JOB DESCRIPTION: NIHR ACADEMIC CLINICAL FELLOWSHIP (ACF) IN OBSTRETRICS AND GYNAECOLOGY (ST3)

1. Job Title

NIHR Academic Clinical Fellowship in Obstetrics and Gynaecology (with a sub-specialty of Fetal Medicine), incorporating:

- Academic research in Clinical Education at the Medway Fetal and Maternal Medicine Centre
- Specialty Training in Obstetrics and Gynecology at Medway NHS Foundation Trust

2. Duration of post

Three years.

3. Research institutions in which training will take place

- Medway Fetal and Maternal Medicine Centre (MFMC)
- King's College London

The core of the Research Training Programme will be provided in partnership with the well-established KCL's Clinical Academic Training Office offering a PG Certificate in Applied Research Methods for all ACFs. This bespoke PGCert builds trainees' depth of knowledge, technical and transferable skills in translational research and evidence-based healthcare. Kings currently have 48 ACFs registered; 96 ACFs have been awarded the certificate to date with 95% awarded a distinction (mark>70%) in the last two years.

KMMS trainees will have access to KCL's Big data and Artificial Intelligence training for the healthcare workforce. Developed in-house at Kings via £650k UKRI/MRC investment, the training spans three domains (health data science, 'Omics and AI), which are being embedded into the PGCert.

To ensure that trainees are embedded in their Kent training environment, a local portfolio of academic events and training will be provided at Kent and Medway Medical School and its founding Universities: University of Kent and Canterbury Christ Church. This includes access to KMMS-based systematic review training, the UoK Researcher Development Programme and the training and development portal at Canterbury Christ Church University (StaffLearn). Both Universities' programmes have been designed to equip Postgraduate Researchers and Early Career Researchers with a comprehensive range of academic and transferable skills.

4. Timetabling of clinical and research time

The ACF programme is intended for individuals who wish to pursue academic Obstetrics and Gynaecology as a future career. The fellowship is sponsored by the National Institute for Health Research (NIHR) whose remit is to promote medical

research and foster academic doctors. The fellowship will comprise 75% clinical training and 25% dedicated academic time, which can be organized on a person-by-person basis, according to the individual requirements of the clinical specialty training and academic research. ACFs will also be enrolled onto the KCL's PG Certificate in Applied Research Methods.

5. Description of research component of programme

The research supports the NIHR Priority Research Theme Clinical Education Research.

Improvements in maternity care are driving by imbibing latest technology and evidence-based research. Over the years, Obstetric ultrasound (USS) plays a key role in management of pregnancies and improving patient outcomes. A key element of imbibing this technology would be to incorporate this is regular training programmes for speciality trainees. However, despite the pivotal role of USS, there is no emphasis for incorporating this in post-graduate education and training and trainees in UK are therefore being trained on a matrix that has not kept up with times. This is a major departure from what trainees in Europe are experiencing and there is an urgent need to undertake a qualitative and quantitative research to compare and investigate the education and training methodologies in UK in this area.

The ACF will specifically focus on comparing training programmes in UK compared to other European countries. The ACF will be expected to collaborate with European Network of trainees in Obstetrics and Gynaecology as well as local academics to undertake qualitative and quantitative research to investigate the differences in training and trainee and trainer views.

The academic supervisor would be Professor Akolekar, who is the Research Lead for Reproductive Health and Clinical Lead for the Regional service for Fetal Medicine and Placenta Accreta Spectrum (PAS).

6. Description of clinical training component of programme

The ACF will be hosted at the Medway Fetal and Maternal Medicine Centre (MFMC) within the Women's Care Group at Medway NHS Foundation Trust.

Medway NHS Foundation Trust is a single-site hospital Trust based in Gillingham, Kent serving more than 427,000 people across Medway and Swale. It provides clinical services to more than half a million patients a year. It employs more than 5,000 staff, making it one of Medway's largest employers.

The MFMC is a research active specialist department, which is a tertiary referral centre for high-risk pregnancies for Kent and Medway, accredited by NHSE. The unit has a bespoke research active department which includes a team of research fellows and midwives who are involved in several local, national (NIHR) and international research projects. The MFMC is one of the highest recruiters for research studies within the hospital but also within the CKRN in KSS.

Professor Akolekar and his team at MFMC have an excellent track record of supporting several speciality trainees over the years for Master's and PhD degrees over the last few years through OOP-R programmes.

7. Academic Programme Director name

Professor Ranjit Akolekar, Clinical Lead
Medway Fetal and Maternal Medicine Centre

8. Clinical Programme Director name

Professor Hany Habeeb, Clinical Director
Women's Care Group

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

Rachel Mackey, IAT Project Manager, Kent and Medway Medical School
CATO@kmms.ac.uk

10. NHS 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 6th August 2026