 

**Research Career Opportunity**

**Dr R Finn Fellowship/Clinical Senior Research Fellowship**

**A joint initiative between** **NHS University Hospitals of Liverpool Group (UHLG) and the University of Liverpool (UoL)**

UHLG is very keen to support its clinical employees to undertake high quality research and has supported five Clinical Senior Research Fellowships (CSRF) at the University of Liverpool, named for a famous Liverpool NHS clinician scientist, Dr Ronald Finn.

# The scholarship awardees with members of Ronald Finn's family

First Finn fellows (Andrew Davison, chemical pathology LCL; Hassan Burhan, Respiratory RLH; Yamani Krishna, ophthalmic histopathology RLH; Ned Kawai-Gilbert, ITU, RLH; and Rishi Mukerjee, Surgery, Aintree) with members of Dr Finn’s family, June 2024<https://news.liverpool.ac.uk/2024/06/28/university-and-luhft-celebrate-launch-of-dr-ronald-finn-fellowships/>

# Thanks to the success of one of these fellows, Mr Rishi Mukherjee, an Aintree surgeon, in obtaining a major external research fellowship <https://www.uhliverpool.nhs.uk/about-us/our-stories/liverpool-surgeon-secures-gbp2m-fellowship-groundbreaking-research> , a new fellowship at consultant grade has now become available, to spend two PAs per week undertaking clinical research in collaboration with the university on any area of mutual interest to both UHLG and UoL.

# We hope to support enthusiastic potential researchers who can lead their clinical colleagues to increase the quality and quantity of clinically important research and help bring in further research funding to the UHLG and to UoL.  Appointments are for up to 5 years at 2PA/week

# It takes time to plan a sufficiently robust and collaborative project, so if you are interested, or know of someone who might be, please open conversations with university partners very soon

# Applicants should:

# have some research experience (ideally a higher degree or equivalent experience)

# be a senior NHS clinician (e.g. consultant grade or equivalent, medical or AHP) with a permanent UHLG contract

# Have the support of their UHLG clinical directorate and NHS colleagues, and engagement with a UoL research department

# Propose a project or programme of research of sufficient potential excellence (some project costs may be available)

* Application will be by completion of a form supported by letters from their UHLG CD and a UoL department, followed by interview of shortlisted candidates.

Join us for a seminar Q/A on line by Teams at 5pm on the 14th May (link below), or have an informal conversation with Prof T Walley ([twalley@liverpool.ac.uk](mailto:twalley@liverpool.ac.uk)) or Prof T Jones [TERRY.JONES@liverpoolft.nhs.uk](mailto:TERRY.JONES@liverpoolft.nhs.uk)

**Microsoft Teams** [Need help?](https://aka.ms/JoinTeamsMeeting?omkt=en-US)

[**Join the meeting now**](https://teams.microsoft.com/l/meetup-join/19%3ameeting_ODgxNDRlNTQtNDRkMC00NjJiLTk5OWQtMThhMmUxM2M3OTRl%40thread.v2/0?context=%7b%22Tid%22%3a%2253255131-b129-4010-86e1-474bfd7e8076%22%2c%22Oid%22%3a%22bc16128a-f55a-4930-9c0a-0f3d2eb6cba8%22%7d)

Meeting ID: 342 570 906 371 5

Passcode: QS2K5qR2

**Join on a video conferencing device**

Tenant key: [uoliv@m.webex.com](mailto:uoliv@m.webex.com)

Video ID: 121 269 917 8

Opening date is May 1st, closing 16th June 2025.  at 5pm

# *Background*

UHLG is committed to supporting teaching and research. It recognises research as a core NHS activity, important ultimately in improving the quality of patient care.

UoL is a Russell group University which prides itself on its research intensity. In the recent Research Evaluation Framework (REF, 2022) which reviewed research 2015-21, the Faculty of Health and Life Sciences (FHLS) performed well. In UoA 1 (clinical medicine) 91% of our research was world-leading (4\*) or internationally excellent (3\*) compared to 80% in 2014, and UoL was ranked 11th for Research Power.

UHLG and UoL have many joint employees active in teaching and in research, most holding a substantive contract with one and an honorary contract with the other. This initiative aims to open up traditional models of NHS and university employment, whereby a person is permanently primarily “university” or “NHS”, and to promote the culture of collaborative clinical research in both. It is a more flexible model whereby e.g. an NHS consultant can have protected time for research for a defined period as a part time university employee and with full access to the support of the UoL, while retaining the protection of a permanent NHS contract and its terms and conditions.

***Nature of posts***

These positions are for 2 PAs/week for a fixed term of maximum 5 years (reviewed at year 3). We anticipate that most applicants will have to give up some clinical commitments to accommodate this extra work load.

These positions:

* are research only, with no commitment to teaching or administration.
* are open to permanent UHLGT staff of consultant grade or equivalent, in any discipline relevant to the proposed research
* will be appointed in a competitive, open process
* are to support joint NHS/UoL research in areas of priority agreed by UHLG and UoL (see below).
* are managed as a secondment from UHLG whereby the appointees would hold a substantive contract of employment with UoL, for the agreed PAs: but that they could return to the Trust fulltime at either 3 years, 5 years or by mutual agreement at some other point.
* will not be renewed at 5 years from this funding stream. Appointees are expected to return to a full time NHS contract, while continuing a commitment to further research involvement. Some may be successful at bringing in external money to allow these research PAs to continue on a different funding stream. Some may wish to transition into a full time university career as a clinical academic. This time-limit will free resources to allow others to develop their research careers.
* As UoL employee, the CSRFs will be associated with a university department that aligns with their research, to offer an immediate community of colleagues and collaborators and will have the usual privileges associated with an academic contract (University of Liverpool email and access to all our systems, for example, online libraries, software licences, grant writing and other research support.
* Line management of these posts will be by the university head of department, with annual performance review appraisal jointly with UHLG director of R&I and the aPVC Clinical Research.
* Targets and key success indicators will be discussed annually (likely to include progress in excellent research, towards publications, outputs and income)
* A clear job plan will be developed for each successful applicant, defining protected research time but also flexible to times of peak clinical demand.
* Terms and conditions will be broadly similar across UoL and LUHFT. Holiday entitlement, ACCIA/LEA awards etc will be maintained and you will continue to contribute to the NHS pensions scheme.

***Research support (UHLG & UoL)***

CSRFs

* will have up to £10,000 available annually to support the research
* will have access to the usual support offered by LUHFT to research
* will have the usual privileges associated with an academic contract (University of Liverpool email and access to all our systems, for example, online libraries, software licences etc.)
* will each be supported by a named academic mentor, and by the relevant university department for lab space, and technical support as needed.
* will have access to the full range of faculty facilities via their host department and (Liverpool Shared Research Facilities (LivSRF <https://www.liverpool.ac.uk/health-and-life-sciences/research/liverpool-shared-research-facilities/> ). UoL will offer a bespoke ring-fenced voucher scheme for LivSRF facilities created just for this cohort to help pump prime pilot studies that would normally require access charges.
* CSRFs will have access to specific support in the Clinical and Research Directorate and assistance with crafting funding proposals (e.g. access to the support of a grant writer, additional pre-award support including internal peer review).

***Your characteristics***

You must

* currently hold a permanent UHLG contract at clinical consultant level or similar (medical or AHP), in any discipline relevant to the proposed research.
* have demonstrated enthusiasm for, and commitment to, excellent research in an area of a declared joint strategic priority,
* have research training/experience, e.g. a research higher degree (MD/PhD), or equivalent experience, as evidenced e.g. by a publication track record.
* propose research of sufficient potential excellence
* have the clear support of your colleagues and directorate in UHLG, and of a department/institute within the UoL, to ensure maximum synergies.

You should

* have potential for personal leadership in research, i.e. not just that you will deliver your own research, but also that you can inspire colleagues to support you, and will yourself support colleagues to develop research ideas, build collaborative links between UHLG and UoL, and help spread the research culture within UHLG.
* Be willing to pursue external funding for this research and also to generate your own (research) salaries (e.g. fellowships, grants), so as to free resources and allow further rounds of appointment.

***Research***

You must propose a project or programme of research, relevant to agreed priority research areas (see below).

The research must be collaborative with UoL/LUHFT, but embedded in the NHS, relevant to local needs, and have the prospect of improving patient outcomes.

The research should be feasible within the time/resources available and have the possibility of attracting external funding e.g. from grant awarding bodies or industry.

***Priority research areas***

These are many areas of local health need and where UHLG is clinically engaged, and where UHLG/UoL already have research expertise. They may be clinical discipline related or cross-disciplinary. Examples include:

* Ophthalmology
* CV disease
* Metabolic disorders
* Respiratory disease
* Surgery
* Critical care
* Clinical trials
* Health inequalities
* Pathology
* ID/Medical microbiology
* Maternity care
* Neonatology
* Women’s health

This is is not an exclusive list!

***Application process:***

By submission of application form (download here(<https://www.liverpool.ac.uk/clinical-directorate/funding/> Click on module and takes you through to subpage: <https://www.liverpool.ac.uk/clinical-directorate/funding/clinical-senior-research-fellowships>

and letters of support from both relevant clinical directorate and UoL department, outline job plan to show how these two PAs fit into your clinical commitments. Interview of shortlisted candidates.