

## Specialised Foundation Programmes at Liverpool University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust (Royal Liverpool, Broadgreen and Aintree Sites)

### **Specialised Foundation Team**

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*Foundation Training Programme Directors:* Mr Chris Webb, Consultant ENT Surgeon; Dr Cecilia Jukka, Consultant Medical Microbiologist; Dr Rob Jones, A+E consultant; Dr Raj Kumar, DMOPS/Stroke consultant.

Our Specialised Foundation Programme (SFP) involves collaboration between clinicians and clinical academics at Liverpool University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust (LUHFT), Alder Hey Children's Hospital Foundation Trust, Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine and the academic departments at the University of Liverpool.

Twelve of our SFP posts are managed through the Royal Liverpool and Broadgreen site and the remaining 12 are attached to Aintree University Hospital. Each post involves a dedicated 4-month academic block during the second year of foundation training. The remaining 20 months of foundation training are spent rotating through various clinical specialties ensuring a rounded foundation training experience.

During FY1 there are 10 days of dedicated study time to gain necessary training in research methods and help plan the FY2 academic project. Typically this time, spread throughout the year, includes time meeting with the academic supervisor to help plan the project, applying for ethical approval and sponsorship; gaining the Good Clinical Practice certificate; attending a medical statistics course, which we provide through Liverpool University, and attending a Critical Appraisal workshop. We can also support other activities during these study days if that activity is essential to support the FY2 academic project.

There are regular academic research seminars throughout FY1 and FY2 to promote academic excellence and allow AFPs to learn from each other as well as experts in their own field.

There are **15 Bespoke Academic Research posts** based at LUHFT: Unlike a lot of other Specialised Foundation Programmes we provide flexibility around placement, permitting pursuit of personalised research interests. We have a wide network of academic colleagues in many specialties which allow us to facilitate myriad projects.

Recent Academic Research posts have been affiliated with, but not limited to, the following units:

- Clinical Pharmacology and Therapeutics
- Cancer (especially Pathology)
- Haematology
- Respiratory
- Rheumatology
- Neurology
- Infectious Diseases (including our first SFP placement in Malawi)
- Ophthalmology (including our second SFP placement in Malawi)

There are **6 Academic Education posts** based at LUHFT: Foundation doctors choosing an Academic Education post will undergo training in medical educational methods and support the delivery of teaching to undergraduate medical students and postgraduate learners with involvement in the Simulation Training team.

They also undertake an educational research project and are currently fully funded to complete a Postgraduate Certificate in Teaching and Learning in Clinical Practice at Edge Hill University (this is a distance learning course with some face to face contact days and requires completion of three higher education modules and assessments).

There are **3 Academic Paediatric Research posts** based at Alder Hey Children's Hospital, Liverpool: Foundation doctors allocated to Academic Paediatric Research complete their clinical programme through the Royal Liverpool and Broadgreen University Hospital but the academic paediatric research foundation advisor is supported by Dr Melissa Gladstone, Senior Lecturer in Neurodevelopmental Paediatrics and International Child Health. These posts are linked with a 4 month placement in clinical paediatrics during the FY2 year in addition to the mandatory GP placement.

## General information

In November 2019, Royal Liverpool and Broadgreen University Hospitals NHS Trust merged with Aintree University Hospital NHS Foundation Trust to become Liverpool University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust. Across the three hospitals we now offer foundation training posts to over 100 foundation year 1 and over 100 foundation year 2 doctors.

The brand-new Royal Liverpool University Hospital was officially opened in September 2022 and is based close to the city centre, providing emergency, general and specialist treatment to patients from across the North-West of England, North Wales and the Isle of Man.

The hospital forms the heart of the Liverpool Health Campus, part of Liverpool University's Knowledge Quarter. It incorporates a Biomedical Research Unit which is the only one of its kind nationally focusing on pancreatic disease. There is also a research centre for infectious and microbial disease which works closely with the world-renowned Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine.

The Health Campus provides for a concentration and co-location of research, industry and healthcare provision collaborating in health related research and clinical trials, enabling Liverpool to become a centre of global excellence in biomedical sciences.

University Hospital Aintree provides both acute and elective secondary healthcare services to North Liverpool, South Sefton and surrounding areas. It is also the Major Trauma centre for Merseyside.

The Trust provides all major services such as respiratory care, diabetes, upper GI surgery, colorectal surgery, endocrine and thyroid surgery, vascular surgery, and urology. We also have regional and national specialist services in nephrology, renal transplant, renal dialysis, ophthalmology, and breast surgery, in addition to the hepatobiliary and infectious diseases services mentioned previously. Through our close collaboration with the Clatterbridge Cancer Centre we are also able to offer experience in haematology and oncology.

As a major University Hospital, we work closely with the University of Liverpool. All SFP appointed doctors are affiliated to the University of Liverpool through an honorary contract, which allows access to the University facilities including the library.

Our aim is to provide the highest quality undergraduate and postgraduate education to support development in all disciplines with recognition as a centre of excellence in biomedical, clinical and health service research.

The state-of-the-art Alder Hey Children's Hospital opened in October 2015. This unique opportunity facilitated the development of an outstanding new Research, Innovation and Education Institute alongside the hospital. Within the hospital there is a flourishing research environment with an emphasis on the career development of young researchers.

Research interests range from translational basic science research, pharmacogenomics of adverse drug reactions in children, clinical trials and systematic reviews. Within the Medicines for Children Clinical Trials Unit, which is based in the Institute, expertise includes senior statisticians, trials managers and IT specialists. Many here also work in International Child Health and there are

opportunities within a number of areas of paediatrics including links with Malawi Liverpool Wellcome Trust.

### Integrated Academic Training (IAT)

IAT 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 IAT programme, we aspire to develop the next generation of leading medical academics. It is a partnership between University of Liverpool and NHS England and is jointly managed by representatives of both organisations.

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

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

- Specialised 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