



Job title	Clinical Research Fellow in Translational Neuroscience	Job family and level	Clinical Academic, Medical Research Fellow
School/ Department	School of Medicine, Mental Health and Clinical Neuroscience	Location	Institute of Mental Health, Jubilee Campus

Purpose of role

The purpose of this role will be to have specific responsibility for research, for developing research objectives and proposals for a research project in developing novel biological markers to predict the effectiveness of cognitive treatments in psychosis using high-field MRS (7T) and neuromodulation. You will be expected to plan and conduct work using approaches or methodologies and techniques appropriate to the type of research and you will be responsible for writing up your work for publication.

You will join a multidisciplinary research team, led by Dr Mohammad Zia Ul Haq Katshu and Dr Claudia Danielmeier, whose main areas of research interest include conducting a Wellcome Trust funded project on cognition in psychosis (EPIC - Early Psychosis: Investigating Cognition). You will be based at the Institute of Mental Health (working under the supervision of Dr Mohammad Zia Ul Haq Katshu) and collaborate with the EPIC team (Claudia Danielmeier, Laura Blackie, Katherine Dyke – School of Psychology; Adam Berrington – School of Physics).

You will have the opportunity to use your initiative and creativity to identify areas for research, develop research methods, and extend your research portfolio. You will take a leading role in coordinating the recruitment of patients with psychosis, and in providing medical supervision of brain scanning and neuromodulation sessions. You will be embedded within the Early Intervention in Psychosis service in the Nottinghamshire Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust where you will spend 20% of your time in a clinical role to facilitate recruitment process. You will receive training in conducting research clinical interviews, structured diagnostic assessments, and cognitive assessments, and will be expected to take a leading role in carrying out these assessments. You will receive training in research ethics, project and data management, neuroimaging data acquisition and analysis, acquisition and analysis of semi-structured interviews with individuals with psychosis to generate qualitative data, application of neuromodulation interventions, and will be expected to contribute to these. You will work alongside lived experience experts to integrate their perspective into the development of future treatment options. You will be expected to support wider research at the University of Nottingham and publish and present your work in academic papers and conferences.

In addition to core project delivery, you will be able to develop your own research interests and pursue your curiosity to produce a body of work worthy of a higher degree. You will be supported to make applications for funding for a higher degree (PhD/DM). PhD/DM training for clinicians in the School of Medicine is closely supervised and carefully structured. Clinical DMs/PhDs in Nottingham are mainly through original research and publication and the defence of a thesis. There is also a compulsory taught course component, N-TRANS, developed specifically for medically qualified graduates involved in translational research.

The post does not attract its own National Training Number (NTN). Any appointee who has already successfully been deemed appointable at national clinical recruitment and who already holds a National Training Number (NTN) will be expected, and supported, to apply to their host clinical training programme for out of programme for research (OOPR). Further information on the OOPR process is available from an NTN holder's clinical training programme director in the region in which the NTN is currently held.

The post will be offered on a fixed-term contract from 1 Sep 2023 to 31 Aug 2026. This post is offered on either a full-time basis or part-time to a minimum of 0.8FTE. Applicants who already hold a National Training Number (NTN) will be required to obtain approval from their host clinical training programme.

Assessment of Academic Competencies

All Clinical Research Fellows within the School of Medicine agree to a personal development plan with their academic and clinical supervisors and undergo annual appraisal (through relevant university processes).

Clinical Research Fellows who hold NTN's and who are undertaking the post as 'OOPR' are required to undertake an OOPR ARCP each year.

Clinical Duties

An Honorary Clinical Contract will be sought from Nottinghamshire Healthcare NHS Trust for up to (pro-rata) of clinical duties. When undertaking clinical duties on this basis within the Trust, the person appointed will be expected to adhere to local policies and procedures of the Trust. All clinicians are expected to follow the guidelines on practice laid down by the General Medical Council's "Maintaining Good Medical Practice", and to be accountable to the Trust for their actions and the quality of their work.

EPIC (Early Psychosis: Investigating Cognition) team

The EPIC team is a truly multidisciplinary team and will be supporting you in your role. The team includes: 1. Dr Mohammad Zia Ul Haq Katshu (Co-PI) – Clinical Associate Professor in Psychiatry at the Centre for Translational Neuroscience in Mental Health, Institute of Mental Health, University of Nottingham and Honorary Consultant Psychiatrist, Early Intervention in Psychosis, Nottinghamshire Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust; expertise in cognitive impairments in neuropsychiatric disorders and neuromodulation interventions (<https://www.nottingham.ac.uk/medicine/people/mohammad.katshu>), 2. Dr Claudia Danielmeier (Co-PI) – Assistant Professor in Psychology at the School of Psychology, University of Nottingham; Psychologist and Neuroscientist with expertise in neuropsychological functions (<https://www.nottingham.ac.uk/psychology/people/claudia.danielmeier>), 3. Dr Adam Berrington, Research Fellow in Precision Imaging, School of Physics, University of Nottingham, Physicist with expertise in MR spectroscopy particularly development of new methodologies (<https://www.nottingham.ac.uk/research/beacons-of-excellence/precision-imaging/our-experts/adam-berrington/index.aspx>), 4. Dr Katherine Dyke, Assistant Professor, School of Psychology, University of Nottingham; psychologist with expertise in MR spectroscopy, neuromodulation and neurodevelopmental disorders (<https://www.nottingham.ac.uk/psychology/people/katherine.dyke>), 5. Dr Laura Blackie, Assistant Professor, School of Psychology; social psychologist with expertise in qualitative research and the impact of significant life-experiences (<https://www.nottingham.ac.uk/psychology/people/laura.blackie>). You will work closely with Dr Katshu who will be your clinical and academic supervisor.

Centre for Translational Neuroscience for Mental Health

Centre for Translational Neuroimaging for Mental Health (TNMH) is one of six Centres of Excellence within the Institute of Mental Health (IMH), a clinically focussed partnership between the University of Nottingham and Nottinghamshire Healthcare NHS Trust. The TNMH Centre brings together the University’s world class research capability in neuroimaging, cognitive neuroscience, neuromodulation, epidemiology, pharmacological and psychological interventions with local clinical excellence in a range of childhood and adult mental disorders. Its research program aims to contribute to understanding of the neural mechanisms underlying mental health disorders and to develop clinically practicable procedures that integrate neuroscientific markers with clinical data to enhance reliability of diagnosis and guide treatment.

The Institute of Mental Health

Our Research Centre is an inter-disciplinary group of researchers including psychiatrists, applied health psychologists, and developmental psychologists, who closely collaborate with statisticians, bioinformaticians, bio-physicists, and molecular biologists. We are based in the Institute of Mental Health (IMH), a purpose-built, £7 million modern building, which reflects a thriving and rapidly expanding NHS-University collaboration. The IMH is one of the UK’s leading interdisciplinary mental health research institutes. The IMH is a partnership between Nottinghamshire Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust and the University of Nottingham. The IMH is the UK’s prime location for applied, inter-disciplinary mental health research to advance mental health care. Our research is coordinated via research groups such as the IMH Centres of Excellence (Dementia, Translational Neuroimaging, Neuro-developmental Disorders (CANDAL), and Mood Disorders), the Forensic Mental Health Group, Centre for Forensic and Family Psychology, and, the WHO Centre for Organisational Health and Development (COHD) which focuses on the development of healthy and sustainable organisations. The IMH includes academic psychologists responsible for the teaching of behavioural sciences to medical students. The IMH offers supervision for postgraduate research degrees including PhDs, and professionally accredited doctorates in clinical psychology and forensic psychology plus the research MSc in Forensic and Criminological Psychology. The IMH has developed a highly successful portfolio of translational mental health research. Mental Health and Technology is one of the five themes in the £24 million Nottingham NIHR Biomedical Research Centre (BRC). The IMH is part of the Precision Imaging University Beacon - a major part of the University’s strategic reinvestment programme for research. The IMH leads the Enhancing Mental Health research theme in the £9m East Midlands NIHR ARC. Other funded research includes NIHR Programme Grants, an ESRC/NIHR programme grant, an EU Marie-Curie Network, and numerous MRC and NIHR (EME, i4i, HTA, RfPB) funded clinical studies and trials. The IMH has six NIHR Senior Investigators, and it hosts MindTech, the UK’s only mental health NIHR Healthcare MedTech Co-operative (MIC) including themes across the age range. The IMH prides itself on its 220 members of high achieving staff, more than 100 PhD students, over 500 peer reviewed papers per year, 370 members, 9 Managed Innovation Networks and over 1000 students per year accessing education courses.

	Main Responsibilities (Primary accountabilities and responsibilities expected to fulfil the role)	% time per year
1	<p>Research Responsibilities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To plan, manage and conduct research activities using recognised approaches, methodologies, and techniques within the EPIC project, including preparing and submitting relevant ethics and R&D applications, recruitment of patients/ controls, clinical/ cognitive assessments, medical supervision of imaging/ neuromodulation sessions. To resolve problems, in meeting research objectives and deadlines in collaboration with others. 	50%

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To identify opportunities and assist in writing bids for research grant applications. To prepare proposals and applications to both external and/or internal bodies for funding, contractual or accreditation purposes. Register for a clinical PhD/DM and work towards obtaining this higher degree. Data analysis in line with the aims of the EPIC project Organisation and contribution to public involvement activities relevant to this research project. Attend EPIC team meetings regularly. Write up research work for publication and/or dissemination at national/international conferences. Learning new skills in line with the aims of EPIC project towards becoming an independent researcher. 	
2	<p>Engagement, Communication and Continuation Responsibilities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To write up research work for publication and/or contribute to the dissemination at national/international conferences, resulting in successful research outputs. To collaborate with academic colleagues on areas of shared interest for example, collaborative or joint research projects. Organisation of patient visits and patient and public involvement activity relevant to the research projects. 	20%
3	<p>Clinical:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Conduct relevant clinical work in the Early Intervention in Psychosis service at Nottinghamshire Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust to support research in this project 	20%
4	<p>Teaching:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> In balance with wider contributions to research and other activities, you are expected to make a contribution to teaching such as supervise, examine and act as the personal tutor to undergraduate and postgraduate taught students within own area of expertise. 	10%
5	<p>Other:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Any duties as required in accordance with the nature and grade of the post. 	N/A

PERSON SPECIFICATIONS

	Essential	Desirable
Skills/Training	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Excellent oral and written communication skills, including the ability to communicate with clarity on complex information Ability to creatively apply relevant research approaches, models, techniques, and methods Ability to build relationships and collaborate with others, both internally and externally 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Demonstration of understanding of clinical research, and commitment to an academic career in Psychiatry Experience at Higher Speciality Training (Registrar) level in Psychiatry or equivalent. Presentation of work at national or international meetings

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • High analytical ability to analyse and illuminate data, interpret reports, evaluate and criticise texts and bring new insights • Ability to assess and organise resource requirements and deploy effectively • Ability to work efficiently with initiative and without close supervision • Evidence of clinical training at core training level or equivalent • Current good clinical practice (GCP) training must be in post before taking up the role • Excellent time and resources management skills • Excellent creativity to design and apply relevant research methods and techniques 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Significant original publications in peer reviewed journals • Potential for scientific independence and ability to lead a research team • Experience in conducting and analysing qualitative interviews
Clinical Skills/ Training	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • At least 2 years of specialist training in Psychiatry • Evidence of all the essential clinical competencies in the CT1 entry clinical person specification with evidence of successful achievement of 2 years (FTE) of Core Training Competencies • Evidence of achievement of Foundation competencies and Core Medical Training competencies, or equivalent, from a UKFPO affiliated Foundation Programme or equivalent by time of appointment in line with GMC standards/ Good Medical Practice 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Evidence of commitment to GMC approved specialty. • NTN in General Psychiatry
Knowledge/Experience	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Demonstrable interest in medical research • Some practical experience of applying the specialist skills, approaches and techniques required for the role • Experience in use of research methodologies and techniques required for the role • At least six months working in the UK National Health Service. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Experience of recruiting patients for research studies and carrying out clinical and cognitive assessments • Presentation of research at national/international meetings • Previous success in gaining support for externally funded research projects • Experience of developing new approaches, models, techniques or methods in research area.

Qualifications/ Education/Certifications	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MBBS, or equivalent • Evidence of good progress in clinical specialty training • Current level of training is supported by standard ARCP outcomes or equivalent 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • BSc, BMedSci or equivalent integrated/ intercalated degree • MRCPsych • Evidence of academic performance during clinical training • Experience of recruiting patients for research studies and carrying out clinical and cognitive assessments • UK National Training Number (NTN) in Psychiatry • PhD or equivalent in relevant subject area OR near to completion of a PhD OR the equivalent in professional qualifications and experience in research area Member of relevant Royal College (please specify)
Statutory, legal, or special requirements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Satisfactory Enhanced disclosure from the Disclosure and Barring Service • Full GMC registration with a licence to practise at the time of appointment • Meets professional health requirements (in line with the GMC standards/ Good Medical Practice) 	
Other	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Demonstration of the potential and the ability to work within a research team • A clear understanding of how to relate the principles of safeguarding, the Mental Capacity and Equality Acts to clinical practice • Willingness to adopt the vision and values of the School of Medicine and School of Psychology 	



Expectations and behaviours

The University has developed a clear set of core expectations and behaviours that our people should be demonstrating in their work, and as ambassadors of the University’s strategy, vision and values. The following are essential to the role:

- Valuing people** Is always equitable and fair and works with integrity. Proactively looks for ways to develop the team and is comfortable providing clarity by explaining the rationale behind decisions.
- Taking ownership** Is highly self-aware, looking for ways to improve, both taking on board and offering constructive feedback. Inspires others to take accountability for their own areas.
- Forward thinking** Driven to question the status quo and explore new ideas, supporting the team to “lead the way” in terms of know-how and learning.
- Professional pride** Sets the bar high with quality systems and control measures in place. Demands high standards of others identifying and addressing any gaps to enhance the overall performance.
- Always inclusive** Ensures accessibility to the wider community, actively encouraging inclusion and seeking to involve others. Ensures others always consider the wider context when sharing information making full use of networks and connections.

Key relationships with others

