special interest in **Autoimmune Liver Disease**. The post holder should have a National Training Number (NTN) in gastroenterology/hepatology(or non UK equivalent). The post holder will be expected to have an active interest in clinical/experimental/translational research, as evidenced by some previous experience in audit or research. The post-holder will be expected to pursue a programme of original high quality research in Autoimmune Liver Disease with the specific aim of developing research experience and generating high quality publications. The post will provide the experience required to secure national grant funding, in the form of project grants and/or external fellowships if appropriate. It is also envisaged that the post-holder will, where possible, engage with industrial partners to deliver translational research outputs and attract industry funding.

The post holder will work within the Institute of Cellular Medicine (ICM). The post-holder will benefit from mentorship from Professor David Jones and established investigators engaged in Autoimmune Liver Disease research. In particular, it is anticipated that the post-holder will develop close interactions with the research strands within ICM, including, in particular, in Stratified Medicine. Opportunities for collaborations with other groups are also encouraged both within ICM and in other Institutes in Newcastle University.

This is a 2 year post which can be held pre- CCT. There will be the opportunity to extend for a third year subject to progression. The post provides an exciting opportunity for career development in translational research across the clinical academic interface.

The appointee will be mentored and objectives discussed in detail on appointment, including publication outputs and attributed grant income within the fixed term period.

### **The Academic and Clinical Hepatology Department**

The post-holder will join the internationally renowned Hepatology Department in Newcastle. The clinical service has closely inter-related academic and clinical elements and the post-holder will take a key role in both, reflecting the highly effective relationship between Newcastle University and the Newcastle upon Tyne Hospitals (NuTH) NHS Foundation Trust. Newcastle University has an international reputation for translational and experimental medicine, and was ranked 8<sup>th</sup> for research quality in Medical and Life Sciences in the 2014 UK Research Excellence Framework. NuTH recently became the first teaching hospital in the UK to be ranked “outstanding” at CQC inspection. Newcastle’s success has been built on the close interaction between the University and NuTH, which was recently consolidated by the establishment of Newcastle Academic Health Partners (which also incorporates Northumberland, Tyne and Wear NHS Foundation Trust, the local mental health care provider). Hepatology has long been regarded as one of the most successful of Newcastle’s nationally commissioned services, and the current post reflects the on-going commitment to extending Newcastle’s strong position in the field internationally.

The Newcastle Department of Hepatology is a major tertiary referral centre and largest provider of specialist clinical hepatology healthcare for adults in the North East of England. Clinical services are based at both the Freeman Hospital where an extensive range of investigations for the diagnosis and treatment of liver diseases are provided. The academic hepatology department is within the medical school adjacent to the RVI.

The clinical hepatology service for adults is provided within the medical directorate (Clinical Director: Dr. Chris Dipper, gastroenterology; Hepatology Lead: Dr Mark Hudson). Clinicians within the department are highly experienced in their fields of hepatology and are renowned internationally for their clinical expertise and research to help develop new treatment regimes.

Specialist treatments available include management of complex autoimmune liver disease, complex portal hypertension, liver transplantation, viral hepatitis, alcohol related liver disease, NAFLD, hepatocellular carcinoma and haemochromatosis.

Each medical team is supported by specialist nurses as well as an experienced administrative and clerical team. This ensures seamless delivery of care which is of great benefit for our patients.

## **Faculty of Medical Sciences**

The Faculty, one of three in the University, includes Biosciences, Dentistry, Medical Sciences Education Development and Psychology, in addition to the traditional medical disciplines. It has focused its core research activity at the basic science/clinical interface into seven Research Institutes that contain internationally strong research in ageing, genetics, cancer, health and society, biosciences, cellular medicine and neurosciences.

Undergraduate teaching is organised in four 'streams' – medicine, dentistry, psychology and biosciences, with a total undergraduate population of over 3000. Dentistry, Psychology and Bioscience degrees are administered by the Schools of Dental Sciences, Psychology and Biomedical Sciences respectively, while the undergraduate medical programme is administered at Faculty level. The Graduate School currently has over 800 postgraduate students registered for both taught and research degrees.

The Faculty has benefited from a significant period of capital refurbishment, funded largely through the Science Research Infrastructure Fund (SRIF) and University investment. In addition, successful bids to Wellcome, the Department of Health and One North East (the Regional Development Agency) have resulted in strategic capital developments at the Campus for Ageing and Vitality.

The Faculty is also a key player in the development of Newcastle Science City. The Newcastle Science City initiative (<http://www.newcastlesciencecity.com/>) aims to establish North East England as one of the world's premier locations for the integration of science, business and economic development, and to break down barriers between science and the wider regional community for the benefit of all. The project targets commercialisation of research in four key areas: Stem Cells and Regenerative Medicine; Ageing and Health; Molecular Engineering; and Energy and the Environment.

The Trust and the Faculty have formed a strategic partnership – Newcastle Biomedicine – which benefits from key synergies between the two organisations, acting essentially as an Academic Health Science Allegiance. This is overseen by an Executive which includes the Chief Executive, Medical Director, Chief Operating Officer, R&D Director, Faculty Pro Vice Chancellor and Dean of Clinical Medicine. It is responsible for the continuing development of the NIHR Biomedical Research Centre and has a Joint Research Executive, Joint Business Executive and Joint Education Executive. There is also a Joint Research Office and state-of-the-art Clinical Research Platforms. For further information see <http://www.ncl.ac.uk/biomedicine/clinical/>.

## **Institute of Cellular Medicine**

The Institute is led by Professor John Isaacs. The appointee will be an academic member in the Institute of Cellular Medicine (ICM). The institute is the largest in the university, and has the highest proportion of clinician-scientists. It combines basic research into disease mechanisms and clinical research, and recently re-organised into 4 broad themes (Inflammation and Immunity, Fibrosis, Regenerative Medicine, and Stratified Medicine). Most of the traditional academic medical sub-specialties are represented in the ICM, and there is a very clear emphasis on cross-disciplinary collaboration and interaction. The ultimate aim is to perform world-class basic science that informs rapid translation into the clinical arena and the development of novel diagnostics and therapeutics

## **Partnership with the NHS**

The Faculty is in partnership with a number of NHS organisations, both for teaching and research. Its principal partner is the Newcastle upon Tyne Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust, with which it shares a campus. Other key partners include the Trusts associated with MBBS Base Unit teaching on Wearside, Teesside and in Northumbria; within the Base Unit concept, undergraduate teaching is delivered through many acute and community providers. The Faculty also works closely with Northumberland, Tyne and Wear (Mental Health) NHS Trust and the Northern Deanery. There are also good links with the North East Strategic Health Authority.

## **NHS Trust**

The Trust employs c 13,000 staff, with a gross turnover nearing £1 billion per annum, and operates on two major hospital sites – Freeman Hospital and the Royal Victoria Infirmary, as well as delivering community health services to the city's 273,000 residents.

The Newcastle Upon Tyne Hospitals NHS Trust was licensed as a Foundation Trust on 1<sup>st</sup> June 2006, and this provides a robust framework and the freedom to run its own affairs at a local level. Although the Trust must comply with national standards in delivering healthcare, it can determine and influence how this is done by developing new ways of working tailored to meet the local needs and priorities.

The Trust is classified as a teaching hospital because of its close association with the Newcastle University Medical School. It also has a high nationally acknowledged research and development profile and capability and continues to challenge and inform patient treatment and care. The Trust is a large, technically complex and diverse organisation and to ensure the delivery of a high quality and safe service to all, robust performance management systems are in place. Working closely with clinical and support services, the Trust ensures effective monitoring and review of quality, business and financial issues.

For the 11<sup>th</sup> consecutive year Newcastle Hospitals has won the prestigious CHKS Top 40 Hospitals Award – one of only five Trusts in the country to do so. This award celebrates excellence in healthcare nationally, and is based on the evaluation of 21 key performance indicators including:

- safety
- clinical effectiveness
- health outcomes
- efficiency
- patient experience
- quality of care

The Trust is regulated by Monitor; the Care Quality Commission (CQC) determines the quality and standards of care. In 2016 it was rated by the CQC as “Outstanding” in its provision of patient care, the only Teaching Hospital in the UK to receive this rating to date.

For additional details about this vacancy and essential information on how to apply, visit our Job Vacancies web page at <http://www.ncl.ac.uk/vacancies/>