

**Clinical research taster placement opportunities in experimental medicine for nurses, midwives and allied health professionals**

The NIHR Manchester Biomedical Research Centre (BRC) supported by Corridor Manchester and Health Innovation Manchester are investing in the next generation of researchers, providing an exciting opportunity for nurses, midwives and allied health professionals to gain the knowledge and skills needed to undertake high quality experimental medicine and translational research.

Working in collaboration with the NIHR Manchester Clinical Research Facility (CRF) and supported by Corridor Manchester and Health Innovation Manchester, the Manchester BRC are offering short, flexible experimental medicine placements for new and aspiring researchers from a range of backgrounds, including nurses, midwives, pharmacists and allied health professionals.

The placements are designed to give hands-on experience of experimental medicine within an active clinical research setting. Bespoke training will include: core clinical research skills, participant care, consent and research governance. No previous background of research is required to apply.

This is an innovative opportunity to gain an insight into experimental medicine through expert supervision and interaction.

**What is the NIHR Manchester BRC?**

The Manchester BRC is a group of expert clinical academics who conduct translational research across seven research themes to transform scientific breakthroughs into life-saving treatments and diagnostics for patients.

The BRC drives forward pioneering research in the areas of: [musculoskeletal disease](https://www.manchesterbrc.nihr.ac.uk/our-research/musculoskeletal/), [hearing health](https://www.manchesterbrc.nihr.ac.uk/our-research/hearing-health/), [respiratory disease](https://www.manchesterbrc.nihr.ac.uk/our-research/respiratory/), [dermatology](https://www.manchesterbrc.nihr.ac.uk/our-research/dermatology/) and three cancer themes ([prevention](https://www.manchesterbrc.nihr.ac.uk/our-research/cancer-ped/) and early detection, [radiotherapy](https://www.manchesterbrc.nihr.ac.uk/our-research/advanced-radiotherapy/)  and [precision medicine](https://www.manchesterbrc.nihr.ac.uk/our-research/cancer-precision-medicine/)).

[The Rapid Translational Incubator](https://www.manchesterbrc.nihr.ac.uk/our-research/rapid-translational-incubator/), [Biomarker Platforms](https://www.manchesterbrc.nihr.ac.uk/our-research/biomarker-platforms/) and [Informatics and Data Sciences](https://www.manchesterbrc.nihr.ac.uk/our-research/informatics-data-sciences/) cross cutting themes enable the Manchester BRC to rapidly translate scientific discoveries into new tests, treatments, devices and preventative measures that benefit patients.

**For more information visit** [www.manchesterbrc.nihr.ac.uk](http://www.manchesterbrc.nihr.ac.uk)

**What is the NIHR Manchester Clinical Research Facility?**

The Manchester CRF provides facilities for early phase clinical research studies in adults and children. Manchester CRF provides a safe, quality assured environment for delivering clinical research studies across three sites in Greater Manchester.

The Manchester CRF provides operational support services to assist investigators undertaking high-quality early phase research across a diverse range of clinical areas

**For more information visit** <https://research.cmft.nhs.uk/facilities-services/clinical-research-facility>

**What is Health Innovation Manchester?**

Health Innovation Manchester is an Academic Health Science System(AHSS) established to drive proveninnovation into health and social careservices at pace.

Leveraging the exceptional academic and clinical assets of the city region, we bring together basic research, translational research, clinical demand, and industry know-how and investment under a single umbrella; focused wholly on the needs of a population of 2.8m people.

Our role is to seek out and bring forward a constant flow of (industry led) innovations, accelerating them through the evaluation process and supporting them through our devolved decision-making structures so they are accepted at pace system-wide.

Operating within a devolved health and social care system enables us to create a unique infrastructure and environment for industry innovators to flourish - with a single gateway and innovation pathway, world-class informatics infrastructure, clear view of system needs, and processes that enable speedier and more accurate decisions.

**For more information visit** [**www.healthinnovationmanchester.com**](https://urldefense.proofpoint.com/v2/url?u=http-3A__www.healthinnovationmanchester.com_&d=DwMGaQ&c=bMxC-A1upgdsx4J2OmDkk2Eep4PyO1BA6pjHrrW-ii0&r=-Uk9dVVndMucT0n8TopRqhXgwTcQyktfZY_Pfp8P_40&m=nKRUlKqcpTeE8ji4SfBdQefYKuP3nKCuszZecgsZbWg&s=5DHSbsRZck2ML70GXViNIQkjQ3ge4yrNJp8FuY46PYc&e=)

**What is Corridor Manchester?**

Corridor Manchester is home to a partnership of knowledge-intensive, entrepreneurial and cultural organisations working together to develop a cosmopolitan hub and world-class innovation district in Manchester.

The intelligence and imagination that’s concentrated in our universities, hospitals, cultural institutions, laboratories and businesses is reaching critical mass and together we’re converting those ideas into reality.

From a multicultural, dynamic and eclectic exchange of ideas, we’re creating a sustainable community – rich with culture, built on the solid foundations of training and education – and revealing the benefits of knowledge for all to enjoy.

This city has always been for the makers, thinkers and risk-takers. But now culture, science and commerce are coming together to create a magnetic new home for today’s innovators. A place where pioneering ideas are brought to life.

**For more information visit** [**http://www.corridormanchester.com/**](http://www.corridormanchester.com/)

**Information on the Manchester BRC Research Themes**

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**For more information please visit the Manchester BRC website** [**www.manchesterbrc.nihr.ac.uk**](http://www.manchesterbrc.nihr.ac.uk)

**Why people should get involved?**

Highly skilled scientists and clinical researchers across all healthcare professions are essential for the discovery of new ways to advance treatments to improve people’s health.

**What’s in it for participants?**

* Gain first-hand experience of how clinical research is undertaken in the NHS
* Explore opportunities for further engagement in:
  + Clinical research
  + Postgraduate degree study at Masters and/or PhD levels Training and vocational courses offered within our partnership
* Collaborate with senior clinical academics in delivering a short research project
* Enhance your knowledge of experimental medicine, especially in a clinical research context

**What’s in it for employers?**

* Receiving backfill for the pay of staff who undertake a placement
* Assisting you in releasing staff to join the initiative through flexible placements:
  + placements can be attended in week blocks
  + on a day release basis
  + negotiable placement start and end dates
* Enhancing the career development of your staff through a unique training opportunity
* Facilitating staff to bring new skillsets and knowledge into their work environment
* Help shape the future of the Manchester BRC Placements scheme through feedback
* Joining collaborative networks involved in healthcare and higher education in Manchester
* Contribute to the Greater Manchester Health and Social Care Partnership strategy of improving patient outcomes through upskilling the workforce
* Play a role in aligning the efforts of healthcare partners and deepening Greater Manchester’s health science ecosystem

**What’s in it for us?**

* Inspiring NHS staff from a range of different backgrounds to engage in clinical research
* Provision of an entry route to increase clinical research capacity in the NHS
* Build collaboration between employers, Manchester BRC, Manchester CRF, The University of Manchester and other Manchester Corridor organisations
* Demonstrate the breadth of career development training on offer through the Manchester BRC
* Improve the standards and understanding of experimental medicine research
* Impact the longer term clinical research landscape in Manchester and beyond

**Information for Applicants - How the placements will work**

Each placement is personalised to ensure it is relevant and based on the experience and knowledge of the individual undertaking it, as well as their learning and development needs.

Prior to the start of the placement and in consultation with their project supervisor, each successful applicant will be given a personalised induction and learning objective plan. This will form the basis of the placement and act as a benchmark for progress. Your schedule of attendance, in conjunction with your employer, will also be agreed. Rather than running this like a taught degree course, we also want to give you a taster of what research courses are like; working closely with a supervisor to decide what are important aspects to learn more about and where to focus work efforts; rather than prescribing a set menu for everyone.

The placements will consist of two main aspects, the project itself and information designed to help you understand how clinical research works in practice. The placement must have begun by 31st March 2019. Networking opportunities will be planned to learn about research opportunities available during and after the placement.

At the end of your placement, you’ll have a meeting with your supervisor to go through what you’ve learnt and discuss other ways you could continue to pursue your interest in research. There will also be opportunities for you to provide feedback on how you’ve found the placement and feed into our continual improvement.

If you work part time, you are welcome to attend the placement on your day(s) off; this would not require managerial sign off. We would welcome such applications, although there will be no transfer of payment, except for work days being missed as a result of the placement. It is not possible for us to make payments directly to the people undertaking the placements, the money is an incentive for employers to give people the time they need out of work to attend their placement.

**Information for employers - How the placements will work**

Once you have given your consent for someone to apply and filled in the employer support form, we will work together to agree the schedule of attendance, which can be flexible in terms of attendance style (day release to weekly attendance). Placements can begin at any time provided the project supervisor agrees, until the 31st March 2019, so you can plan this to avoid potentially busy times or have sufficient time to arrange backfill. Once the placement is due to start, we will arrange for the transfer of backfill funds, into the account you’ve agreed with us.

Once the placement is concluded, we’ll ask if you could please provide us with feedback, and have a discussion with your member of staff (of course we will be doing this as well), and help them reflect on what they have learnt and what further steps they might consider.

**Eligibility**

To be eligible for this scheme you must meet the following requirements:

* Currently working as a nurse, pharmacist, or [allied health professional](https://www.england.nhs.uk/ahp/role/)
* No previous research experience is required
* Able to begin placement before 31st March 2019
* In order for your employer to receive backfill, you must be attending the placement on days you would otherwise be in work
* Not be part of a Scientist Training Programme (STP) or other similar schemes, nor studying a PhD or other research based courses
* Priority will be given to those currently employed by a Greater Manchester NHS trust

**How to apply**

If you’re interested in applying, please complete the application form at the end of this document. Please don’t be too put off by the questions, we are just trying to gauge where you’re currently at in your career. You should also include a CV, no longer than one side of A4.

You should choose a project from the selection below that you are most interested in. Unfortunately we cannot guarantee you will be allocated this project, but it will help us understand your interests.

The employer support form needs to be completed by your authorising manager. Without signed consent, via this form, your application will not be considered. This is because it confirms you will be given enough time out of work to complete the placement.

Once you have completed your application form, CV and employer support form, please send them via email to [brcplacements@manchester.ac.uk](mailto:brcplacements@manchester.ac.uk) by 23:59 8 May 2018. A chance to apply at a later date may be available if there are still spaces remaining, although there may be fewer opportunities to choose from.

**Questions**

If you have any questions, please don’t hesitate to get in contact via [brcplacements@manchester.ac.uk](mailto:brcplacements@manchester.ac.uk) / +44 (0)161 275 7199. If your question related to a specific project please contact the supervisor listed on the project list below. **Advanced Radiotherapy**

**Project Title:** Investigating MR-guided adaptive radiotherapy for cervical cancer patients using plan of the day on the MR linac

**Supervisors:** Dr Alan McWilliam, [alan.mcwilliam@manchester.ac.uk](mailto:alan.mcwilliam@manchester.ac.uk)

Dr Marianne Aznar, [marianne.aznar@manchester.ac.uk](mailto:marianne.aznar@manchester.ac.uk)

Julie Webb [Julie.Webb@christie.nhs.uk](mailto:Julie.Webb@christie.nhs.uk)

**BRC Theme:** Advanced radiotherapy – precision radiotherapy

**Background and Project details**

The Christie NHS Foundation Trust is one of seven sites in the Elekta MR-linac research consortium. We now have a research MR-linac on site and are moving towards treating our first patients in early 2019. The MR-linac will provide online MR guidance, allowing the superior soft tissue contrast of MR to be utilised in targeting the radiation delivery. This improved soft tissue contrast is particularly desirable for treatment of cervical cancer patients who show large daily variations in position. This results in large safety margins to ensure we treat the disease over the course of treatment. However, this will also result in the patients experiencing normal tissue toxicities.

To reduce toxicities and ensure coverage of the disease adaptive strategies have been introduced. The most common involves having a number of plans available for treatment, based on different bladder filling states. Each plan has a smaller safety margin and the best plan can be selected each day based on the patient’s anatomy. Over treatment, this will result in less dose to the normal tissues and therefore, the patient will experience less toxicity as a result of treatment.

It is desirable to translate this technique onto the MR-linac and exploit the superior soft tissue contrast for selecting the best plan. This project will utilise a dataset of 10 cervical cancer patients with MR imaging at four time-points during treatment. MR imaging was acquired with a drinking protocol allowing standard plan of the day approaches to be investigated. Treatment plans will be created on the initial time-point and used to select plans on the subsequent time-points. The CBCT’s are also available for all fractions allowing a visual comparison to be performed of plan selection on CBCT versus MR image guidance. In addition, a dosimetric study will be performed based on the daily anatomy on the MR, to highlight the potential benefit of using this technique on the MR-linac.

The student would be embedded in the advanced radiotherapy group in the radiotherapy related research group and based in The Christie. And the project will use infrastructure and analysis pipelines already in place and established. As part of the placement the student will be expected to perform the work under guidance of the supervisors. There will be opportunities to learn about other projects ongoing within the group and participate in group meetings and seminars.

Some knowledge of medical physics and radiotherapy is beneficial. The student will be taught how to use the treatment planning software. Some knowledge of statistics would be beneficial although not essential.

**Potential outcomes/impact**

This project will form part of our clinical implementation of the MR-linac. The main outcome of this work will be a proof of concept of MR-guided plan of the day selection on the MR-linac. This is a translation of an established technique, but has not yet been demonstrated using MR-guidance. If successful it was start to establish this technique for future clinical implementation.

**Links with NIHR Manchester Clinical Research Facility (Manchester CRF)**

In addition to the project-specific experience in the advanced radiotherapy group, the candidate would also be able to visit the Manchester Clinical Research Facility part of this project, facilitating a broader experience of EM research. This would encompass the clinical review of a patient, how clinical research data is collected and recorded, and will cover any relevant regulatory issues associated with EM studies (such as consent, protocol design and ethical approval).

**Candidate**

The project would be well suited to a medical physicist currently in training or an early career radiographer. It would complement their clinical experience, informing them in the growing field of MR-guidance in radiotherapy. All necessary training would be provided and would benefit such an individual in their future career. This experience would also be suitable for future funding applications if the candidate wish to apply for a studentship.

**Time-frame:** 6 weeks or equivalent number of days.

**Advanced Radiotherapy**

**Project Title:** A pilot study to explore the use of PROMS (patient reported outcomes measurement) in supporting patients with lung cancer treated with concurrent chemoradiotherapy (cCTRT)

**Supervisors:** Professor Faivre-Finn [corinne.finn@christie.nhs.uk](mailto:corinne.finn@christie.nhs.uk)

**BRC Theme:** Advanced radiotherapy – precision radiotherapy

**Background and Project details**

Patients with lung cancer receiving curative-intent concurrent chemoradiotherapy (cCTRT) often experience more severe side effects to treatment due to the combined nature of the treatment. The Christie lung team has over 15 years of experience using this combined modality treatment and understand that early reporting of treatment side effects and toxicity is a crucial part of effective management of these patients to help get through the treatment. One of the aims of the BRC precision radiotherapy theme is to develop advanced techniques that will lead to the reduction in the risk of acute and late treatment-related toxicity. The accurate assessment of toxicity is crucial to the understanding of the impact of such techniques.

Patient Reported Outcomes Measurement (PROMS) is a great tool for bringing the patient voice into cancer care and of empowering the patient to self-manage their symptoms and accurately report their toxicity to treatment to the clinicians involved in their care. More experience of using the PROMS tool in patient management is now needed. PROMS is an excellent and effective way of measuring symptoms, health status, distress and unmet needs of the patients in our care undergoing treatment. The Christie lung team has developed a validated PROMS tool and has shown that patients report toxicities as being more severe than clinicians when using this tool (Christodoulou, 2014).

Furthermore recent evidence shows that patients followed up with PROMS tools have a better survival and quality of life compared to others (Denis JNCI 2017 and Basch JCO 2016). Such tools are not yet implemented in the routine setting at the Christie.

The Christie and the Manchester Cancer Research Centre are working with a global software company ‘SAP’ on the electronic collection and integration of PROMS in a number of disease sites, including lung.

This opportunity is ideal for a clinical health professional e.g. nurse clinician or clinical nurse specialist working in lung to lead on a pilot project looking into supporting patients through the concurrent chemo-radiotherapy treatment pathway using a PROMS tool.

Patients treated with cCTRT will be identified over a period of three months. They will be asked to fill in an eight item validated PROMS questionnaire prior to cCTRT, on completion of cCTRT and every three months for 12 months using an electronic platform. The project would be ideal for a clinical nurse specialist or similar who is responsible for managing the patients undergoing cCTRT treatment with support from the lung team.

The successful candidate will perform short telephone or face to face short interviews with patients to ascertain the acceptability of using the electronic platform and obtain feedback from patients. They will also work with the software company ‘SAP’ to define ways of alerting the clinical team when patients experience severe toxicity.

**Potential outcomes/impact**

This project would link with the initial work already undertaken on using the PROMS tool to support lung cancer patients undergoing radiotherapy (Faivre-Finn, 2013-2017).

As described above there is evidence that the collection of PROMS can improve outcomes for patients by early reporting of toxicities and symptoms. It is felt strongly that using these tools by systematically integrating a PROMS tool measurement into pathway management of a cancer patient’s treatment will become part of a clinical sustainability strategy as patients with cancer have better outcomes and survival due to improve treatment options.

The challenges faced in implementation of this PROMS data collection into standard practice include:

1. Acceptability of the data collection by patients

2. Optimal frequency of the data collection

3. Role of the specialist nurse in the data collection

4. How to alert the clinician if patients are reporting worsening/severe toxicity

**Links with NIHR Manchester Clinical Research Facility (Manchester CRF)**

In addition to the project-specific experience in the Advanced Radiotherapy theme, the candidate would also be able to visit the Manchester Clinical Research Facility part of this project, facilitating a broader experience of Experimental Medicine research.

**Candidate**

The successful candidate will be supervised by Prof Faivre Finn. The project would be well suited to a nurse clinician or clinical nurse specialist with experience of lung cancer and managing patient cohorts on the cCTRT pathway. It would complement their clinical experience and output from this research could influence future pathway management of lung cancer patients at The Christie.

**Time-frame:** 4-6 weeks or equivalent number of days.

**Advanced Radiotherapy**

**Project Title:** Developing a model to predict feeding tube dependency during head and neck radiotherapy

**Supervisors:** Dr Gareth Price [gareth.price@manchester.ac.uk](mailto:gareth.price@manchester.ac.uk)

Dr Andrew McPartlin [Andrew.McPartlin@christie.nhs.uk](mailto:Andrew.McPartlin@christie.nhs.uk)

**BRC Theme:** Advanced radiotherapy – precision radiotherapy

**Background and Project details**

Head and neck radiotherapy has significant associated acute and late toxicities. A common side effect is severe difficulty in swallowing resulting from radiation induced mucositis. These patients often need to be admitted to hospital for the insertion of a nasogastric feeding tube to allow them to maintain sufficient nutritional intake. These interventions require inpatient stays of several days which is undesirable both from the patients perspective and from a health economic viewpoint. An alternative approach used in some institutions is to place feeding tubes at outpatient appointments prior to treatment. However, as not all patients will develop mucositis severe enough to warrant tube insertion, this approach means some will undergo an unnecessary intervention. A method of predicting the likely need for feeding support during therapy is sought to minimise admissions and unnecessary procedures.

This project will investigate patient, dosimetric and disease predictive factors to generate a model to identify patients at highest risk of requiring NG tube insertion. The student will use data mining and machine learning techniques to explore the relationship between patient characteristics, clinical parameters and the likelihood of patients developing severe mucositis. In radiotherapy, patients are routinely imaged, not least for the development of their individualized treatment plans. The images patients accumulate throughout their treatment pathways contain huge amount of information about their condition, the quality of the radiotherapy they receive and their response to treatment. One of our group’s main research themes is analysing these images to extract information that is predictive of patients’ clinical outcomes. The student will be involved in analysis of the treatment planning images and use results derived from them to augment predictive models developed using clinical factors.

The student will be embedded in the advanced radiotherapy and data mining teams of the Radiation Related Research group at The Christie, with the opportunity to participate in group meetings and seminars and learn about other ongoing projects. They will also have the opportunity to spend time within the Trust’s clinical head and neck oncology team. The data mining informatics platforms and regulatory framework necessary for this work have already been established, meaning the student will be able to start their analytical work immediately. All necessary training will be provided and the student will work under the guidance of the project supervisors.

**Potential outcomes/impact**

This project has clinical implications and the generation of a successful model would be used to inform clinical practice. A high quality model has the potential to have rapid clinical impact in reducing acute admissions during treatment, with benefits in both patient experience and reduced associated health care costs. We expect that the work will lead to academic publications.

**Links with NIHR Manchester Clinical Research Facility (Manchester CRF)**

As well as being immersed within the aforementioned academic groups and clinical teams, the student will have the opportunity to visit the Manchester Clinical Research Facility (CRF) as part of this project in order to gain broader experience of experimental medicine research. The Christie CRF is dedicated to early phase research and is the home of many first-in-human studies.

**Candidate**

The project would be suited to a radiation therapist or medical physicist. It would allow them to develop an appreciation of the rapidly developing field of data driven oncology and enable them to contribute to a clinically meaningful application of these new approaches to research. All training required would be provided, in addition to gaining clinical experience in the treatment of complex head and neck cases of benefit for their future career.

**Time-frame:** 6 weeks or equivalent number of days.

**Cancer Prevention and Early Detection**

**Project Title:** The Family History Lifestyle Study

**Supervisors:** Dr Michelle Harvie [Michelle.Harvie@manchester.ac.uk](mailto:Michelle.Harvie@manchester.ac.uk)

**BRC Theme:** Cancer Prevention

**Background and Project details**

This placement will provide the successful applicant with a unique opportunity to work with within the team of research dietitians in the Prevent Breast Cancer Research Unit at University Hospital South Manchester. <https://preventbreastcancer.org.uk/breast-cancer-research/research-projects/diet-and-lifestyle/>

The applicant would be involved with the delivery of a randomised trial testing different types of weight loss cancer prevention programmes amongst women at increased risk of breast cancer.

The placement would provide grounding in the set up and running and analysis of a dietetic research trial, as well as critical appraisal skills and a grounding in evidence based dietetics through project-based teaching, peer-based learning and interactive discussion. The dietitian would have the opportunity to advise patients on our evidence based intermittent dieting (5:2) approach which was pioneered by Dr Harvie and her colleagues in the unit.

**Potential outcomes/impact**

This work forms part of a larger programme of breast cancer prevention research and there would be no expectation of publication after such a short research period. Any candidate interested in pursuing this experience further will be supported to do so by the project team.

**Links with NIHR Manchester Clinical Research Facility (Manchester CRF)**

The placement would include visits to observe the facilities and activity of the Clinical Research Facility to gain a broader experience of experimental medicine (EM) research.

**Candidate**

The project requires a qualified dietitian with at least 12 months of clinical work experience with an enquiring mind and a good attention to detail. A background in research methods would be an advantage, but not essential. The placement could form the basis for a future funding application for an extended period of research. All necessary training will be provided, including training in Good Clinical Practice training for research

**Time-frame:** 6 weeks or equivalent number of days at 1 or 2 days per week.

**Dermatology**

**Project Title:** Cochrane Wounds: an introduction to evidence synthesis

**Supervisors:** Prof Dame Nicky Cullum [nicky.cullum@manchester.ac.uk](mailto:nicky.cullum@manchester.ac.uk)

Dr Jo Dumville [jo.dumville@manchester.ac.uk](mailto:jo.dumville@manchester.ac.uk)

**BRC Theme:** Dermatology

**Background and Project details**

The systematic collection and analysis of existing research should be the precursor to any new research as it ensures new primary research is built on firm foundations, avoids the mistakes of the past, and reduces research waste. This placement offers the opportunity to work at the base of Cochrane Wounds; one of more than 50 review groups that form the Cochrane Collaboration. We produce and publish high quality systematic reviews of the effects of wound management interventions, of prognostic factors and prognostic models and of diagnostic test accuracy in the wounds field.

The placement would involve learning about the basics of systematic reviews of different types and the steps involved in their production. The successful applicant(s) would participate in current systematic reviews, typically through peer review of review protocols and reviews, screening literature searches for eligible studies, working with colleagues to agree study inclusion, data extraction and assessment of risk of bias. The placement holder would work closely with Cochrane Wounds staff. No experience of systematic reviews is required however you would be expected to be comfortable with the basics of research design (e.g., the strengths and weaknesses of randomised and non-randomised studies for assessing intervention effects).

**Potential outcomes/impact**

The successful applicant(s) will acquire knowledge and hands-on experience of systematic reviewing. They will contribute to the production of systematic reviews that may go onto publication and may have the opportunity to meet authorship criteria but certainly be acknowledged in any publications. Anyone highly motivated to continue to contribute to systematic reviews in the field would be supported and encouraged to participate in the future.

**Links with NIHR Manchester Clinical Research Facility (Manchester CRF)**

In addition to the specific project work, the placement would allow the opportunity to visit the Manchester CRF.

**Candidate**

The ideal candidate would have familiarity with the design of randomised controlled trials and cohort studies. Some experience of wound care would be a distinct advantage.

**Time-frame:** 4-6 weeks or equivalent number of days at 1 or 2 days per week.

**Hearing Health**

**Project Title:** Career enhancing taster session in hearing health research

**Supervisors:** Senior researchers in the Manchester Centre for Audiology and Deafness (ManCAD) [kevin.munro@manchester.ac.uk](mailto:kevin.munro@manchester.ac.uk); [piers.dawes@manchester.ac.uk](mailto:piers.dawes@manchester.ac.uk)

**BRC Theme:** Hearing Health

**Background and Project details**

We are seeking motivated audiologists, practitioners and healthcare scientists, employed in the Northwest, who are interested in developing research skills in audiology. The specific project to be undertaken in this short duration taster session will be established according to the background, interests and learning development needs of the applicant.

On-going areas of research at ManCAD that the applicant could be potentially involved with include adult hearing screening, hearing protection, genetics of new born screening, cochlear synaptopathy, ototoxicity, NF2 biomarkers, listening effort, intervention decision making, paediatric assessment, engineering solutions and technology, device uptake and deaf patient’s experiences.

**Potential outcomes/impact**

The placement will enable you to gain hands-on experience of experimental medicine within an active clinical research setting. Bespoke training could include core clinical research skills, participant care, consent and research governance.

Outcomes of the placement include promotion of inter-professional learning and building and supporting a skilled workforce capable of advancing high quality research with the aim of maintaining and improving hearing health within a knowledge-based, patient-centred health service.

You may go on to lead independent research projects or undertake postgraduate research training. Any candidate interested in pursuing this experience further will be supported to do so by the project team.

**Links with NIHR Manchester Clinical Research Facility (Manchester CRF)**

The applicant would have access to research mentoring and research skills development through peer-based learning and interaction. The NIHR Manchester Clinical Research Facility facilitates access to research seminars, interactive lectures, discussion groups such as case studies and weekly journal clubs to critically appraise published original articles.

**Candidate**

The placement would be suitable for clinical audiologists and hearing health practitioners and scientists who are interested in further exploring clinical research opportunities. The placements are suitable for those staff members without any prior research experience. These placements will complement existing schemes that have successfully led to Allied Health Professionals accessing NIHR funded programmes.

**Time-frame:** 4-6 weeks or equivalent number of days at 1 or 2 days per week.

**Musculoskeletal**

**Project Title:** Understanding the Safety of a Biosimilar Switching Programme in the UK

**Supervisors:** Professor Kimme Hyrich [Kimme.Hyrich@manchester.ac.uk](mailto:Kimme.Hyrich@manchester.ac.uk)

**BRC Theme:** Musculoskeletal

**Background and Project details**

This taster session will give you the opportunity to understand how drug safety data can be monitored nationally through biologic registers and how it compares to other mechanisms (i.e. through analysis of Clinical Practice Research Datalink, Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency, Yellow Card, etc.).

The taster would involve embedding you with the BSRBR-RA register staff, a large national pharmaco-surveillance study. This would include operational introductions, such as data collection, ethics, data validation and safety monitoring. There would also be the opportunity to analyse, under supervision, data from patients with rheumatoid arthritis switching from originator biologic to biosimilar products. As it would not be expected for the candidate to have experience in statistics, this would be done under close supervision of academic staff with time for discussion of results, including implications of the results.

**Potential outcomes/impact**

This work forms part of a larger programme of research on biosimilars and there would be no expectation of publication after such a short research period. Any candidate interested in pursuing this experience further will be supported to do so by the project team.

**Links with NIHR Manchester Clinical Research Facility (Manchester CRF)**

In addition to the project-specific experience in the University, you will also be able to attend the Manchester Clinical Research Facility part of this project, facilitating a broader experience of Experimental Medicine (EM) research. This would encompass the clinical review of a patient, how clinical research data is collected and recorded, and will cover any relevant regulatory issues associated with EM studies (such as consent, protocol design and ethical approval).

**Candidate**

This project would be well suited to a specialist hospital pharmacist with experience of biologic use for autoimmune diseases but other nursing and allied health professionals are welcome to apply. It could form the basis for a future funding application for an extended period of research. All necessary training will be provided, including training in basic statistical analysis approaches.

**Time-frame:** 6 weeks or equivalent number of days at 1 or 2 days per week.

**Musculoskeletal**

**Project Title:** The impact of lupus on cognition and quality of life

**Supervisors:** Dr Ben Parker [Benjamin.Parker@manchester.ac.uk](mailto:Benjamin.Parker@manchester.ac.uk)

Professor Ian Bruce [ian.bruce@manchester.ac.uk](mailto:ian.bruce@manchester.ac.uk)

**BRC Theme:** Musculoskeletal

**Background and Project details**

This taster session will provide you an introduction to experimental medicine in systemic lupus erythematosus (SLE); focussing on how the disease can impact on cognition and quality of life (QoL). This will involve examining QoL cognition and disease activity measures collected in a cohort of active SLE patients.

The candidate will be embedded within the connective tissue disease (CTD) research team and work on an existing project investigating cognition in active SLE. This would include operational introductions, such as data collection, ethics, and data validation. There would also be the opportunity to analyse, under supervision, data from patients with SLE, including cognitive function and functional MRI data. As it would not be expected for the candidate to have experience in statistics this would be done under close supervision of academic staff with time for discussion of results including implications of the results.

**Potential outcomes/impact**

This work forms part of a larger programme of research on SLE and there would be no expectation of publication after such a short research period. Any candidate interested in pursuing this experience further will be supported to do so by the project team.

**Links with NIHR Manchester Clinical Research Facility (Manchester CRF)**

In addition to the project-specific experience in the University, you will also be able to attend the Manchester Clinical Research Facility part of this project, facilitating a broader experience of experimental medicine (EM) research. This would encompass the clinical review of a patient, how clinical research data is collected and recorded, and will cover any relevant regulatory issues associated with EM studies (such as consent, protocol design and ethical approval).

**Candidate**

This project is open to a candidate from a nursing, pharmacy or allied health professional background. It could form the basis for a future funding application for an extended period of research. All necessary training will be provided, including training in basic statistical analysis approaches.

**Time-frame:** 6 weeks or equivalent number of days at 1 or 2 days per week.

**Musculoskeletal**

**Project Title:**  Understanding the impact of musculoskeletal diseases on worker productivity loss

**Supervisors:** Dr Suzan Verstappen [Suzanne.Verstappen@manchester.ac.uk](mailto:Suzanne.Verstappen@manchester.ac.uk)

**BRC Theme:** Musculoskeletal

**Background and project details**

This taster session will give the opportunity to understand what the impact of common musculoskeletal diseases such as inflammatory arthritis (i.e. rheumatoid arthritis, psoriatic arthritis and ankylosing spondylitis) and osteoarthritis are on worker productivity loss including absenteeism (e.g. sick leave) and presenteeism (i.e. problems at work due to ill health).

The taster would involve embedding the AHP within the Centre for Musculoskeletal Research. This would include some introductions into study design, epidemiological research and use of outcome measures related to worker productivity loss in patients with arthritis in clinical studies. The AHP will have the opportunity to join teleconferences with the outcome measures in rheumatology (OMERACT) worker productivity group. There would also be the opportunity to analyse, under supervision, absenteeism and presenteeism data from patients with inflammatory arthritis or osteoarthritis collected as part of our national cohorts or the international cohort EULAR-PRO at-work productivity study. As it would not be expected for the candidate to have experience in statistics this would be done under close supervision of academic staff with time for discussion of results including implications of the results.

**Potential outcomes/impact**

Within the time-frame of 6 weeks it will not be expected that there will be a publication. However, any analysis performed may be part of a future manuscript and will also inform the OMERACT worker productivity group. For those candidates who pursue a research project in this field and want to apply for funding, we will be happy to provide guidance on writing grant applications.

**Links with NIHR Manchester Clinical Research Facility (Manchester CRF)**

In addition to the project-specific experience in the University, the candidate would also be able to attend the Manchester Clinical Research Facility part of this project, facilitating a broader experience of EM research. This would encompass the clinical review of a patient, how clinical research data is collected and recorded, and will cover any relevant regulatory issues associated with EM studies (such as consent, protocol design and ethical approval).

**Candidate**

This project would be well suited to an occupational therapist or physiotherapist with an interest in the impact of rheumatic diseases on employment and outcome measures of presenteeism. It could form the basis for a future funding application for an extended period of research. All necessary training will be provided, including training in basic statistical analysis approaches.

**Time-frame:** 6 weeks or equivalent number of days

***BRC Placement Application Form***

***This should be completed and emailed with your current CV and your employer support form (completed by your authorising manager) to*** [**brcplacements@manchester.ac.uk**](mailto:brcplacements@manchester.ac.uk) ***by 8th May 2018.***

***Please complete electronically and read the declaration at the bottom of the form, the table should expand as you type.***

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Personal/Employer Details:** | | |
| **Title (Mr, Miss, Mrs, Dr etc.)** | |  |
| **Registered Body (HCPC/GPhC etc.) & Registration number** | |  |
| **First Name (s)** | |  |
| **Surname** | |  |
| **Date of Birth (dd/mm/yy)** | |  |
| **Home Address (or alternative mailing address e.g. work)** | |  |
| **Contact Telephone Number** | |  |
| **Email (for all communication)** | |  |
| **Current Occupation** | |  |
| **NHS Pay Grade** | |  |
| **Name of Authorising Manager** | |  |
| **Authorising Manager email address** | |  |
| **Proposed number of work days that would be missed to attend** | |  |
| **Proposed number of days for attendance not part of paid employment** | |  |
| **If unsuccessful, I wish to be contacted in the future when this scheme is again open for applications** (Please tick this box and we will retain your email for future opportunities, if you do not tick this box, you will not receive this email) | |  |
| **Previous Research Experience (if any)** | | |
| **Please detail any experience you have previously had of research, note this isn’t a requirement, we expect most people will not have any** |  | |
| **Choice of Project**  (150 words maximum per answer) | | |
| **Which project are you most Interested in?** |  | |
| **What aspects of this project interest you?** |  | |
| **What makes you a suitable candidate for this project?** |  | |
| **What would you expect to learn from this placement?** |  | |
| **Future Aims and Objectives**  (150 words maximum per answer) | | |
| **How would you look to apply the experience gained through the placement?** |  | |
| **Are you considering any further research related training/study in the next five years?** |  | |
| **If we cannot offer you the project you are interested in, we may be able to offer an alternative, so if there are other projects you may be interested in, please write the titles in this box.** |  | |

**CONFIDENTIALITY AND THE SHARING OF INFORMATION**

The information contained in this application will be used for the purpose of processing your application and, if you are admitted, will be held by The University of Manchester and NIHR. All data is held and processed in accordance with the requirements of the Data Protection Act 1998.

Before you start the placement, it is important that you are aware that there are certain circumstances in which confidential information about you may need to be shared between the placement team and your employer. This may be, for example:

* Where there are significant concerns about your conduct whilst undertaking the placement.
* Upon completion of the placement

If you have any objections to the sharing of confidential information, between the placement team and your employer, this need to be resolved before the application is submitted; **submission of the application is explicit acceptance of the above statement.**

**By submitting this form to** [**brcplacements@manchester.ac.uk**](mailto:brcplacements@manchester.ac.uk)**, you confirm you have read and agreed to the below statement:**

I certify that the information given in this application and in the supporting documents is accurate and complete. I understand that the submission of false, misleading, or inaccurate information may be sufficient cause for refusal of admission or termination of registration.

***BRC Placement Employer Support Form***

***This form should be completed by a manager with sufficient authority to release the candidate. Forms will be checked for authenticity, should an applicant be approached and offered a placement. Please note the backfill offered for this placement must be used specifically for this purpose.***

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Applicant Details:** | |
| **Full Name** |  |
| **Project Applied for** |  |
| **Total backfill required (given specific salary of applicant) if known \*See Note Below\*** | £ |
| **Required number of days for applicant to be absent from regular work if successful** |  |
| **Would you want to release them in a block (i.e. four weeks continuous) or day release (i.e. 2 days a week for 10 weeks/1 day a week for 20 weeks)** |  |
| **Authorising Manager’s Supporting Statement for Application:** | |
| **Why would this candidate be suitable for undertaking this placement?** |  |
| **How would you like to see the applicant apply the experience gained through the placement** |  |
| **Authorising Manager Details:** | |
| **First name** |  |
| **Surname** |  |
| **Contact Telephone Number (work)** |  |
| **Email (for all communication)** |  |
| **Current Occupation** |  |
| **Authorising Manager Confirmation of support:** | |
| **I confirm permission for the above named applicant to be absent from their usual work during the period specified and have the required authority to release them** |  |
| **Signature**  **(Electronic is acceptable)** |  |

**\* Special note around Backfill:**

Exactly what is written on the employer support form will be used for the backfill calculation. Please ensure this is correct, it should be calculated as the exact amount as per the **employee’s specific band**, and **be inclusive of any pension contributions, income tax & employer NI contributions**, i.e. the exact amount the employer would pay, opposed to what the employee would receive.

In order for backfill to be paid, an employee must be leaving their regular job to attend the placement, i.e. no money will be paid if a candidate works part time and someone attends the placement on a day they would not usually be in work.