

Job Description

Post Title and Post Number	NIHR Clinical Lecturer in Urology
Organisation Advertising Description	College of Medical and Dental Sciences
Post Number	
Full Time/Part Time	Full Time
Duration of post	Maximum of 4 years or obtaining CCT, whichever is sooner. There will be 50% time protected for research throughout the programme.
Post is open to:	Internal and External Candidates
Grade/Level	Clinical. Must hold a current NTN (ST3 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.
Salary	
Terms and Conditions	Clinical

The Clinical Lectureship in Urology will be based within the College of Medical and Dental Sciences, University of Birmingham. The applicant must have experience in the diagnosis and management of patients with urological cancers.

The successful applicant will receive continuing training in all aspects of urology as part of the Urology SpR rotation. Applicants must have a firm commitment to a career in academic urology. It is intended that the research will focus on laboratory and/or clinical aspects of uro-oncology research which can be accommodated within the programme through the extensive expertise in the College of Medical and Dental Sciences and its Bladder Cancer Research Centre, the scope of which is outlined below. Opportunities will be available to participate and lead in laboratory-based or bioinformatics-based research programmes, as well as multi-centre clinical studies that are either ongoing or under development. Applicants will work closely with Professor Rik Bryan (Director of the Bladder Cancer Research Centre) and Mr Keval Patel (Consultant Urological Surgeon and Clinical Academic).

Description of the research component of the programme

Environment

The University of Birmingham hosts an extensive cancer research portfolio spanning research disciplines to include over 130 investigators with expertise in Maths, Medicine, Chemistry, Policy, Physics and Engineering. Over the last 4 years the university has been awarded £105.7M for cancer research with awards being received by 52 Allied Health Professionals over this period.

The outstanding clinical and basic science research environment in which trainees are embedded is delivered through **Birmingham Health Partners (BHP)**, a strategic alliance between the University of Birmingham, Aston University, five major NHS partners and the West Midlands Academic Health Science Network. BHP's unique ecosystem enables the full spectrum of translational medicine, encompassing health data, an established local health system, academic excellence, and an extensive clinical trials capability.

Within this environment, **The Institute of Cancer and Cancer Genomic Sciences** is an internationally renowned centre for translational cancer research, encompassing the majority of the academic and clinical cancer research within the University of Birmingham. Research activity spans the natural history of cancer from cellular transformation through to development of evidence-based therapy including Cancer Cell Biology, Cancer Genomics and Epigenomics, Biomarkers, Proteomics & NMR, Tumour Immunology and Immune/Gene Therapy, Viral Oncology and Clinical Trials.

The Bladder Cancer Research Centre (BCRC) is a multidisciplinary Centre of Excellence within the Institute of Cancer & Genomic Sciences. Under the directorship of Professor Rik Bryan, the BCRC undertakes translational research into urothelial cancer, with the core themes of:

- biomarkers & proteomics (led by Dr Douglas Ward)
- genomics & bioinformatics (led by Dr Roland Arnold)
- novel therapeutics (led by Dr Farhat Khanim)
- bio-medical engineering (led by Professor Duncan Shepherd)
- clinical research, trials & epidemiology (led by Mr Keval Patel).

Our research directly impacts bladder cancer patients and patient pathways, and our publication and funding track record demonstrate this.

UoB's **CRUK Clinical Trials Unit (CRCTU)** is an internationally leading centre for the design and delivery of high-quality, biology-rich, practice-changing cancer trials and was recently awarded further 5-year core funding of £10m by CRUK. CRCTU contributes to the education of the next generation of researchers, including an MSc in Clinical Trials and a massive open online course, 'Introduction to Randomised Controlled Trials'. The CRCTU supports clinical trial fellows, including the CRUK Clinical Trials Training Fellowship programme.

A key new research infrastructure is the **Birmingham Health Innovation Campus (BHIC)** opening this year. BHIC will be the first regional life sciences park, catalysing a powerful cluster of health and life science enterprises across the West Midlands. Located on BHIC, the Precision Health Technologies Accelerator (PHTA) is UoB's signature health and life sciences research facility providing 70,000sq ft of state-of-the-art laboratory, incubation, and collaboration space, offering access to clinical research expertise, trials and health data, alongside opportunities to work with academic and clinical opinion leaders.

University Hospitals Birmingham leads both the UK's largest Genomic Medicine Centre uniting all 16 participating acute regional NHS Trusts, and the Central and South Genomic

Medicine Service Alliance, connecting us with Oxford and Southampton and their ECMC Centres, across a population of ~11 million. Finally, there is planned strategic investment to establish an integrated translational hub for cancer research, bringing together the best discovery science with our distinctive experimental medicine strengths, health data science and clinical trials expertise. The **Birmingham Cancer Research Institute** will be sited in the heart of BHPs integrated academic-NHS-industry campus, providing a nexus for delivery of BHP's integrated cancer research strategy.

Birmingham's delivery of early phase oncology studies is enhanced by its status as a CRUK/NIHR **Experimental Cancer Medicine Centre**. We have been a member of this network of leading cancer research centres since 2007, receiving renewed funding in 2023. Led by Professor Middleton, our ECMC's themes align closely to the network's priorities of Precision Medicine, Immunotherapy, and Biomarkers & Liquid Biopsy.

Research

Applications are encouraged from candidates with interests in translational bladder cancer research. The Lecturer will build on the existing themes of research at the Bladder Cancer Research Centre (BCRC) and under the direction of Professor Rik Bryan, Mr Keval Patel, and other PIs within the Institute of Cancer and Genomic Sciences. This could include extending the BCRC's research in liquid biopsy approaches for non-invasive diagnosis and risk stratification, novel genomic and bioinformatic approaches to molecular subtyping, in vitro bladder cancer models and therapeutic development, surgical device development, and clinical research and trials.

The Clinical Lecturer will be offered research facilities and support to help establish his/her research in Birmingham. There will be strong encouragement, in common with other research active staff in the College of Medical and Dental Sciences, for the clinical lecturer to obtain funding for his/her research activities during the course of the lectureship.

Clinical Responsibilities

The West Midlands Urology programme offers a traditional urological education with plenty of hands-on operating. The deanery is one of the largest in the country and serves a diverse range of patients and therefore post holders can expect to see a wide range of disease processes presenting early and late. Over the 4 years, the postholder can expect to cover the whole breadth of the urology curriculum including a short placement at the Birmingham Women's and Children's Hospital. For more senior trainees, focussed sub-specialist training is available, including robotic training, should they develop the interest. The post-holder will contribute to clinical audit, postgraduate medical education and management. Academic trainees will be afforded strong support from the clinical team.

The post structure will be 50% clinical and 50% academic. The clinical rotations are supernumerary and will predominantly be based in University Hospitals Birmingham NHS Foundation Trust and principally at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital, though training needs will be taken into consideration. The timetable can either be rotating elements of six months' clinical experience and six months dedicated research time, or a monthly split of research to clinical time.

Teaching Responsibilities

The College runs a highly successful Masters Degree in Clinical Oncology and is fully committed to modernising medical careers and integrating clinical teaching within routine practice. We have recently developed MSci programmes to replace our previous BMedSci and Clinical Sciences BSc, seeking to encourage very capable intercalating cohorts to

academically engage with Masters-level training. This course offers students the opportunity to gain a higher level qualification for the cost of a year away from Medicine.

The Clinical Lecturer will share in the teaching of Uro-Oncology to medical students. The BCRC is fully committed to innovative models of teaching including a multidisciplinary team approach. The Clinical Lecturer may be expected to share in taught course elements. The College has an active Postgraduate Research Programme and joint-supervision of such students may also be appropriate.

Job Plan

The job plan for the Clinical Lecturer will be set up to protect 50% of the Lecturer's time for academic purposes, including academic training, as well as providing maximal clinical experience. The post holder will be expected to attend Urology training days as appropriate and will carry a recognised ST Training number.

Publications, presentations and grant applications

The post-holder will contribute to a range of ongoing translational and clinical research within the College of MDS 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 Urology ACL programme

Informal queries and questions are welcome. Please contact our Urology Academic Lead Professor Rik Bryan (r.t.bryan@bham.ac.uk) to arrange a Zoom call or meeting.

Academic Lead (University) for the IAT Programme

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

Procedure for application

Potential applicants may discuss this appointment with Professor Rik Bryan (r.t.bryan@bham.ac.uk) and/or Mr Keval Patel (Keval.Patel@uhb.nhs.uk) and those shortlisted for interview are encouraged to visit the University of Birmingham Medical School to see the facilities and discuss relevant issues with Clinical and Academic staff.

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.

	ESSENTIAL	DESIRABLE	WHEN EVALUATED
ELIGIBILITY	Evidence of achievement of Foundation competences or equivalent. Candidate must be at ST3 or above.	Evidence of commitment to GMC specialty. Intercalated honours degree and/or additional qualifications e.g. MSc etc.	Application Form

	ESSENTIAL	DESIRABLE	WHEN EVALUATED
	<p>Must hold a higher degree (MD, PhD or equivalent) in a relevant 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>		
KNOWLEDGE & ACHIEVEMENTS	<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
EDUCATIONAL & PERSONAL ASPECTS	<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
PROFESSIONAL SKILLS	<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 1st 2024).