



<b>Job title</b>	Clinical Research Fellow in Hepatology	<b>Job family and level</b>	Clinical Academic, Medical Research Fellow
<b>School/ Department</b>	School of Medicine, Translational Medical Sciences	<b>Location</b>	Nottingham Digestive Diseases (NDDC), Queens Medical Centre

## Purpose of role

This post has been specifically developed to deliver an innovative project to develop novel approaches to identify, characterize and treat cholangiocarcinoma. The project will entail multidisciplinary cooperation across clinical and non-clinical groups (cancer sciences, physics and engineering). You will be responsible for conducting a clinical component of the research study and coordinating data and sample collection to develop a Bioresource linked to in-depth clinical and analytical characterisation of patients and samples. You will be expected to plan and conduct work using approaches or methodologies and techniques appropriate to the type of research and will be responsible for writing up the work for publication.

You will join an established team, led by Professor Guruprasad P. Aithal, whose main areas of research interest include drug-induced liver injury, chronic liver diseases, liver and pancreaticobiliary cancers, and has expertise in genomics of complex disorders and monogenic diseases, metabolic physiology, Quantitative MR imaging/ spectroscopy and endoscopy in liver and pancreaticobiliary tract.

You will have the opportunity to use your initiative and creativity to identify areas for research, develop research methods and extend your research portfolio.

## Gastrointestinal and Liver Research in Nottingham

NDDC is one of the largest gastrointestinal (GI) and liver academic units in the country and provides a wide range of research opportunities. It hosts the GI and Liver Disorders theme of National Institute for Health Research funded Nottingham Biomedical Research Centre (NIHR Nottingham BRC). GI & Liver Disorder theme is the largest of the six themes within the NIHR Nottingham BRC (£23.3M; 2022-27) awarded in partnership between University of Nottingham and Nottingham University Hospitals NHS Trust. The NIHR Nottingham BRC builds on the NIHR Nottingham Digestive Diseases Biomedical Research Unit established in 2008 and the only NIHR-funded BRU focused on GI, liver and pancreas-related areas to have sustained its funding through four successive NIHR funding cycles.

The NDDC brings together 34 Principal Investigators from both University and NHS Trust comprising medical and surgical gastroenterologists/hepatologists and non-clinical scientists. The NDDC is based on the QMC campus but also includes researchers in the University of Nottingham in Derby Hospitals and laboratories. Senior academic faculty includes 13 University Academic Gastroenterologists/Hepatologists (6 Professors and 7 Clinical Associate Professors) with research



---

expertise ranging from molecular/cellular biology, GI and metabolic physiology through patient-based research to clinical trials and GI epidemiology. They work closely with the NHS Gastroenterologists/Hepatologists, many of whom also have extensive and active research programmes. Research infrastructures of NDDC are based on the QMC campus but also involves researchers in the University of Nottingham in Derby Hospitals and laboratories.

Laboratory-based research, including basic molecular and cell biology, working with model systems and ex-vivo human tissue is based in dedicated laboratories at QMC with access to state-of-the-art laboratories in the University of Nottingham. NIHR Nottingham BRC GI & Liver Theme functions through a dedicated clinical research facility with area suitable for intensive monitoring and interventions, dedicated research endoscopy facility, patient assessment rooms and tissue processing and storage facility. The nationally leading GI Epidemiology group and clinical trial unit are closely involved to ensure robust design of experiments and provide methodology support.

### **Nottingham University Hospitals NHS Trust**

Research is a top priority for the Trust with an aim of establishing outstanding research infrastructure. Research & Innovation (R&I) at NUH is one of the focal points for clinical research in Nottingham and the East Midlands. The Trust is currently the East Midlands top recruiting organization with over 11,000 participants in studies, and recruits over 28% of the total number of participants in research studies within our Clinical Research Network in the East Midlands. The R&I also supports the NIHR Nottingham Clinical Research Facility located across three hospital sites.

### **Clinical Research Training**

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 of a higher degree (PhD/DM etc). PhD/MD training for clinicians in the School of Medicine is closely supervised and carefully structured. Specific and structured training will be offered in clinical research methodology tailored to you and this project. Clinical MDs/PhDs in Nottingham are mainly through original research and publication and, defense of a thesis. There is also a compulsory taught course component, N-TRANS, developed specifically for medically qualified graduates involved in translational research.

Medical Gastroenterology/Hepatology has a particularly proud record of clinical research training; we have the largest dedicated academic training programme in gastroenterology in the UK, with 30 postgraduate research students. The training will be tailored to individual needs.

This post does not carry 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 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.

### **Assessment of Academic Competencies**

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

---



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

	<b>Main responsibilities</b> (Primary accountabilities and responsibilities expected to fulfil the role)	<b>% time per year</b>
1	<b>Research Responsibilities:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>To manage, plan and conduct own research activity using recognised approaches, methodologies and techniques within the research area. To resolve problems, in meeting research objectives and deadlines in collaboration with others.</li><li>To identify opportunities and assist in writing bids for research grant applications. Prepare proposals and applications to both external and/or internal bodies for funding, contractual or accreditation purposes.</li><li>Register for a clinical PhD/DM and work towards obtaining this higher degree.</li></ul>	70%
2	<b>Engagement, Communication and Continuation Responsibilities:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>To write up research work for publication and/or contribute to the dissemination at national/international conferences, resulting in successful research outputs.</li><li>To collaborate with academic colleagues on areas of shared interest, for example, course development, collaborative or joint research projects.</li><li>Organisation of patient visits and patient and public involvement activity relevant to the research projects.</li><li>Communications with the patients, carers and family and other health care professionals including primary care physicians, specialists, nurses and allied professionals.</li></ul>	20%
3	<b>Teaching:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>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.</li></ul>	10%
4	<b>Other:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Any other duties as required in accordance with the nature and grade of the post.</li></ul>	N/A



## Person specification

	<b>Essential</b>	<b>Desirable</b>
<b>Skills</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Excellent oral and written communication skills, including the ability to communicate with clarity on complex information.</li> <li>• Ability to creatively apply relevant research approaches, models, techniques and methods.</li> <li>• Ability to build professional relationships and collaborate with others, both internally and externally.</li> <li>• High analytical ability to analyse and illuminate data, interpret reports, evaluate and criticise texts and bring new insights.</li> <li>• Ability to assess and organise resource requirements and deploy effectively.</li> <li>• Ability to work efficiently with initiative and without close supervision.</li> <li>• Evidence of clinical training at core training level or equivalent.</li> <li>• Current good clinical practice (GCP) training must be in post before taking up the role.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Demonstration of understanding of, and commitment to, an academic career in hepatology.</li> <li>• Published papers in scientific/medical journals.</li> <li>• Experience at Higher Specialty Training (Registrar) level in ST3-5 or equivalent.</li> </ul>
<b>Knowledge and experience</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Demonstrable interest in medical research.</li> <li>• Some practical experience of applying the specialist skills and approaches and techniques required for the role.</li> <li>• Experience in use of research methodologies and techniques to work within area.</li> <li>• At least six months working in the UK National Health Service.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Presentation of research at national/international meetings.</li> <li>• Experience of hepatology.</li> <li>• Previous success in gaining support for externally funded research projects.</li> <li>• Experience of developing new approaches, models, techniques or methods in research area.</li> <li>• Demonstrable teaching experience.</li> </ul>



<p><b>Qualifications, certification and training (relevant to role)</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• MBBS or equivalent.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• BSc, BMedSci or equivalent integrated/intercalated degree.</li> <li>• Member of Royal College of Physicians, UK.</li> <li>• Evidence of academic performance during clinical training.</li> <li>• UK National Training Number (NTN) in Gastroenterology.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Statutory, legal or special requirements</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Meets professional health requirements (in line with GMC standards/ Good Medical Practice).</li> <li>• Satisfactory enhanced disclosure from the Disclosure and Barring Service.</li> <li>• Full GMC registration with a licence to practice at the time of appointment.</li> </ul>	
<p><b>Other</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Demonstration of the potential and the ability to work within a research team.</li> <li>• A clear understanding of how to relate the principles of safeguarding, the Mental Capacity and Equality Acts to clinical practice.</li> <li>• Willingness to adopt the <a href="#">vision and values</a> of the School of Medicine</li> </ul>	





## 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

