Job Description for NIHR Academic Clinical Fellowship in General Psychiatry (Theme: Dementia) CT 1-3

1. Job Title.
Academic Clinical Fellowship in general adult psychiatry (Theme: Dementia)

2. Duration of post.
3 years

3. Research institutions in which training will take place
Academic Centre for Healthy Ageing and Centre for Psychiatry and Mental Health, Wolfson Institute of Population Health, Faculty of Medicine and Dentistry, Queen Mary University of London. Barts and The London, Queen Mary University of London, Faculty of Medicine and Dentistry

4. Timetabling of clinical and research time
The ACF will rotate through clinical placements in Core Psychiatry Training during CT1–CT3. They will have 9 months of academic time across these three years, divided as agreed with their supervisors.

5. Description of research component of programme
The post is based at the Wolfson Institute of Population Health (WIPH), home to over 100 postgraduate research students (PGRs), over 100 academics and in total over 600 staff and PGRs contributing to research, education and public engagement activities. Average annual grant income (over the last three years) into WIPH is over £35m. WIPH sits alongside five other institutes within the Faculty of Medicine and Dentistry at Queen Mary University of London. The post holder will work closely with the new Academic Centre for Healthy Ageing (ACHA) and the Centre for Psychiatry and Mental Health which sit within the Wolfson Institute.

ACHA focusses on multidisciplinary research, education and training to improve care and support for older people in north-east London. It is jointly supported by Barts Health NHS Trust (main funder £6.6 million) and Queen Mary University of London, with partners including north-east London integrated care system ICS, north-east London borough councils, social care, mental health (East London Foundation Trust) and the primary care consortium. ACHA has unique access to clinical services, acute trust, mental health, and community services. Key academic partners include Barts Life Sciences and the new Barts health data Platform. Its mission is to deliver world-leading research where patient care happens, in real world 'frontline' care settings, underpinned by well-resourced patients and caregiver input (PPIE). It is jointly led by Professor Liz Sampson (liaison and old age psychiatry) and Adam Gordon (geriatric medicine).

The Centre for Psychiatry and Mental Health (CPMH) has a strong track record in mental health research and close collaboration with the East London NHS Foundation Trust. The Centre has a multi-disciplinary research group of 76 staff, 60 full-time researchers, and 33 PhD students, including 6 NIHR ACFs. There is a strong network of methodological support available across quantitative, qualitative, and mixed methods. Of relevance to this post is our Dementia and Ageing Research Unit (DARE), based within the Centre for Psychiatry and Mental Health (CPMH) at Queen Mary University of London (QMUL), is a new unit focused on advancing research, innovation, and collaboration in dementia and healthy ageing. DARE brings together interdisciplinary expertise with a strong emphasis on improving prevention, diagnosis, care, and support for individuals and communities. By working closely with clinicians, researchers, policymakers, and people with lived experience, the unit aims for its research to translate into practical and policy impacts that enhance quality of life and inform health and social care systems.

The Wolfson Institute also hosts the Centre for Preventive Neurology which focusses on disease determinants, early detection, and health inequalities across neurological disease, particularly in neurodegeneration and dementia.

The ACF will be encouraged to acquire practical teaching experience and will be expected to contribute to teaching across WIPH and the medical school.

The successful ACF will receive close support and mentoring from senior clinical academics in the Institute and beyond, in addition to a close network of support from the North East London (ELFT and NELFT) Psychiatry Training Scheme. Generic research skills and methodology training will be offered via academic seminars, and QM Academy courses. There are opportunities to learn a wide range of methodological skills including systematic reviews, mixed-methods approaches, large data analysis, machine learning, qualitative methods, social network analysis etc. This post would be an excellent platform for the successful individual to secure personal PhD fellowship funding and develop an independent clinical academic career.

6. Description of clinical training component of programme

The trainee rotation for North East London is led by Training Programme Directors Dr Laura Checkley (ELFT) and Dr Gemma Hopkins (NELFT). The scheme covers both East London NHS Foundation Trust and North East London NHS Foundation Trust. The MRCPsych course runs centrally in ELFT for both Trusts. Allocations for posts will be made available twice a year, with posts rotating every 6 months, taking into account training need and preferences of postholders where possible. Trainees are allocated an Educational Supervisor. A mandatory Wednesday afternoon teaching programme runs in all boroughs and includes Case Presentations, Journal Clubs and Ballint Groups. Psychotherapy experience and supervision is also borough-led. The post holder will contribute to the relevant brough on-call rota.

7. Academic Programme Director name
Dr Nikolina Jovanovic (Psychiatry ACF lead at QMUL)

8. Clinical Programme Director name
Dr Laura Checkley

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

- *Academic Lead*

Dr Nikolina Jovanovich - n.jovanovic@qmul.ac.uk

- *Academic Supervisor*

Professor Liz Sampson - e.sampson@qmul.ac.uk

- *IAT Leads at Queen Mary*
  - Dr Upkar Gill Email: u.gill@qmul.ac.uk
  - Dr Sasha Howard Email: s.howard@qmul.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 10th August 2026.