



## Academic Foundation Programme in Research at the Royal Liverpool University Hospital

### Academic Foundation Team

**Academic Foundation Lead:** Dr Cecilia Jukka, Consultant Medical Microbiology

**Foundation Programme Lead:** Mr Chris Webb, Consultant ENT Surgeon & Dr Cecilia Jukka, Consultant Medical Microbiology

**Integrated Clinical Academic Training Project Officer:** Miss Debbie Sweeney

Our academic foundation programme involves collaboration between clinicians and clinical academics at the Royal Liverpool University Hospital and the academic departments at the University of Liverpool.

### There are 6 research posts based at the Royal Liverpool University Hospital:

Gastroenterology

Clinical Pharmacology and Therapeutics Ophthalmology

Cancer (especially Pathology) Haematology

Infectious Diseases

### The Royal Liverpool University Hospital

The Royal Liverpool University Hospital is the **largest hospital in Merseyside and Cheshire**, based close to the city centre, providing emergency, general and specialist treatment to patients from across the North---West, north Wales and the Isle of Man.

It currently has around 40 wards, more than 710 beds (excluding day case and dialysis beds) and has the main Emergency Department for the city of Liverpool, the largest of its kind in the country, **with the ability to treat major, complex trauma** as well as minor injuries.

Major services such as respiratory care, diabetes, orthopaedics and trauma, general surgery and urology are based within the hospital, together with regional and national specialist services in nephrology, renal transplant, renal dialysis, pancreatic surgery, ophthalmology, haematology, bone marrow transplant and vascular surgery.

As a major university hospital, we work closely with both the University of Liverpool and Liverpool John Moores University to provide placements for student doctors, nurses, dentists and allied health professionals. Our aim is to provide quality undergraduate and postgraduate education and development in all disciplines and to continue to be recognised as a centre of excellence in biomedical, clinical and health service research.

Our research and development portfolio is one of **the largest portfolios of clinical research in the North West** with over 400 clinical research projects covering many disease areas including cancer, gastroenterology, oral health, stroke, ophthalmology, infection and pharmacology.



## Integrated Clinical Academic Training (ICAT)

ICAT is a programme of training and support, designed for clinicians undertaking academic careers. It provides undergraduate opportunities and postgraduate professional career pathways in both medicine and dentistry.

Through the ICAT programme, we aspire to develop the next generation of leading medical academics. It is the partnership between University of Liverpool and Health Education North West and is jointly managed by representatives of both organisations.

The University provides a nurturing, active learning environment and supports each ICAT trainee through developing personal research skills and professional and educational practice. ICAT training is also underpinned by individualised career mentorship and academic supervision.

Within the Faculty of Health and Life Sciences, we deliver world-class research in areas such as cancer, drug safety and infectious diseases for children and adults. ICAT trainees work at the forefront of these studies and conduct their own research within our state-of-the-art facilities.

Alongside training and mentorship, ICAT provides regular trainee forums and an innovative programme of events and tailored networking opportunities. ICAT provides a range of pathways suitable for trainees at different stages in their careers:

- Academic Foundation Programme Years 1&2
- Academic Clinical Fellowships
- Clinical Research Fellowships leading to PhD
- Academic Clinical Lectureship posts
- Clinician Scientist Posts and National Clinician Scientist Awards Posts Dentistry

### The Academic Foundation Programme

The Academic Foundation Programme (AFP) over years 1&2 is part of a structured career pathway within the ICAT programme and is ideally suited to those with an interest in research, or who already know they want to pursue an academic career.

Securing an Academic Foundation appointment is highly competitive. It is not essential, but an advantage for applicants to already hold a degree such as a MRes, MPhil, MSc or PhD and to demonstrate other evidence of research activity, particularly published work.

This structured two-year programme allows you to obtain clinical competencies, while following a research interest of your choice. You will gain the essential knowledge required of a junior doctor and also develop research, teaching, leadership and management skills.

Liverpool and Merseyside have 21 posts per year as part of the HENW Foundation School. Each post involves a dedicated 4-month academic block during year 2. The remaining time is spent rotating through various clinical specialties at the host hospital.

15 of the 21 trainees undertake a research project during the 4 month F2 block. There are a range of possible supervisors and specialties available:

- 6 trainees are based at Royal Liverpool University Hospital
- 6 at University Hospital Aintree/Walton Centre for Neurology and Neurosurgery
- 3 at Alder Hey Children's Hospital

6 of the 21 trainees have an 'education' 4 month block in F2. They undergo training in medical educational methods and support the delivery of teaching to undergraduate medical students. They also undertake an educational research project. 3 education trainees are based at Royal Liverpool University Hospital and 3 at University Hospital Aintree.