Job Description for NIHR Academic Clinical Fellowship in Clinical Radiology (Digital), ST1

1. Job Title.
Academic Clinical Fellow in Clinical Radiology at ST1

2. Duration of post.
This post is offered for a period of 3 years and will provide integrated and structured training in academic and clinical radiology. A regular academic and clinical appraisal process is in place to ensure that academic and clinical milestones are met. If a fellow decides that they wish to follow a clinical rather than clinical-academic career, fails to make satisfactory academic progress or is unsuccessful in obtaining a research training fellowship, they will have the opportunity to re-enter the clinical radiology training programme at ST4.

3. Research institutions in which training will take place
St George's Hospital and City St George's, University of London (CSG). Potential for collaboration with other institutions and networks depending on trainee interest and the projects undertaken. The Imaging Research Group's established collaborations include, within London, Imperial College London, Great Ormond Street Hospital, the Royal Marsden Hospital, Moorfields Eye Hospital and King's College London; nationally, South Tees Hospital, Nottingham Hospital, Sheffield, Birmingham and Cambridge; and internationally, the University of Pennsylvania and Ajou University Hospital, South Korea. The group also collaborates with industry partners including Motilent and Quantified Imaging.

4. Timetabling of clinical and research time
Academic training is delivered incorporated into clinical training programme. The post holder will spend 4 days a week in clinical training and one day a week undertaking research. A finite period of increased academic time will be scheduled considering the trainee's interests and progression appropriate to their research needs and clinical rotations to ensure the full complement of academic training time.

The scheduling of the academic day will be integrated into their clinical training rotation within the Trust and peripheral hospitals, but the day may change depending on the project chosen, academic supervisor and the subspecialty rotation.

In our experience the timetabling of an academic day facilitates our academic trainees to build their academic competencies alongside their clinical training which is delivered in “body part” blocks and thus a dedicated block of academic time is not feasible.

5. Description of research component of programme
The post-holder will be encouraged to use their initial research time to develop their ideas for a MD(Res) or PhD research degree with a view to applying for research support to NIHR, Wellcome, MRC and other relevant funding bodies to undertake such a degree. We strongly encourage and support our post-holders to apply for smaller grants to support their research activity during the ACF programme.

The post-holder will join the Imaging Research Group at St George's Hospital, a rapidly growing, multidisciplinary collaboration of experts in diagnostic and interventional radiology, radiography and medical physics. Formally established in 2022, the group has evolved quickly, leveraging its

multidisciplinary nature to foster innovation, collaboration and cutting-edge research, and has a strong and growing track record of high-impact publications.

The group's work spans five active research themes:

Interventional radiology (vascular and non-vascular). Workstreams in procedural technique and outcomes, patient factors, and reducing health inequalities — for example, work on the patient factors influencing fibroid embolisation, and imaging and intervention in rare genetic disease.

Gastrointestinal radiology. Workstreams in colorectal cancer and inflammatory bowel disease, the utility of accelerated MRI acquisition and protocol development, and quantification of bowel motion — including via GIQuant®— alongside a hepatobiliary imaging workstream.

Rare genetic disease. Workstreams and trials in imaging for tuberous sclerosis, neurodegeneration imaging and primary lymphoedema where we are the largest UK centre for genetic, clinical and imaging research.

AI and computer sciences. Collaborations across City St George's spanning the development, validation and procurement of AI tools and exploration of their real-world performance — including a locally-sponsored study validating AI-based MRI acceleration (Ai-RMRI) and a collaborative project on AI in mammographic screening with Imperial College London and Google DeepMind.

Patient pathway work. With more patients receiving imaging than ever before our pathway work investigates and validates strategies for optimizing the timing and protocols for imaging, increasingly looking to employ AI and digital tools to streamline activity.

With at least 15 research-active consultants, NIHR ACFs, locally-funded research fellows, research-active allied health professionals, and research time routinely offered to senior clinical trainees, the department has a strong culture of academic excellence and career progression. In the last three years, those allied to the group and within it have won competitive research funding, including a doctoral research fellowship from the British Heart Foundation, an MRC programme grant, and funding from the Royal College of Radiologists and the South Eastern Kidney Patients Association. Several consultants hold honorary academic appointments with City St George's, University of London, and the department's deputy research lead was themselves previously an ACF at St George's.

The group has established collaborations within London, the UK and internationally giving trainees access to established networks for multi-centre, imaging-focused research. Group members hold committee appointments with special interest groups including the BSPR, BSGAR, BSIR and RCR. Following the 2024 merger between City, University of London and St George's, University of London, the group's collaborations are expanding further with the Neuroscience and Cardiovascular Research Institutes and with Radiography and AI research groups, with areas of focus including neurodegenerative disease, brain tumours, lymphoedema, tuberous sclerosis and AI applications in imaging.

With access to multiple datasets and collaborative projects, academic trainees gain hands-on experience in research methodology and in developing data for funding applications, working across all radiology subspecialties within a broad, integrated clinical and research environment. Trainees are supported by the

Research Delivery Team, a dedicated research coordinator, and access to statistical expertise and training through TACRI and City St George's, University of London.

The Hospital is equipped with state-of-the-art MRI and CT scanners featuring AI-based imaging acquisition and dual-energy techniques, ensuring high-quality imaging and adherence to the latest legislation and quality assurance standards. Close partnership between radiologists, medical physicists and radiographers ensures optimal imaging quality and rapid implementation of new imaging techniques.

The department is supported by a Clinical Research Facility and contributes to an active portfolio of NIHR, commercial and academic studies.

6. Description of clinical training component of programme

The clinical component of the post will take place at St George's University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust, one of the largest healthcare units in the United Kingdom. The main site is based at St George's in Tooting; a diagnostic hospital unit (with radiology) at Queen Mary's Roehampton; a therapy unit at St John's Therapy Centre Wandsworth; and imaging services at the Nelson diagnostic unit in Merton. St George's serves a catchment population of 1.3 million across South West London, and some tertiary services also cover populations from Surrey and Sussex, totalling 3.5 million people. The Trust has approximately 1,300 beds and employs over 9,000 staff. It provides general acute services together with specialty services, including neurosciences, cardiothoracic and specialist children's services. It is the only teaching hospital in South West Thames, with strong links to surrounding hospitals, and is a major tertiary referral centre and major trauma centre. St George's Hospital also oversees community services in Wandsworth, some of which are provided at Queen Mary's Hospital, St John's Therapy Unit and a number of larger local GP practices. The department includes an MRI annexe with two 1.5T Siemens Sola scanners and one 3T Siemens Vida scanner.

There are 46 consultants in the main department at St George's Hospital, each with a subspecialty interest, and 11 consultant neuroradiologists. There are approximately 48 ST1-5 trainees on the St George's Radiology training scheme, and 7 subspecialty ST4-6 SpRs in interventional radiology, with numerous opportunities for Year 4-5 special interest training in other areas.

Training rotation – residents start in August and after a first 6 months based at St George’s focused on core skills for ST1s, rotate through a series of nine four-monthly core specialty blocks following a modular curriculum, as outlined by the Royal College of Radiologists. Structured tutorials are provided, with all core training covered in Years 1-3. ST4 & 5 is largely based at St George's Hospital for special interest training, with individuals encouraged to devise personal timetables in conjunction with trainers (attachments outside the rotation hospitals are also possible) in their chosen special interest field. All residents undergo a yearly ARCP process and participate in regular appraisal and assessment for each module in the rotation.

Examinations – Year 1 trainees complete the RCR Part 1 FRCR, a physics/ionising radiation-based and anatomy examination, in March of their first year. ST1 trainees are also expected to take local examinations in A&E plain radiograph reporting and pre-on-call exams. FRCR Part IIA is a single examination usually undertaken in the early part of the third year of training. FRCR Part IIB can first be taken after completion of 3 years of training, at the start of the ST4 year.

Teaching – Local 8.00am tutorials are given daily by consultants, with some devoted specifically to research topics. On alternate Thursdays there is an interesting cases meeting. Prior to the FRCR IIB there is an extensive tutorial programme for oral exam practice and rapid cases. A Protocols and Procedures Day is held annually after the new intake. In addition to specialty MDT meetings, there are multiple specialty-based clinico-radiological meetings per week. There is a bi-monthly Clinical Governance meeting comprising lectures, audit presentations and a review of reporting discrepancies. Regional teaching occurs every 6-8 weeks in conjunction with other London training schemes, divided into pre- and post-FRCR lectures.

Hospitals on the training programme include Great Ormond Street Hospital for Children, The Royal Brompton, The Royal Marsden, and Epsom, St Helier and Kingston Hospitals.

Great Ormond Street Hospital is a major UK and international tertiary referral centre for paediatrics, linked to the Institute of Child Health. All aspects of paediatric medicine, surgery, radiology and management are covered. There are 9 paediatric body radiologists, 5 paediatric neuroradiologists and 5 interventional paediatric radiologists. ST1-3 core rotation trainees spend 6 weeks there as part of their paediatric training, with the option to return for a longer period at subspecialty level.

The Royal Brompton Hospital is a major UK and international referral centre for chest and cardiac disease, covering all aspects of cardiac and thoracic imaging (particularly CT and MRI) with excellent opportunities for research and subspecialty training. There are 8 consultant trainers.

The Royal Marsden is a leading national centre for oncological disease, forming a joint cancer centre with St George's Healthcare NHS Trust, with predominant referrals from the South West and West London Cancer Networks alongside a high out-of-area referral rate for rare cancers, recurrent disease and treatment-related problems.

Epsom and St Helier Hospitals and Kingston Hospital, Surrey are large, busy district general hospitals within South-West Thames and easy commuting distance of St George's, offering training opportunities in MRI, intervention, paediatrics, and obstetrics and gynaecology.

7. Academic Programme Director name

Dr Anita Wale, awale@citystgeorges.ac.uk

Academic Lead (University) for the IAT Programme
Professor Nidhi Sofat, Professor of Rheumatology (St George's, University of London), Consultant Rheumatologist (St George's University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust, London) 020 8725 0042 nsofat@sgul.ac.uk

8. Clinical Programme Director name
Dr Joy Barber (joy.barber@stgeorges.nhs.uk) and Dr Jonathan Gabriel (Jonathan.Gabriel@stgeorges.nhs.uk)

9. Programme contact for further information (phone or email)

Dr Anita Wale, awale@citystgeorges.ac.uk

10. NHSE contact:
Specialty Team https://lasepgmdesupport.hee.nhs.uk/support/home
Recruitment Enquiries - https://lasepgmdesupport.hee.nhs.uk/support/home

11. Useful websites for further information IAT Guide | NIHR
https://www.nihr.ac.uk/explore-nihr/academy-programmes/integrated-academic-training.htm

12. Confirmation that the post attracts an NTN (A)

Yes

This job description was prepared on 10 August 2026, for August 2027 entry.