

## **Clinical Research Fellowships with the RCoA Centre for Research and Improvement (CR&I)**

The RCoA CR&I in partnership with NHS and independent sector hospitals, seeks to appoint one clinical research fellow to work on the National Emergency Laparotomy Audit (NELA) of the Royal College of Anaesthetists.

The successful candidate will gain exposure to national research and quality improvement programmes, opportunities for academic publication and conference presentations and develop leadership and management skills.

The post will commence in **February 2024**.

The post is linked with a clinical commitment at one of our partner hospitals.

### **Research Opportunity**

#### **National Emergency Laparotomy Audit (NELA)**

We are seeking to appoint one fellow to work with the National Emergency Laparotomy Audit (NELA). The successful candidate's responsibilities will include qualitative and / or quantitative data analysis, report and manuscript writing to support the agreed outcomes of NELA, supporting quality improvement work and presentations at local/regional/national meetings. One priority area is the development of the no-lap cohort within NELA, but other areas of interest can be discussed.

The aim of NELA is to enable the improvement of the quality of care for patients undergoing emergency laparotomy through the provision of high-quality comparative data from all providers of emergency laparotomy. The CR&I is delivering NELA on behalf of the RCoA. NELA is a collaboration between anaesthetic, surgical and other key stakeholders.

Candidates will be expected to attend NELA Project Team meetings, during which they will have opportunities to develop leadership and management skills related to the running of a national-level project. Travel expenses for these meetings will be reimbursed. The successful candidate will be supervised by the NELA project team who will provide a supportive environment for the progressive uptake of key non-clinical skills related to research, management, safety and quality improvement, and education. The Project Team will be open to discussions around support for the Fellow's required competencies/skills they would like to develop.

This post is open to all Anaesthetists, including SAS Doctors, (below Consultant and Specialist level) and no previous research experience is necessary.

**Queries:** [NELA@rcoa.ac.uk](mailto:NELA@rcoa.ac.uk)

## Clinical Placements

This post is salary supported by a clinical commitment at one of the following hospitals/ departments:

### 1. South West Ambulatory Orthopaedic Centre (SWAOC) at Exeter Nightingale Hospital

The NHS Nightingale Hospital Exeter was initially part of the national response to the COVID-19 pandemic, caring for nearly 250 patients with COVID-19 from across Devon, Somerset, and Dorset. It has now been transformed into a state-of-the-art facility and is home to the following services:

- South West Ambulatory Orthopaedic Centre
- Centre of Excellence for Eyes
- Devon Diagnostic Centre
- Exeter rheumatology department

The South West Ambulatory Orthopaedic Centre provides an innovative ambulatory pathway for patients undergoing hip and knee replacement surgery. The service has also expanded now to deliver soft tissue knee surgery, foot and ankle surgery, and spinal surgery is due to commence in late 2023. The centre consists of two operating theatres with supporting accommodation, ambulatory facilities, and some overnight accommodation. The multidisciplinary team have developed cutting edge pathways which deliver orthopaedic surgery with such precision that 60% of patients are able to go home on the same day as their joint replacement surgery (the remainder requiring only a single night in hospital).

#### **Clinical Commitment**

The post holder will have an on-call commitment to the Nightingale, which is for up to 50% of the rota pattern. On-call shifts will be split 50:50 between service commitment and research. This will give the post holder 9 research days across 8 weeks.

There will be additional opportunities to spend time attached to consultant anaesthetists within our operating theatres to learn specific techniques to deliver successful ambulatory arthroplasty anaesthesia. Education supervision will be provided by the Royal Devon University Hospital, Exeter.

**Queries:** Consultant Anaesthetist- Dr Mary Stocker [mary.stocker@nhs.net](mailto:mary.stocker@nhs.net)  
Business Manager- Polly Budden [polly.budden@nhs.net](mailto:polly.budden@nhs.net)

### 2. HCA Critical Care Units

HCA Critical Care department comprises of 5 Critical Care Units, situated in central London, including The London Bridge, The Lister, Princes Grace, Harley Street Clinic and the Wellington hospital. These hospitals specialise in post-surgical and medical critical care and have some of the world's top surgeons performing ground-breaking surgery. Another big part of the HCA's workload is oncology care, with more than 50+ inpatient beds across hospitals.

The ITU Resident Doctor plays a crucial role within the private Healthcare Sector. Consultants work as Independent Practitioners, and therefore the hospital requires the 24-hour presence of a Resident Doctor to provide continuous quality patient care to support these Consultants.

The Resident Doctor will be based within the ICU, but they also provide wider outreach support to the hospital as part of the emergency medical team with the expectation of advanced airway management. The ICU Resident Doctor is expected to work independently within their skillset to review and treat inpatients and formulate plans whilst remaining in communication and seeking guidance from the Consultant in charge or the ITU consultant on-call.

#### **Contract details**

The clinical commitment in this role is a 3-year contract of 0.6-1 (FTE) 24hrs-40/ week. With sponsorship for PhD/MD/ MSc/ MBA. Clinical shifts are 12 or 24-hour and can be flexible to fit around outside commitments. HCA offers a Flex-pool contract which is well-remunerated for flexibility required, working at multiple sites. This may require more flexibility in work pattern as opposed to a permanent /fixed agreement.

**The successful applicant must have:**

- GMC registration and be in good upstanding with GMC.
- Completed foundation training and at least 3-4 further years of anaesthetics/ stage 1 ICM or ACCS.
- At least 1 year experience of anaesthesia and ICU ALS and one of four Major Trauma Centres in London. The trust also provides general acute secondary care together with tertiary specialties including cardiothoracic, neurosciences and specialist obstetric and paediatric services. It is one of the few sites in the UK to provide such a diversity of anaesthetic experience on one site.

**Queries:** Dr Ramin Ajami: [ramin.ajami@hcahealthcare.co.uk](mailto:ramin.ajami@hcahealthcare.co.uk)

Dr Lisa Wilson: [Lisa.Wilson@hcahealthcare.co.uk](mailto:Lisa.Wilson@hcahealthcare.co.uk)

### 3. St George's Hospital anaesthetic department

St George's Hospital NHS Trust is one of the largest healthcare providers in the UK and one of four Major Trauma Centres in London. The trust also provides general acute secondary care together with tertiary specialties including cardiothoracic, neurosciences and specialist obstetric and paediatric services. It is one of the few sites in the UK to provide such a diversity of anaesthetic experience on one site.

The anaesthetic department at St George's Hospital is a large department which has received Anaesthetic Clinical Services Accreditation (ACSA) in recognition of the excellent services it provides. There are weekly anaesthetic educational meetings, regular clinical governance, morbidity, and mortality meetings as well as a teaching programme for trainee anaesthetists, including FRCA exam preparation. As well as a full range of clinical specialties, the department has a high-risk anaesthetic clinic, prehabilitation service and PACU.

This post holder can occupy a slot on either the senior or junior emergency theatres rota, or the obstetrics rota, with a 1 in 8 on-call commitment.

The senior rota is intended for senior trainee anaesthetists, or those with CCT who want to enhance their CV by developing further clinical experience. Possession of the final FRCA examination or equivalent is required. It is the aim of these posts to help prepare the anaesthetist for taking on the responsibility of becoming a consultant, within a safe environment in which advice and support are readily available.

The junior rota is designed for an anaesthetist with 2 years' experience and preferably the primary FRCA or equivalent, with an interest in developing further experience and skills obtainable at a busy London teaching hospital.

The obstetric rota is covering delivery suite duties in a busy tertiary referral centre, with a maternal and foetal medicine service, seeing 5000 deliveries annually.

**Queries:** Dr Carolyn Johnston: [Carolyn.johnston1@nhs.net](mailto:Carolyn.johnston1@nhs.net)

### 4. Royal United Hospital, Bath

Royal United Hospital, Bath is a busy DGH in the south west of England. The department of anaesthesia and intensive care is a well-regarded department nationally and a popular rotation in the Severn school of anaesthesia. It undertakes all major surgery with the exception of transplant, cardiac, thoracic, vascular, major hepatobiliary and neurosurgery. It has a particularly busy emergency general surgery workload and has a keen interest in emergency laparotomy, having made significant

improvements in this field. The department also has a very active research programme, led by Professor Tim Cook, particularly in the area of airway research. There is also excellent QI support in the department, led by Dr Lesley Jordan with formal nationally recognised training available.

The successful applicant will be released from a minimum of 40% of normal daytime clinical activities to participate in the national research project. The remainder of the time will provide clinical anaesthesia for elective surgery with the possibility to tailor sessions to the fellow's particular specialist interest. The successful candidate will also participate in half share of the 1:8 registrar third on-call rotas, covering junior trainees working in emergency theatres, labour ward and intensive care out of hours or the second on obstetric rota depending on seniority. The successful candidate must therefore have obstetric anaesthetic competencies. Regular time will also be allocated for development of local QI and research projects.

**Queries:** Dr Lesley Jordan: [lesleyjordan1@nhs.net](mailto:lesleyjordan1@nhs.net)

## 5. James Cook University Hospital anaesthetic department

### **Project commitment**

There is a 50% commitment to project time.

### **Clinical commitment**

There is a 50% clinical service commitment inclusive of a 1 in 4, weekend daytime Friarage Hospital anaesthetic on call requirement. Further out of hours on-call in support of the James Cook University anaesthesia rota tiers may be required to a maximum overall on-call frequency of 1:8. ITU is covered as a separate rota. All rotas are EWTD compliant. There is a service commitment to daytime elective and emergency anaesthesia delivery at both James Cook University Hospital and Friarage Hospital. There will be opportunity to tailor lists to individual interests to enable fellows to build expertise in a particular area. All clinical activity will be matched to the fellow's level of training and will include appropriate consultant clinical and educational supervision.

James Cook University Hospital (JCUH) is a 1000 bed tertiary teaching hospital and major trauma centre based in Middlesbrough (and only 10 miles from the North Yorkshire Moors!). The anaesthetic department consists of 75 consultants (including 8 military) and 2 SAS grade doctors. In addition, there are 46 trainees in anaesthesia who rotate within the Northern School of Anaesthesia, part of Health Education England North East. We also employ Trust Grade Doctors and Doctors on the MTI programme. JCUH delivers anaesthetic training to Stage 3 in all essential units except paediatrics and offers a large range of Stage 3 Special interest areas. The anaesthetic department has an active research department, which supports a number of academic projects. Dr Dave Murray, NELA chair, is also based at JCUH.

**Queries:** Dr Dave Murray: [dave.murray1@nhs.net](mailto:dave.murray1@nhs.net)

Dr Rebekah Thompson, Clinical Director, Perioperative Services [rebekah.thompson@nhs.net](mailto:rebekah.thompson@nhs.net) contact via anaesthetic department 01642 854600.

## 6. University Hospitals Plymouth

Plymouth Hospitals NHS Trust is one of the largest providers of acute care in the country. We are the tertiary referral centre and Major Trauma Centre for Devon, Cornwall and part of Somerset serving a population of almost 2 million. All services are provided on a single site at Derriford Hospital. These include neurosurgery, maxillofacial surgery, upper and lower GI surgery, plastic surgery, renal transplantation, hepatobiliary surgery and cardiothoracic surgery.

We are a teaching hospital in partnership with the University of Plymouth, incorporating a thriving Medical & Dental School. We employ 6400 staff, have more than 900 beds, and over 48,000 people pass through the main entrance of our hospital in a week. Plymouth, Britain's Ocean City, occupies a stunning location. It is a perfect city for ambitious people looking to build a career, and enjoy a rich and rewarding life. Follow the link below to find out more:

<http://www.visitplymouth.co.uk/>

### **Anaesthetic Department**

The Anaesthetic Department is proud of its reputation as clinically excellent, forward thinking and friendly. We demonstrated this by being the first large unit in the UK to achieve Royal College Accreditation (ACSA) in June 2015 and subspecialty recognition for Neuroanaesthesia and Critical Care in 2016.

We routinely cover over 25 operating theatres, a busy maternity suite, endoscopy, interventional radiology and other "outside areas". We have a comprehensive pre-operative assessment service including > 800 Cardiopulmonary Exercise Tests annually.

We are proud to have colleagues in significant National and Regional Roles and producing excellent Research and Teaching. The Anaesthesia Directorate comprises more than 100 consultants or associate specialists, and approximately 40 trainees. Although large, the Department has a reputation for being supportive and friendly. We deliver > 20 000 PA of direct clinical care per annum in both the operating theatres and the wider hospital environment, and support 5 middle grade on call rotas.

### **Clinical Commitment**

The clinical commitment is 12 shifts a month (8 days, 4 nights)

The post holder will participate in on-call rotas across general & obstetric anaesthesia and critical care – and an additional clinical day per week, exact arrangements depending on experience and preference.

Whilst the CR&I provides the fellow's research project, on site academic mentorship, supervision and academic support is strong. University Hospitals Plymouth hosts a thriving Perioperative Medicine research agenda, currently supports four NIHR academic trainees across Critical Care, Translational, perioperative medicine and military anaesthesia themes. We are also the current host for the SWARM fellow ([www.ukswarm.com](http://www.ukswarm.com)) – linking anaesthesia research and audit across the 6 NHS acute hospitals in the Peninsula School. There are clear opportunities to build from an CR&I fellowship into a longstanding clinical academic career in Devon or Cornwall, balancing an excellent lifestyle with a great working environment.

**Queries:** Please direct further enquiries regarding the host department to Gary Minto, Consultant in Anaesthetics & Perioperative Medicine & Associate Medical Director of R&D for the Trust [gary.minto@nhs.net](mailto:gary.minto@nhs.net) or Dr Rob Jackson, Director of Critical Care [robertjackson1@nhs.net](mailto:robertjackson1@nhs.net)

## **Salaries and Expenses**

**Salaries** will be covered by the employing partner hospital in accordance with standard NHS / independent sector pay scales and the candidate's level of clinical experience.

All **travel expenses** for work undertaken for the RCoA and CR&I will be refunded by the RCoA in accordance with its expenses policy.

**Relocation expenses** must be met by the candidate.

**PhD Fees:** Fellows who wish to undertake a higher degree will be supported. PhD funding is not automatic and will need to be funded from other sources.

## **Person Specification**

See entries for individual hospitals for details of clinical experience required.

All posts will require an individual who has excellent communication skills, is highly organised, academically curious, self-starting, and able to work independently as well as within a complex multi-disciplinary team. No prior research experience is expected but evidence that they are able to see a project through to completion, and of interests outside their usual daily work is essential.

# Supervision, Leave, Appraisal, Revalidation and Performance Management

## Clinical Supervision

This will be the responsibility of the hospital, in accordance with usual training requirements (a named educational supervisor, and direct or indirect supervision as appropriate for all clinical duties).

## Academic supervision

The academic supervisor listed with each post will be responsible for the non-clinical work undertaken by the candidate.

## Leave

Annual, sick, parental, compassionate and carers leave should be in keeping with the hospital's usual policies.

Approval for study leave is at the discretion of the employing hospital.

## Appraisal, revalidation and performance management

The appointed candidate will require annual appraisal: if they hold a UK training number, this would be via the ARCP process; if not, the hospital should be responsible for supporting them in having an annual appraisal. Performance management of clinical duties will be conducted in keeping with usual hospital/GMC and training policies.

The policy for performance management of duties undertaken for the RCoA / CR&I will be detailed in an MOU that will be signed at the beginning of the post.

## How to apply

If you are interested in these posts, please send the following to [hsrc@rcoa.ac.uk](mailto:hsrc@rcoa.ac.uk):

### CV with contact details for two referees and confirmation of eligibility to work in the UK

1. **Covering letter which must indicate:**

- Which geographical location(s), **in order of preference**, you would like to be considered for

## Important Dates

**Closing date for applications: Friday 20<sup>th</sup> October**

**Shortlisting: w/c 23<sup>rd</sup> October**