

## Job Description

<b>Post Title and Post Number</b>	NIHR Clinical Lecturer in Rheumatology
<b>Organisation Advertising Description</b>	Institute of Inflammation and Ageing, College of Medical and Dental Sciences
<b>Post Number</b>	
<b>Full Time/Part Time</b>	Full Time
<b>Duration of post</b>	Maximum of 4 years or obtaining CCT, whichever is sooner. There will be 50% time protected for research throughout the programme.
<b>Post is open to:</b>	Internal and External Candidates
<b>Grade/Level</b>	Clinical. Must hold a current NTN (IMT3 or above). Must have a higher research degree (PhD, MD or equivalent); all candidates must have submitted their final thesis to be eligible to apply and must have been fully awarded their higher degree in order to be able to take up the post. The deadline to take up the post is 1 Sept 2024.
<b>Salary</b>	
<b>Terms and Conditions</b>	<a href="#">Clinical</a>

## Description of the research component of the programme

### Environment

The academic component of this post would sit within the Rheumatology Research Group (RRG) at the University of Birmingham. Our Group's research portfolio is focussed around four chronic inflammatory rheumatic diseases - **rheumatoid arthritis** (RA; Prof Croft, Prof Filer) childhood arthritis (Prof Croft), **Sjogren's syndrome** (SjS; Prof Fisher) and **systemic lupus erythematosus** (SLE; Dr Reynolds). In addition, we have strong interdisciplinary links with teams working in other immune mediated inflammatory diseases, including lung fibrosis (Patel, Scott), gut (Iqbal) and salivary gland.

We run a substantial research group comprising over 30 research scientists and clinicians. This is led by 11 Principal Investigators (PI) s including six Professors. We currently have academic FY1 and FY2 trainees and an academic clinical lecturer in Rheumatology. The Rheumatology Research Group is based in the Institute of Inflammation and Ageing (IIA) in the College of Medical and Dental Sciences.

Our work provides an axis for collaborative interaction between clinicians and translational scientists in the Birmingham NIHR Biomedical Research Centre (BRC), the Versus Arthritis funded Research into Inflammatory Arthritis Centre (Glasgow-Newcastle-Birmingham-Oxford) and the Arthritis Therapy Acceleration Programme (A-TAP; Birmingham-Oxford). We have a strong track record of industrial collaborations addressing key clinical scientific questions.

The ACL would join an established team with a long-standing record of training and supervision. The ACL would work with RRG PIs to define the areas they were going to work in with a view to generating preliminary data to support an application for an external Fellowship. Examples of potential research areas include:

- **Synovial tissue biomarkers as predictors of disease trajectories:** The ACL will leverage the strengths of our adult RA (*Filer*), SjS (*Fisher*), and / or juvenile idiopathic arthritis (*Croft*) cohorts, using systematic synovial and salivary gland biopsy and tissue analysis to identify tissue, blood, imaging and clinical **biomarkers of disease / comorbidity trajectory**.
- **Shared cellular pathology across immune mediated inflammatory diseases:** The ACL will explore the cellular basis of inflammation across the spectrum of IMIDs to identify common cellular targets across target tissues.
- **Novel therapeutic approaches in RA, SjS and SLE:** The ACL will exploit our [i] new £2.8m Kennedy Trust/VA TRRAC refractory RA cohort (*Croft*), [ii] £3.5m MRC Bio-Flare BIOlogical Factors that Limit sustained Remission in rheumatoid arthritis cohort (*Filer* with Newcastle BRC), [iii] early RA BEACON cohort (*Filer, de Pablo*), [iv] SjS OASIS cohort (*Fisher*), [v] SLE (*Reynolds*) cohort, to define **cellular mechanisms of disease and new therapeutic targets**. Combining joint, skin and salivary gland tissue with advanced single-cell and tissue analytics will allow the ACL to develop a research proposal to **define target tissue pathology** at high resolution with the ultimate aim of developing novel therapeutic approaches targeting metabolic, leukocyte leukocyte trafficking and stromal cell pathways.
- **Patient stratification for Standard-of-Care (SoC) and novel treatments:** The ACL will join our existing programme systematically obtaining longitudinal pre/post therapy tissue samples from patients starting SoC and novel therapies, applying single cell genomic and digital histology spatial analytics, then using advanced Clinical Trials Modelling methodology to derive precision medicine stratification tools.

## Clinical Responsibilities

### Lead NHS Hospital/Trust in which training will take place

The post will be located at a lead NHS Trust within the West Midlands Workforce Deanery area and may be required to rotate to other Trusts within this area. For further information about the location of the post please contact the Academic Supervisor.

### Research institutions in which training will take place

The RRG sits within the Institute of Inflammation and Ageing. The Institute benefits from a highly collaborative leadership team focused on translational outputs. The strength of the Institute is represented by a number of major national awards, including the MRC-Versus Arthritis Centre for Musculoskeletal Ageing Research (with Nottingham University); Versus Arthritis Centre of Excellence in Inflammatory Arthritis (with the Universities of Glasgow, Oxford and Newcastle); NIHR Healthcare Technology Cooperative (Trauma); and the Scar Free Foundation Burns Research Centre, as well as our key role in the NIHR Translational Research Partnership on Joint and Related Inflammatory Disease. The NIHR Birmingham BRC was initially established in 2017 with £12m funding from the NIHR and expanded in 2022 with £30m funding, supporting a 5-year programme to better understand a range of debilitating inflammatory diseases for patients in Birmingham and beyond. The Arthritis, Sarcopaenia and Multimorbidity, and Infection and Acute Care BRC themes are led by researchers in the Institute. A £7m investment from the Kennedy Trust for Rheumatology Research is now also supporting a new partnership with the University of Oxford to accelerate the development and testing of new therapies for patients with arthritis.

**What arrangement of day release or block release will be used for protected research time?**

The successful candidate will spend 50% of the working week as a specialist registrar in Rheumatology in the West Midlands Deanery, and the other 50% as a Clinical Lecturer at the University of Birmingham.

**Teaching Responsibilities**

The successful candidate will have the opportunity to teach medical students and junior doctors. In addition, they will have the opportunity to contribute to lectures, modules and small group teaching sessions on acute medical topics on the undergraduate MBChB and relevant postgraduate courses. They can also be involved in supervising MD/PhD students and clinical fellows. Candidates will be expected to work towards a Postgraduate Certificate in Higher Education (PGCHE) during their time as a Lecturer. The aim of the programme is to provide a comprehensive preparation for the teaching, learning and assessment aspects of your role and to relate this to wider responsibilities associated with professional practice.

**Job Plan**

The RRG is linked to busy regional NHS clinical units including within the Queen Elizabeth Hospital itself (University Hospitals Birmingham NHS Foundation Trust (UHB)), Sandwell and West Birmingham NHS Trust (SWB), Birmingham Women's and Children's Hospitals (BWCH) and the Modality musculoskeletal primary care unit.

The clinical training will be facilitated as part of the West Midlands Deanery Rheumatology Training scheme. As usual in the ACL role, we anticipate candidates to split their working roles 50:50 between the University and a clinical site. Training sites will be determined by training need and the candidate's preferences. Upon appointment, the successful candidate will have a meeting with the academic lead to discuss which clinical training site will best match their ongoing needs.

**Publications, presentations and grant applications**

The post-holder will contribute to a range of ongoing clinical research at the IIA and aim to publish in high-impact journals. They will also receive help in securing funding towards increasing independence and personal fellowships by the end of the ACL period.

**Academic Lead for the Rheumatology ACL programme**

Prof Adam Croft, UHB NHS Foundation Trust and University of Birmingham,  
(A.P.Croft@bham.ac.uk)

**Academic Lead (University) for the IAT Programme**

Professor Kristien Boelaert, IAT Lead, University of Birmingham ([k.boelaert@bham.ac.uk](mailto:k.boelaert@bham.ac.uk)).

**Person Specification**

**Appendix 1: NIHR CL Supplementary Person Specification**

This person specification should be used in conjunction with a person specification for assessment of clinical competences.

	<b>ESSENTIAL</b>	<b>DESIRABLE</b>	<b>WHEN EVALUATED</b>
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	ESSENTIAL	DESIRABLE	WHEN EVALUATED
<b>ELIGIBILITY</b>	<p>Evidence of achievement of Foundation competences or equivalent.</p> <p>Candidate must be at ST3/IMT3 or above.</p> <p><b>Must hold a higher degree</b> (MD, PhD or equivalent) in a <b>relevant</b> subject area.</p> <p>Evidence of good progress in clinical training and that completion of specialty training* may be accommodated either during or after the 4 year period of the NIHR CL award (*Not applicable to fully qualified GP candidates).</p>	<p>Evidence of commitment to GMC specialty.</p> <p>Intercalated honours degree and/or additional qualifications e.g. MSc etc.</p>	Application Form
<b>KNOWLEDGE &amp; ACHIEVEMENTS</b>	<p>Demonstration of acquisition of the level of knowledge and skills necessary for the achievement of Foundation and clinical (matched to the entry level) competencies or equivalent.</p> <p>Demonstration of the potential for scientific independence and the ability to lead a research team.</p> <p>Potential to become a leader in chosen field.</p>	<p>Knowledge of the centre hosting the research and how this is best placed to support the research, education and training needs.</p> <p>Prizes or distinctions.</p> <p>Presentation of work at a national or international meeting.</p> <p>Significant publications in peer reviewed journals.</p>	Application Form and Selection Centre
<b>EDUCATIONAL &amp; PERSONAL ASPECTS</b>	<p>Demonstration of understanding, and commitment to, an academic career.</p> <p>Indication of medium and long-term career goals.</p> <p>Demonstration of educational reasons for applying for the Clinical Lectureship Programme.</p>		Application Form
<b>PROFESSIONAL SKILLS</b>	<p>Evidence of team working skills.</p> <p>Evidence of leadership potential.</p>		Application Form and Selection Centre

\* All candidates should have submitted their final thesis to be eligible to apply and must have been fully awarded their higher degree in order to be able to take up the post (prior to September 1<sup>st</sup> 2024).