

## **Specialised Foundation Posts (SFP) at Manchester University Foundation Trust (MFT)**

MFT is one of the largest trusts in the UK employing over 200,000 staff and hosting over 700 trainees including academic clinical fellows and clinical lecturers. The trust comprises of 11 hospitals, Manchester Royal Infirmary; Wythenshawe Hospital; Trafford General Hospital; North Manchester General Hospital; Royal Manchester Children's Hospital; Manchester Royal Eye Hospital; Saint Mary's Hospital; University Dental Hospital of Manchester; Withington Community Hospital; Altrincham Hospital and NHS Nightingale Hospital Northwest.

### **Associate Foundation Programme Director for Specialised Foundation Programme**

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### **Overview**

MFT has close and well-established links with the University of Manchester Faculty of Biology, Medicine, and Health, and with many clinical academics on staff. In addition, the academic departments of primary care and psychiatry are both within our health economy. Our aim is to introduce foundation doctors to consider developing academic, teaching and leadership skills that will be transferable and beneficial to future career development.

### **Structure of programme**

A dedicated 4-month block of Specialised activity is undertaken during the second year of foundation training overseen by a named Supervisor. Trainees can undertake activities in any clinical area or discipline as highlighted below. Several supervisors and projects are available cross the trust for any trainee who are undecided at the start of the programme.

Trainees are encouraged to plan activities in the first year of the programme and set objectives. All trainees are supported to present their work at national and international conferences.

#### Clinical and Laboratory Research

The wide choice of academic placements will provide a range of opportunities for training in the principles and practice of research, including experimental design, laboratory practice and methodology, epidemiology, clinical trials, preparation of ethical applications and grant writing.

#### Leadership and Management

There is an opportunity to undertake a medical leadership and management placement. The trainee will shadow an experienced medical leader within the trust and gain skills in service development with a focus on understanding your own leadership style, developing skills to manage teams, coaching and mentoring, motivating self and others, developing time management skills, and understanding quality improvement tools.

Trainees can choose to undertake a funded module of the PG Cert in Medical Leadership at Edge Hill University.

## Medical Education

A wide range of undergraduate and postgraduate medical education is delivered at MFT with many opportunities to participate in educational research, curriculum development and delivery, to develop core educational skills. A suitable supervisor and mentor will be assigned depending on the expressed area of interest.

Trainees will be encouraged to undertake a funded module of the PG Cert in Teaching and Learning in Clinical Practice at Edge Hill University.

## **Research Methods Training**

### Generic Research Skills Training

MFT has close links with the Integrated Clinical Academic Training (ICAT) programme hosted by the University of Manchester. Trainees will have opportunities to attend [Academic Clinical Fellows training sessions](#) which are facilitated by the Centre for Academic and Researcher Development (CARD) hosted by the ICAT ( <http://sites.bmh.manchester.ac.uk/icat/> ) including seminars on the following topics:

- Creativity and Ethics
- Equality and Diversity
- Getting the Most out of Research Conferences
- Leadership
- Personal effectiveness and Time Management
- Reviewing Papers and Grants
- Teaching Introduction
- Teaching Tool Kit
- Public Engagement

### Teaching and Training:

All SFP trainees will be participating in the Regional Northwest Foundation Schools Training Programme for Special Experience Foundation Doctors. The programme is available for both F1 and F2 years in SFP and happens in various sites across Northwest Region through once-a-month full day teaching days. The programme is designed to equip Specialised Foundation trainees with a solid foundation in key elements relating to research, education, and leadership. Regardless of their individual academic track trainees will therefore be introduced to basic elements of education, leadership, and research practices, so that they can then focus on any individualised projects or initiatives that they may wish to design or establish in their chosen track. From conception through to data analysis and dissemination, Trainees will be supported by the faculty, including peer support. Attending journal clubs and meeting senior leaders in the fields of education, research and leadership will be highlights of the programme. There will be an expectation for trainees to evidence their progress by mapping to the Horus core curriculum competencies. Pivotal teaching and learning aligning to professional behaviour and trust, communication, teamwork and leadership and safety and quality will be included in the programme.

SFP trainees will also attend the generic Foundation programme teaching along with all the foundation programme trainees at MFT which is aimed to meet the FP curriculum needs. All Specialised Foundation Trainees will also have an opportunity to present their work at an annual showcase event which is held at MFT at the end of the foundation programme along with other

counter parts in the region. They are also actively encouraged to present their work at the National AFP conference.

### Good Clinical Practice (GCP)

All SFPs will undergo formal training in GCP, the principles of which include:

- a) Knowledge and competence in obtaining informed consent.
- b) Good record keeping regarding clinical source documents/laboratory notebooks etc.
- c) Compliance with study protocols.
- d) Medical care of study subjects.
- e) Understanding of the roles and responsibilities of various research regulatory authorities.

### Critical Appraisal and academic writing skills

As part of Foundation training, trainees are expected to demonstrate competency in performing a literature search and assessing the quality of evidence identified. We would also expect academic trainees to be able to clearly identify gaps in current knowledge and pose further research questions based on their reading. Critical appraisal competences will be developed at regular journal clubs.

### **Opportunities at MFT**

MFT hosts key research infra-structure including:

- NIHR Manchester Biomedical Research Unit.
- NIHR Manchester Clinical Research Facilities.
- NIHR Manchester Children's Clinical Research Facility.
- A Centre for Advanced Discovery and Experimental Therapeutics (CADET) for the development of new drug treatments.
- The Maternal and Foetal Health Research Centre, Europe's largest pregnancy research centre.
- Nowgen: A Centre for Genetics in Healthcare, aiming to inform and improve the practice of genetic medicine.
- The Wilink Biochemical Genetics Unit, the main diagnostic laboratory for metabolic diseases in the North of England.

The trust hosts The Nightingale Breast Cancer Centre, Wythenshawe Hospital and has close links The Christie NHS Foundation Trust for trainees with an interest in cancer research.

### **1:1 Sessions with AFPD**

Trainees are encouraged to make use of 1: 1 meetings with the SFP AFPD to discuss their project ideas and for guidance / signposting to appropriate academic supervisors ; These are offered at various points in the Year 1 calendar including at the start of Year 1 and end of year 1 , so that by the end of year 1 , all SFP s have a clear project with a named supervisor and are ready to embark their project in their academic block in year 2 .

Within foot print of MFT , there are opportunities for projects in various field / specialties and it is expected that the academic supervisor is either affiliated to MFT or UoM ; consideration can be given for signposting to supervisors outside of MFT , only in the rare case of a particular theme is not

available within MFT ; we have close network within NW Foundation School and help set up links , but this must only be done through SFP AFD .

We have a huge database of projects, in research, Medical Education and Medical leadership and this is regularly updated / refreshed, giving you contact details of available academic supervisors.

### **Mentorship/ Buddying with ACF/Ls**

There are opportunities for specialised foundation trainees to buddy with academic clinical fellows (ACF) and clinical lecturers (ACL) to help learn from each other and promote professional and personal growth. ACF / ACL can provide informal advice and guidance about projects, early career planning and the application process for ACF.

### **Library Services**

The Library Service across the trust plays a vital role in assisting and supporting research taking place in the Trust, ensuring staff and students meet their continuing professional development needs and in supporting the Trust's clinical governance and patient care commitments.

Three libraries across the MFT Group (Oxford Rd, Trafford, & Wythenshawe) function as one library service. Wythenshawe site has 24-hour access via staff ID swipe card. Books can be borrowed and returned 24/7 using the self-service facility situated near the library entrance. There are several different quiet study areas throughout the library as well as space for group study. Computer access is available 24/7.

The Oxford Road Library is available from 0830 to 1900 Monday through Thursday, 0830 to 1700 on Friday, closed Saturday, and Sunday. The Trafford Library is open 0930 to 1600 Monday to Friday, closed Saturday, and Sunday.

A large collection of medical books and journals can be found using the library catalogue which can be accessed via the library's website. The catalogue comprises of print books and journals held at Wythenshawe, Oxford Road Campus, and Trafford Hospital. The catalogue also contains links to the electronic books and journals collections.

The library will carry out literature searches up to systematic review level. Electronic journals are available via an MFT Open Athens account. In addition, a formal arrangement with the University of Manchester allows access to the University of Manchester IT services and electronic journals (including a shibboleth password).

For further information, please contact [Steve.Glover@mft.nhs.uk](mailto:Steve.Glover@mft.nhs.uk) - head of library services. MFT

### **Statistical Support**

Courses on basics statistical principles run throughout the academic year at MFT as well as regular 'Stats surgeries' for advice about project planning and analysis.

### **Contacts**

For further information please contact:

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