Job Description for NIHR Academic Clinical Fellowship in General Psychiatry (Mental Health) <ST1-ST4>

1. Job Title.
NIHR Academic Clinical Fellowship in General Psychiatry (Mental Health)

2. Duration of post.
3 years

3. Research institutions in which training will take place
Institute of Psychiatry, Psychology and Neuroscience (IoPPN), King's College London (KCL).

4. Timetabling of clinical and research time
ACF's are usually timetabled to have a three-month research block in ST2 and then a 6-month research block in ST3. This arrangement may potentially be varied depending on trainees needs and the type of research conducted.

5. Description of research component of programme
These posts will provide ACF's with an exciting range of academic psychiatry training opportunities to inspire their initial experiences in research. The posts are designed to enable ACF's to establish a focus and develop preliminary research towards successful psychiatry PhD fellowships. They address a pressing need to train the next generation of academic psychiatrists in a broad range of translational and experimental medicine skills with the ability to integrate a broad range of translational technologies (imaging, electrophysiology, neural interfaces, cognitive neuropsychology, early-stage clinical trials).

In addition to this, we would also welcome applications from those interested in other aspects of psychiatry, including, for example, those interested in epidemiology, social psychiatry or global mental health.

King's hosts a world-leading, interdisciplinary mental health research environment, recognised in REF21 with 100% 4* for UoA4 at the Institute of Psychiatry, Psychology and Neuroscience (IoPPN). Our mental health research outputs are among the most highly cited globally, with more top 1% citations than any other centre internationally (SciVal), supported by a research income of over £80.5M/year.

The schools of Academic Psychiatry and Mental Health and Psychological Sciences encompass all mental health across the lifespan, from childhood to older age, using diverse methods from molecular to social and policy. Our strong translational partnership with the South London and Maudsley NHS Trust (SLaM) is exemplified by our NIHR Maudsley Biomedical Research Centre and Clinical Research Facility (combined £47M), which drives pioneering translational research.

We contribute to high-impact initiatives, including the NIHR Translational Research Collaboration in Mental Health, the NIHR BioResource and UK Biobank. We co-lead the NIHR Mental Health Policy Research Unit (MHPRU-2) with UCL (£2.2M) and the NIHR Addictions Policy Research Unit with Sheffield (£4M). Enriching the academic training environment, our strategic awards include the ESRC Centre for Society and Mental Health (£7.6M), the UKRI Population Mental Health Consortium, (£8.8M, 2024), the Compass Centre for Mental Health Research and Innovation (£11M, 2023), the Pears Maudsley Centre for Children and Young People, housing a new Clinical Research Facility for research on children's mental health (combined investment of >£80million from SLaM, UKRIPF, King's College London and philanthropy, opening in 2025).

Project areas
Projects will be aligned to the four NIHR supported mental health research goals (2020-30), and include transdiagnostic research across 5 domains:

1. Population mental health: study of drug-related deaths using the National Programme on Substance Use Mortality; investigating internet-based platforms for rapid triage, e-recruitment and delivery of therapy trials
2. Social science, systems and policy: research into the impact of digitised advance choice documents (ACDs) on subsequent routine clinical care following detention under the Mental Health Act
3. Novel treatments: neuromodulation and pharmacological, e.g. Temporal Interference stimulation for Depression targeting the amygdala and anterior cingulate cortex, using fMRI to assess changes in response; Anti-inflammatory and immunomodulatory effects and clinical response in psilocybin-treated ASD, anorexia nervosa or treatment-resistant depression in phase 2 trials; Effect of Riluzole in reducing the glutamate elevation seen in antipsychotic treatment-refractory schizophrenia
4. Precision psychiatry: fMRI or EEG brain activation as predictors of treatment response for alternative non-drug treatments for ADHD, including non-invasive brain stimulation (eTNS and TMS); using cardiac MRI and immune / metabolomic profiling to compare cardiac structure and function in antipsychotic-naïve people with healthy controls, to characterise mechanisms of cardiac fibrosis/inflammation
5. Mental-physical interface: improving clinical recognition and outcomes for patients with autoimmune encephalitis, using novel cognitive and digital behavioural tests, neuroimaging and neuro-immunological methods including autoantibody analysis.

Innovative/interdisciplinary approaches
Core to this theme is the pivotal role of PPIE and co-produced research. All IATs are trained to incorporate PPIE from research planning onwards, and the IATs have access to support for this, including the Building Race Equity and Diversity (BREaD) in Research, offering cultural insights highly relevant to King's local population. IATs navigate their career progression with an emphasis on generating impactful research with the support of proactive research development, impact and communications professionals. Examples include:

i. linking social science and policy relevant research to the work of policy makers through the King's Policy Institute
ii. interdisciplinary training from psychiatrists, cardiologists, radiologists, immunologists and bioinformaticians to integrate mental and physical health research e.g. cardiotoxic effects of antipsychotics, combining translational informatics, trial methodology and health economic analyses in web-based virtual trial research.

This post will be led by Dr Shotbolt and trainees will be supported to choose a supervisor that aligns to their interests from the large pool of supervisors with expertise in General Psychiatry at the IoPPN, KCL.

The IoPPN has become one of the world's leading producers of high-quality research papers in mental health. The IoPPN and SLAM jointly host the country's only NIHR Biomedical Research Centre specialising in Mental Health, the NIHR Maudsley BRC. The School of Academic Psychiatry teaches scientists and clinical practitioners. Each of its departments offers PhD studentships, and run a variety of Masters Courses and other training programmes. The School also hosts numerous conferences, events and public debates. Uniquely the School has a special role in the postgraduate training of doctors to become qualified

psychiatrists, in partnership with allied NHS Trusts, but also by contributing to the medical curriculum at King's College London, equipping all doctors with some knowledge and skills relevant to mental health. All of the departments have hosted at least one IAT and research components include:

-**The Department of Psychosis Studies** which is one of the world's largest groups conducting research on psychosis across the spectrum from early diagnosis, to understanding mechanisms to finding novel therapies in treatment resistance.
-**The Department of Psychological Medicine** is a large department that hosts the Centre for Affective Disorders and conducts research in neuropsychiatry, neuromodulation, depression, bipolar disorder, anxiety disorders, perinatal psychiatry, psychological oncology, eating disorders and stress related disorders.
-**The Addictions department** houses the National Addiction Centre which over the last 30 years has developed a body of research evidence that has informed the development of new treatment services for alcohol, smoking and drug problems in the UK.
-**The Department of Forensic and Neurodevelopmental Sciences** which is one of Europe's largest research groups focusing on the development of prosocial and antisocial behaviours across the lifespan and world leaders in brain imaging of infants, and in relating differences in brain structure and function to social and cognitive development.

For further information on the IoPPN see https://www.kcl.ac.uk/ioppn/about/index.aspx

For further information on the Maudsley BRC see http://www.maudsleybrc.nihr.ac.uk/

For further information about SLAM see http://www.slam.nhs.uk/

6. Description of clinical training component of programme
The South London and Maudsley Specialist Training Scheme is one of the largest in the UK with over 80 different placements across South London. It has a longstanding reputation for being a leading UK psychiatry training scheme that, in partnership with the university department, has helped train a cadre of the UK's leading clinical academics in the specialty. The close links between academic and clinical departments enable trainees to undertake a wide range of research into all areas of Adult Mental Health. The SLaM BRC provides infrastructure support for a raft of translational research projects including imaging, project management, bioresources (i.e. genomics and proteomics) and clinical informatics.

The areas of training covered include general adult psychiatry, old age psychiatry, forensic psychiatry, child and adolescent psychiatry, learning disabilities and psychotherapy. There are approximately 80 posts at CT1-3 and it is anticipated the ACF trainees will have clinical placements based geographically within the London Boroughs of Southwark, Lambeth, Lewisham and Croydon.

The standard training trajectory post qualification is for a trainee to complete three years as a CT1-3 trainee and during that time to gain their membership of the Royal College of Psychiatrists; as part of this training over three years all trainees have access to structured teaching up to one day a week. Candidates would also be expected to participate in workplace-based training and assessment and to meet ARCP criteria for progression through training. For candidates appointed at CT2 progression to ST4 would be dependent on both success in the MRCPsych and the ARCP process. Applicants who are applying for ST4 entry must hold a National Training Number (NTN) in General Psychiatry and must be an ST4 trainee at post start date.

Both clinical and academic trainees have access to a clinical mentorship scheme and for ACFs specific academic mentoring will also be available

For further information see

www.slam.nhs.uk https://www.kcl.ac.uk/lsm/study/training/iat/index.aspx

7. Academic Programme Director name
Dr Paul Shotbolt, Clinical Senior Lecturer in Neuropsychiatry

8. Clinical Programme Director name
Dr Richard Haslam

9. Programme contact for further information (phone or email)
Dr Paul Shotbolt, paul.shotbolt@kcl.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

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