



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 Neurosciences	Location	The East Midlands Campuses of the University of Nottingham

Purpose of role

The purpose of this role will be to have specific responsibility for the conduct of the research project, HEATMAP (Role of heat-related gut-microbiota-brain-axis changes in psychosis). Our goal is to understand how heat predisposes or precipitates new-onset or relapsed psychoses through changes in the gut-microbiota-brain-axis (GMBA). Our work will provide the foundation for identifying feasible and acceptable strategies to reduce heat-stress associated psychoses.

You will join a transdisciplinary research team led by Dr Mohammad Zia Ul Haq Katshu, whose main areas of research interest include understanding the neurobiological basis of psychosis, at the Centre for Translational Neuroscience for Mental Health, Institute of Mental Health, and collaborate with the HEATMAP team (Franziska Schrodte - Professor of Earth System Science, Dov Stekel, Professor of Computational Biology; Tanya Monaghan - Clinical Associate Professor in Gastroenterology; Adam Blanchard - Associate Professor in Computational Biology).

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, clinical data and bio-sample collection, and in providing medical supervision of brain scanning sessions. You will spend 20% of your time with the clinical team of the Early Intervention in Psychosis service in the Nottinghamshire Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust to facilitate recruitment of patients with psychosis.

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 towards a higher degree (PhD/DM). Fees for this higher research degree at the home (UK) student rate will be provided. 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 February 2026 to 31 January 2029 on either a full-time basis or part-time to a minimum of 0.8FTE.

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

Whilst this is a university academic appointment, it is a requirement that you maintain GMC registration, a licence to practice and be revalidated with the GMC. An Honorary Clinical Contract will be sought from Nottinghamshire Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust for up to 20% (pro-rata in case of 0.8FTE) of clinical duties. When undertaking clinical duties on this basis within the Trust, you will be expected to adhere to local policies and procedures of the Trust and will be responsible to the Medical Director for clinical governance purposes. 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 your work.

The clinical duties in this role will be focussed on facilitating the recruitment of patients with psychosis. Therefore, this will not constitute formal progression in your clinical training and will not be considered grounds for pay progression through nodal salary spine points. Therefore, for the duration of your employment with University of Nottingham in this post, you will retain your pay point in line with your existing salary point on appointment. As this is a research training post, recruitment payments/premia may not apply.

	Main Responsibilities (Primary accountabilities and responsibilities expected to fulfil the role)	% time per year
1	Research Responsibilities: - To plan, manage and conduct research activities using recognised approaches, methodologies, and techniques within the HEATMAP 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. - 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 HEATMAP project - Organisation and contribution to public involvement activities relevant to this research project. - Attend HEATMAP team meetings regularly. - Write up research work for publication and/or dissemination at national/international conferences.	50%

	Learning new skills in line with the aims of HEATMAP project towards becoming an independent researcher	
2	Engagement, Communication and Continuation Responsibilities: - 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	Clinical: Conduct relevant clinical work in the Early Intervention in Psychosis service at Nottinghamshire Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust to support recruitment for this project	20%
4	Teaching: 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	Other: Any duties as required in accordance with the nature and grade of the post.	

PERSON SPECIFICATIONS

	Essential	Desirable
Skills/Training	- Excellent oral and written communication skills, including the ability to communicate with clarity on complex information - Ability to apply relevant research approaches, models, techniques, and methods - Ability to build relationships and collaborate with others, both internally and externally - High analytical ability to analyse 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 in Psychiatry or equivalent	- 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 - Significant original publications in peer reviewed journals - Potential for scientific independence - Experience in conducting and analysing qualitative interviews

	• 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	
Clinical Skills/ Training	• At least 1 year of specialist training in Psychiatry • 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 • Evidence of all the essential clinical competencies in the CT1 with evidence of successful achievement of 1 year (FTE) of Core Training Competencies in Psychiatry	• Evidence of commitment to GMC approved specialty. • NTN in General Psychiatry
Knowledge/ Experience	• Demonstrable interest in medical research • Some practical experience of applying the specialist skills, approaches and techniques required for the role	• 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. • Experience in use of research methodologies and techniques required for the role
Qualifications/ Education/ Certifications	• MBBS, or equivalent • Evidence of good progress in clinical specialty training • Current level of training is supported by standard ARCP outcomes or equivalent	• 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
Statutory, legal, or special requirements	• Meets professional health requirements (in line with GMC standards/ Good Medical Practice)	

	• Satisfactory Enhanced disclosure from the Disclosure and Barring Service • Full GMC registration with a licence to practise at the time of appointment	
Other	• 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	



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

Line Manager

Clinical Associate Professor

Role Holder

Clinical Research Fellow in Translational Neuroscience

Key stakeholder relationships

Colleagues

Students

Research collaborators

Lived experience experts

Clinical team