

Job Description

Post Title and Post Number	NIHR Academic Clinical Lecturer in Neurology
Organisation Advertising Description	College of Medicine and Health
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. The deadline to take up this post is 1 Sept 2025.
Salary	
Terms and Conditions	Clinical

Job Summary

This position will be based in the Department of Metabolism and Systems Science (IMSS), College of Medicine and Health, to support the area of Neurology health research and teaching portfolio. The research area has a broad portfolio of clinically based and basic science research.

Research activity will focus upon one of all potential areas of Neurology currently ongoing in the Institute. The post provides the opportunity for higher and advanced sub-specialist training in Neurology alongside pursuing an academic research career and contribution to teaching. The clinical duties of the post will rotate between the Queen Elizabeth Hospital, University Hospital Birmingham NHS Foundation Trust (UHBFT), and Sandwell and West Birmingham Hospitals NHS Trust.

It is anticipated that the successful applicant will undertake a programme of research in line with the current research interests within the Translational Brain Sciences group within the College of Medicine and Health, University of Birmingham. The institute houses a significant number of internationally and world leading researchers and has one of the nation's leading track records at obtaining prestigious career development and career establishment fellowships by major funders, including clinician scientist and senior clinical research fellowships from MRC and Wellcome Trust.

During the 50% clinical training allocation of the post, the postholder will have responsibilities for the care of inpatients and outpatients with the full range of neurology, and teaching and assessment of medical students and postgraduate students.

For the 50% academic research and teaching component, it is anticipated that the successful applicant will undertake a programme of research in line with the current research interests within the Translational Brain Sciences Group lead by Professor Sinclair, University of Birmingham. We champion the academic clinical integrated training pathway and host trainees in neurology throughout their career development.

The IMSS offers a highly multi-disciplinary collaborative environment that combines leading excellence in neurology particularly intracranial pressure dynamics, headache, idiopathic intracranial hypertension, traumatic brain injury, metabolic, neuro-endocrine research with mass spectrometry-based and computational systems science approaches. Our researchers employ a combination of in vitro and in vivo models, human in vivo physiology, innovative metabolic and imaging approaches, experimental medicine studies and clinical trials.

There are 3 research themes linked to Neurology within the IMSS, all of which have synergistic overlap with each other and other research areas of excellence:

- 1) Idiopathic intracranial Hypertension and metabolism
- 2) Headache, metabolism, and neuroendocrinology
- 3) Traumatic brain injury and post traumatic headache

The Translational Brain Sciences research group is led by Professor Alex Sinclair and focuses on idiopathic intracranial hypertension (IIH) and neuroendocrine aspects of headache. They use in vitro and in vivo models to assess pathogenic pathways and novel therapeutic strategies which modulate intracranial pressure. They are currently running a number of clinical trials related to IIH. Linked translational studies evaluate IIH aetiology and disease biomarkers. Human physiology studies are assessing headache and intracranial pressure mechanisms. In vivo studies are utilising mouse models to study cortical spreading depression and intracranial pressure. Professor Sinclair also leads the mTBI Predict research program, a cross disciplinary collaboration aimed at identifying prognostic biomarkers in mild traumatic brain injury. The program encompasses evaluations of cognition, mental health, sleep and circadian cycle, post traumatic headache, cerebral physiology, vestibular function and biofluid analysis

The IMSS is the academic home to ~40 internationally and world-leading principal investigators focussing on the areas of metabolic research in an integrated multi-disciplinary approach.

The IMSS contributes to strategic leadership for and houses some of the specialist facilities of the University of Birmingham Metabolomics Core www.birmingham.ac.uk/metabolomics that comprises unique expertise and technological capacities delivered by the Phenome Centre Birmingham, the Steroid Metabolomics Analysis Core, the Metabolic Tracer Analysis Core, the NERC Metabolomics Node, the Advanced Mass Spectrometry Facility and the Biomolecular NMR Facility.

Our science is translated into health via the Birmingham Health Partners' dedicated translational research centres. We pride ourselves that we can offer research approaches that can cover the entire translational cascade, from cell-based and animal in vivo model studies through to experimental medicine and clinical trials, providing the opportunity for broad research training and translationally integrated working. The successful applicant will have access to all state-of-the-art technologies and

expertise to facilitate the development of their research career at the cutting edge of Neurology and Metabolic Medicine.

The College houses state-of-the-art technologies and expertise to facilitate the research career of the successful applicant, with ready access to core technologies including DNA sequencing, proteomic and metabolomic facilities, and advanced imaging facilities.

The Wellcome Trust Clinical Research Facility (WTCRF) at QEHB provides a broad range of clinical research facilities including dedicated inpatient and outpatient accommodation, staffed by trained personnel and soon to be linked to an HTA approved tissue bio-repository. The WTCRF also comprises a paediatric satellite in the Birmingham Children's Hospital and a recently launched mobile research facility, the Health Research Bus, for outreach to the community. The Clinical Trials Unit within the College is one of the largest in the UK and provides access to essential skills (statistics, trial design, randomization, and outcomes) for clinical trial activity.

The research interests of a successful candidate will be paramount, and flexibility of research training and area of research modified to support the individual.

Main Duties

Clinical and Research activity balance

Clinical and research activity will be a 50:50 split between clinical and academic sessions. Time may be split to undertake 10 fixed clinical sessions every other week and remaining time will be available for research, with appropriate contributions to undergraduate teaching (small group teaching, lectures). Alternatively clinical and academic sessions may be split 50:50 on a weekly basis (or the candidate may propose 3 monthly blocks of clinical academic work). Time in post is recognised 100% to contribute to CCT accreditation and clinical competencies will be assessed annually at the ARCP assessments in the usual way. The on-call neurology commitments will be in accordance with the Hospital Specialist Registrar rota.

Flexibility will be given to whether the Clinical Lecturer post would be appointed as clinical ST 3-5 or more experienced. The person though must show commitment to an academic career in Neurology. The post-holder will normally remain in post until CCT is achieved or for a period of 4 years.

Description of research component of programme.

There will be flexibility to allow the successful candidate to develop their research interest within any of the research areas (both clinical and basic science/laboratory-based work) within the Translational Brain Sciences group.

It is required that prospective candidates have research experience and ideally research training. The candidate will have completed or been awarded a postgraduate degree (usually PhD). The candidate should have peer reviewed publications and will be expected to achieve a significant number of publications in peer reviewed journals and to prepare for a postdoctoral career development fellowship (e.g. Wellcome/MRC/NIHR postdoctoral or clinician scientist fellowships).

Description of clinical training component of programme

The opportunity of exposure to a full range of Neurology training opportunities will be offered. Successful candidates will be on an on-call full 'shift' rota and where possible on-call duties will be arranged to fall outside academic time.

Teaching

Contribute, if needed, to undergraduate and postgraduate teaching programmes for a variety of courses including the MB ChB, BMedSc and BDS courses

Status: For 'on-call' the clinical lecturer, as an SPR will follow the training hospitals policies.

Out of Hours commitment: The basic working week is 40 hours. In addition, the post-holder will be expected to undertake out of hours on-call commitment.

Publications, presentations and grant applications

The post-holder will contribute to a range of ongoing clinical research in the Dept of Metabolism and Systems Science, with the aim of publishing 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 Gastroenterology ACL programme

Professor Alex Sinclair, Professor of Neurology and Bloomer Chair of Neurology (A.B.Sinclair@bham.ac.uk). For clinical service aspects of the post, enquiries can be made to Dr David Nicholl, Chairman of the West Midlands Higher Speciality Training Committee for Neurology (email: David.nicholl@uhb.nhs.uk).

Academic Lead (University) for the IAT Programme

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

Knowledge, Skills, Qualifications and Experience Required

	<i>Essential</i>	<i>Desirable</i>	<i>Assessment</i>
Professional experience	MRCP (part 3) It is a requirement that the candidate holds a NTN Experience of ST3 or greater	Hold a Higher research degree (PhD or MD)	Application form, CV
Education	Experience of teaching medical undergraduates Small group teaching.	Design of undergraduate curriculum Experience of development of lesson plan for teaching sessions.	CV
Training/Specialist skills	Computer literate with Word, Excel, EndNote	Experienced in the use of Prism/GraphPad, Matlab and coding software	CV, interview
Research	Publications (first author) research	Demonstrate the ability to attain funding from peer review grant bodies (i.e. MRC, HTA, etc). Research Prizes	CV, interview

Special aptitudes/abilities	Ability to work in a team-orientated environment and to work without friction with colleagues	Ability to develop new techniques and assess their worth	Interview, references.
Motivation and disposition	<p>Motivated to take forward the specialty</p> <p>Committed to a career in academic medicine</p> <p>Ability to work independently and in a multidisciplinary team.</p> <p>Bright committed and able to produce consistently high quality work within deadlines.</p>		

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	<p>Evidence of achievement of Foundation competences or equivalent.</p> <p>Candidate must be at ST3 or above.</p> <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>	<p>Evidence of commitment to GMC specialty.</p> <p>Intercalated honours degree and/or additional qualifications e.g. MSc etc.</p>	Application Form
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</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>	Application Form and Selection Centre

	chosen field.	Significant publications in peer reviewed journals.	
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

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

* 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 2025).