**Royal Devon University Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust**

**Clinical Research Fellow in Hepatology**

**General description**

The Royal Devon and Exeter Hospital seeks applicants for the role of clinical research fellow in hepatology. You will be expected to register for a clinical MD/PhD with the University of Exeter where you will receive specific and structured training in clinical research methodology.

This post has been developed in collaboration with industry partners to deliver cutting edge research on new biomarkers in the field of non-alcoholic fatty liver disease. There will also be opportunity to capitalise on access to the Royal Devon and Exeter Tissue Biobank to expand work within your own field of interest.

There will be opportunities to continue/further your clinical gastroenterology experience through outpatient and endoscopy service delivery and training if desired.

This post does not carry its own National Training Number (NTN). Any appointee who already holds an NTN will be expected to apply to their host clinical training programme for out of programme for research (OOPR).

**Department of Gastroenterology and Hepatology**

There are currently 13 Consultants in the department who each have sub-specialist clinical interests.

Dr John Christie Hepatology Lead, PMS Lead

Dr Tarek Shirazi Colonoscopy & Bowel cancer screening, Endoscopy Training Lead

Dr Tariq Ahmad Inflammatory bowel disease, Intestinal Failure

Dr Shyam Prasad Clinical lead, HPB, EUS, Enteroscopy, Capsule

Dr Chris Calvert Endoscopy Lead, Inflammatory bowel disease, Intestinal Failure,

Dr James Goodhand Inflammatory bowel disease, Audit lead

Dr Nicholas Kennedy Inflammatory bowel disease

Dr Jonathan Digby-Bell Inflammatory bowel disease

Dr John Rogers Inflammatory bowel disease

Dr Benjamin Hudson Hepatology, Training Lead

Dr Lin Lee Wong Hepatology

Dr Jane Chalmers Hepatology

Dr Christina Levick Hepatology

The firm comprises a number of junior doctors including, x3 SpRs, x2 IMTs, x2 F2s and x2 F1s. The firm is responsible for the day to day management of approximately 40 inpatients

The department has 5 IBD specialist nurses and 4 hepatology specialist nurses. In addition, the department is supported by 4 clinical nurse specialists for upper and lower gastrointestinal cancer.

The Royal Devon is accredited by the BSG as a level 2 liver centre. We participate remotely in weekly transplant listing meetings with our partners in King's College, and provide transplant work-up and early post-transplant care locally. TIPS and loco-regional therapies for HCC are performed in Exeter and we hold weekly cancer MDTs alongside HPB surgical colleagues in Plymouth. We are a hub centre for second line PBC therapies. Alongside a weekly complex case MDT, there is a weekly journal club, a dedicated liver histopathology service and fortnightly biopsy meetings. There is an active patients support group who meet monthly. The unit is working towards full IQILS accreditation.

The department has a 4-roomed Endoscopy Unit delivering in excess of 11,000 diagnostic and therapeutic endoscopy procedures annually including ERCP, EUS / EBUS, upper and lower GI stenting, Enteroscopy, Capsule Endoscopy, colorectal and upper GI EMR. Additional satellite endoscopy facilities are sited at local community hospitals. There are dedicated training lists for fellows and SPRs.

The department holds weekly Gastroenterology Multi-disciplinary Team Meetings (MDMs) including Upper GI cancer, lower GI cancer, IBD and liver histology meetings. Half day mandatory audit and governance meetings are held monthly.

The hospital nutrition team delivers care for patients with complex nutritional requirements including inpatient and outpatients who require enteral and parenteral nutrition. This service supports patients with intestinal failure across the Peninsula. The team comprises 3 specialist nurses, a dedicated dietician and a pharmacist

The Division of Surgery includes 10 Consultants with an interest in colorectal surgery, and 5 Consultants with an interest in upper GI and hepatobiliary surgery. The Radiology Department has 5 Consultants with a special interest in Gastroenterology including cross-sectional imaging and interventional radiology e.g. TIPSS, chemoembolisation and radiofrequency ablation.

**Gastroenterology/Hepatology Research**

Clinical Trial research and investigator led basic science research is strongly supported within the department. Patients are recruited to a large number of NIHR portfolio studies supported by 3 CLRN nurses.

Hepatology is a highly research active department. As well as being a lead recruiter to a range of NIHR portfolio studies (including BOPPP, CALIBRE, and PEARL), the department also recruits to commercial studies, and has secured direct NIHR funding as part of the REDUCE-2 trial. As a BASL SIG lead, Dr Hudson is part of the national BSG/BASL research development group.

The Exeter IBD pharmacogenetics group leads a number of national studies. The team comprises 3 administrators, a PhD student, a postdoctoral bioinformatician, 2 nurses and laboratory staff. The team is based at the Research, Innovation, Learning and Development (RILD) building, which opened in January 2014. This is a £27.5m development which consists of the Wellcome Wolfson Centre for Medical Research, the National Institute for Health Research (NIHR) Exeter Clinical Research Facility, and a new Post Graduate Education Centre on the Royal Devon and Exeter Hospital (Wonford) site in Exeter.  RILD is now home to a number of the Medical School’s laboratory-based research teams, comprising both clinical research areas and class two and three medical research laboratories, complete with offices, meeting rooms and write up areas.

**Special features of the post**

In addition to delivering research in non-alcoholic fatty liver disease, the post holder will also gain experience in research across the field of hepatology, contributing to commercial and non-commercial studies already being run in the department. There will be opportunity to gain further experience/training in clinical gastroenterology through outpatient provision or endoscopy training depending on the needs of the appointee. The post holder will be encouraged to attend relevant departmental meetings including weekly journal club/teaching sessions and liver histology meetings. Registration of an MD/PhD will also ensure the appointee is fully embedded within the University of Exeter, where clinical research training is delivered in a supervised and structured manner.

**Main Conditions of Service**

Salary Scale: £51,017 - £58,398pa depending on qualifications and experience

Annual leave: 27 days, rising to 32 days with 5 years NHS service (exclusive Bank Holidays)

Study Leave: 30 days

**Knowledge, Skills, Qualifications & Experience**

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| **Work Related**  | **Essential**  | **Desirable**  |
| **Qualifications/ Education**  | MBBS or equivalent. MRCP or equivalent.  | BSc or equivalent intercalated degree Evidence of academic performance during training. U.K. National Training Number (NTN) in Gastroenterology. Formal training in teaching  |
| **Skills/Training**  | Excellent oral and written communication skills, including the ability to communicate with clarity on complex information. Ability to work across different health care settings including primary and secondary care. Ability to creatively apply relevant research approaches, models, techniques and methods. Ability to build professional relationships and collaborate with others, both internally and externally. High analytical ability to analyse and illuminate data, interpret reports, evaluate and criticise texts and bring new insights. Ability to assess and organise resource requirements and deploy effectively. Demonstrated interest in medical research. Strong commitment to a career in academic gastroenterology/hepatology. Current good clinical practice (GCP) training must be in place before taking up the post  | Published papers in scientific/medical journals. Presented research abstracts (oral and/or poster) at national/international meetings e.g. BSG, DDW, BASL or AASLD annual meeting.  |
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| **Experience**  | Some practical experience of applying the specialist skills and approaches and techniques required for the role. Experience in use of research methodologies and techniques to work within area. Evidence of Foundation competencies and completion of core competency training in General Medicine’  | Previous success in gaining support for externally funded research projects. Experience of developing new approaches, models, techniques or methods in research area. Demonstrable teaching experience. Experience at Higher Specialty (Registrar) level in Gastroenterology/ Hepatology  |

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| **Statutory/Legal**  | GMC Registration with a licence to practise. Satisfactory enhanced disclosure from the Disclosure and Barring Service.  |  |