

NEWSLETTER

GEORGE'S ACADEMIC TRAINING (GAT)

NOVEMBER
2022 EDITION

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NEW STARTERS

NIHR Academic Clinical Fellows (ACF)



Andrew Lambarth - Clinical Pharmacology

Aurélien Gueroult - Vascular Surgery



Emma Thorley - Paediatrics

Natasha Matthews - Emergency Medicine



NIHR Clinical Lecturers (CL)



James Budge - Vascular Surgery

Joe Westaby - Histopathology



Rahul Shah - Neurosurgery

Bilal Azhar - Vascular Surgery



HEE Academic Clinical Fellows (ACF)

Theodore Criswell - General Practice





Research Day 2022



Research Day 2022 - save the date, register, submit an abstract

Research day 2022 registration, poster abstract submission and award nominations now open!



This year, St George's Research Day will take place on **Wednesday 7 December, 9.45am - 7pm**, Curve Lecture Theatre. Research Day is an annual celebration of the world-class research done at the University.



The event includes a number of short oral presentations from St George's staff, poster presentations, research awards, and the Thomas Young Lecture. This year the lecture is delivered by Professor Sir Mark Caulfield titled *Transforming Precision Healthcare: Making personalised diagnoses and tailoring treatment*.



Lunch and a drinks reception will also be provided.



Please register to attend here.

Please submit a poster abstract for consideration here.



The categories are:

Chrissie Fenske Research poster prize (£1000 prize)

Undergraduate prize (£100)

Postgraduate (including MRes and MD) prize (£100)

The deadline for poster abstract submission is Sunday 27 November.



For more information, please see the Research Day webpages here.

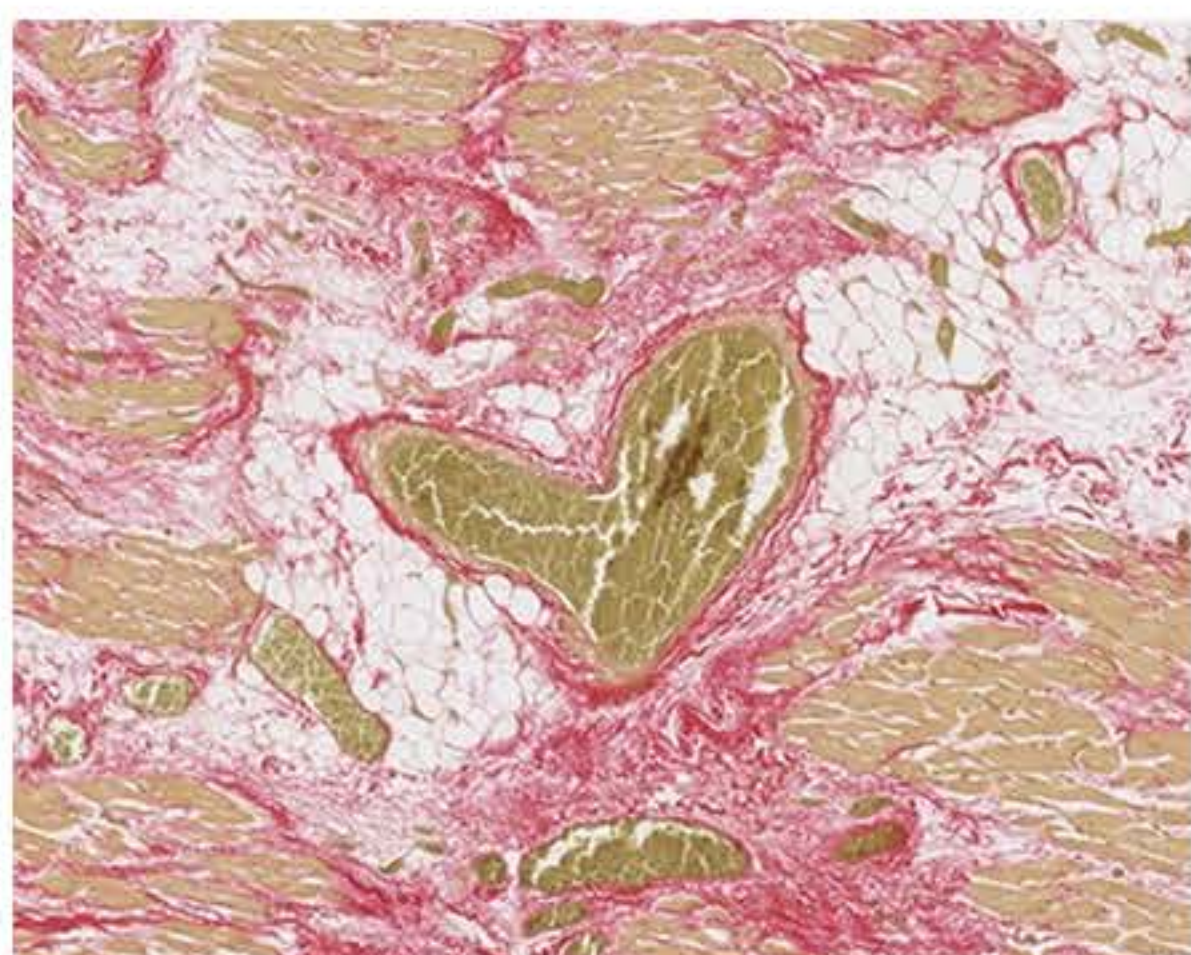


Image of the year by

Joseph Westaby





News from our trainees

Kathryn Biddle

- NIHR ACF Rheumatology
2019 to 2022

Reflections on my Rheumatology Academic Clinical Fellowship

I started my Academic Clinical Fellowship (ACF) in Rheumatology in August 2019 and had originally planned to focus my research time on a clinical trial in rheumatoid arthritis (the BIORA-pain study).

My first research block was postponed due to the first wave of the COVID-19 pandemic. When I started my academic block in 2020, recruitment to non-COVID-19 studies was largely suspended and my original research plans were not possible. Instead of working on the BIORA-pain study, I conducted a research project characterising the clinical features and immune responses in patients with pre-existing autoimmune disease who developed COVID-19. Whilst this was not the research that I had imagined myself undertaking, the study taught me a great deal about participant recruitment, laboratory skills, data interpretation, statistical methods and study write up. In addition to presenting some of the results at national and international rheumatology conferences, I have submitted a manuscript of the full results for publication.

Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, I took advantage of a range of other opportunities. I presented a clinical case at a national rheumatology conference, co-authored a book chapter, published a couple of review articles and completed the PGCert in Research Skills and Methods. During my second research block, recruitment into rheumatology trials had largely resumed and I was able to participate in the BIORA pain study and have submitted abstracts to a range of different rheumatology conferences.

Overall, my ACF has taught me an enormous amount about clinical research. By making the most of the opportunities available, I gained many transferable skills and research knowledge. The fellowship has consolidated my desire to pursue a career in academic rheumatology and I plan on applying for a PhD in the near future.

NOVEMBER 2022

News from our trainees



Sarah Sturrock – NIHR ACF Paediatrics Reflection on an Academic Clinical Fellowship.

For the last 2 years, I have been working as an Academic Clinical Fellow with Prof Le Doare's team in the Institute for Infection and Immunity whilst also completing my clinical training in Paediatrics at St George's.

In the first year of my Fellowship, we started discussing the problem of risk prediction for neonatal sepsis in low resource settings where mortality is high and antenatal care is often limited. After testing some risk stratification systems commonly used in the UK and USA, I found that they had a low sensitivity and specificity when applied to neonates in Uganda and so were unlikely to be clinically useful for deciding which neonates should have antibiotics or admission to a neonatal unit.

Over the following year, I have developed a plan to use machine learning to create a new sepsis risk stratification system. I will conduct a field study in Uganda, where antenatal and perinatal data will be combined with blood culture results for a cohort of neonates. Machine learning will then help to create a statistical model to predict sepsis risk, which I will test in a second neonatal population in Zimbabwe. I hope this work will provide a basis to improve care of babies at risk of sepsis in sub-Saharan Africa.

With the support of Prof Le Doare and the II&I team, I have been appointed to the CREATE (Africa Health Research Training Programme) Doctoral Fellowship, and will return to St George's in March 2023 to start my PhD. I cannot speak highly enough of the quality of supervision and support in both my academic and clinical training at St George's, and I am so grateful to have had the opportunity to be part of the team.



News from our trainees

Abteen Mostofi

NIHR Clinical Lecturer Neurosurgery

Deep brain stimulation (DBS) is a neurosurgical procedure involving the permanent implantation of electrodes into specific brain structures to treat neurological conditions such as Parkinson's disease. The brain regions targeted are usually no more than a few millimetres in size and located deep within the brain. A high degree of precision and accuracy is required to place electrodes within these intended brain targets using a technique known as stereotactic surgery. Targeting error describes the discrepancy between intended and actual electrode placement. Minimising targeting error is critical, as failure to deliver electrodes accurately risks ineffective therapy and/or undesirable side effects. Measurement, quantification and analysis of targeting errors is essential in identifying and addressing sources of such error in DBS surgery and in assessment of the impact of electrode placement on clinical outcomes. This is currently time and skill intensive and therefore often not performed systematically in routine clinical practice.

Abteen Mostofi (NIHR Clinical Lecturer in Neurosurgery), along with co-investigators Erlick Pereira (Reader in Neurosurgery) and Michael Hart (Senior Lecturer in Neurosurgery), has been awarded a St George's Concept Development Award for up to £30,000 towards the development of novel software designed to simplify and automate this process. The aim is to widen access to systematic analysis of targeting errors and their determinants in order to improve the efficacy of stereotactic procedures and outcomes for patients.



News from our trainees

Dr. Julian Pearce – NIHR ACF Dermatology 2019 to 2022

Reflection on an Academic Clinical Fellowship.

Over the last three years I have undertaken a Dermatology ACF alongside clinical registrar training. It has been a busy and enjoyable experience with excellent associated opportunities including the development of research skills, achieving a post graduate certification, publications and undertaking several national presentations. My project has focused upon investigating the immunological abnormalities and clinical sequelae in patients with lymphovascular disorders and has resulted in exciting novel data being generated. I have had the opportunity to present my findings and associated cases at national conferences such as the annual meeting of the British Association of Dermatologists and British Lymphology Society. Other highlights have been publishing a book chapter and an article within the BMJ, achieving the RSM best presentation award for a lymphatic case and working on our major original research article describing the main findings from my project.

The COVID-19 pandemic had a significant impact upon research with many projects and funding paused. Although I was re-deployed to the COVID wards, additional research opportunities did present themselves during this difficult time. I was able to help write and publish a consensus document on COVID-19 vaccination for patients with lymphoedema, which was in response to very concerned patient and clinician queries about vaccination suitability. This consensus document has now been internationally adopted and has helped educate patients and clinicians alike. The ability to work within a dedicated and enthusiastic clinical and research team has been very motivating and inspiring and has allowed personal academic development as well as establishing valued professional relationships. I am very grateful to my colleagues, mentors, and patients for an excellent academic clinical fellowship.



News from our trainees

Laksmi - Academic Clinical Fellow (ACF) General Practice **Chandrasekaran**

I have recently started the final year of the ACF, and I have a particular interest in improving public engagement in research and developing skills in qualitative research methods. In this capacity, I have collaborated with several researchers within the Population Health Research Institute. I have gained experience of PPIE work through a project assessing the potential use of Artificial Intelligence within the NHS Diabetic Eye Screening Programme. I am currently involved in qualitative research within two projects: supporting intervention development to prevent potentially harmful skincare practices during infancy, and a randomised feasibility trial looking at the use of alternative treatment for bacterial vaginosis or thrush.

I presented a poster at Research Day and delivered an oral presentation at the South-East Annual Scientific Meeting of the Society of Academic Primary Care discussing the findings of a systematic review on the effectiveness of youth violence preventative intervention programmes within healthcare services.

I have contributed towards teaching activities at SGUL, and I have helped prepare and conduct tutorials and lectures for both undergraduate and graduate students and assisted with assessment design.

The ACF has been a fantastic opportunity for me to learn, develop and collaborate on research activities, with a view to continuing on an academic path in the future.



News from our trainees

Dr. Jacqueline Driscoll

Academic Clinical Fellow in General Practice

I began my primary care ACF in December 2021 so now is a good time to reflect on the year gone and plan for the year ahead. Prior to making the jump to primary care, I had been training in paediatrics and had developed special interests in medical education particularly simulation, medical humanities and safeguarding. I have been very fortunate under the supervision of Dr Judith Ibison to further these interests and develop some new ones!

We have been working on curriculum development for the teaching of handover as we know from the foundation doctor survey, this is an area of practice doctors struggle with. However, prior to embedding new pedagogy, we decided a greater understanding of why handover is so uniquely challenging was needed. As such, we have been collaborating with colleagues inside and outside of SGUL in carrying out a meta-ethnographic review of doctors experiences of handover. We are interested in gaining a phenomenological perspective about what is happening with handover in practice. We have also approached this challenge in another way. We bid for and were awarded a student staff partnership grant to investigate via a survey and focus groups medical, physiotherapy and nursing student experiences of handover in teaching and in practice.

I have also been able to contribute to the teaching of special study modules on trauma and war and multimedia representations of illness with Dr Deborah Padfield and Professor Annie Bartlett. I'm looking forward to contributing more to the exciting things happening with medical humanities at George's, not least being part of the 'Finding A Leg' extracurricular module that is hosted by SGUL and Birbeck University as part of Open Spaces in the New Year. As part of my development in this area, I am adding to the Masters Degree I have undertaken in Medical Humanities by completing my Diploma in Medical History with the Worshipful Society of the Apothecaries. It is a testament to the open minded and enthusiastic atmosphere that permeates SGUL that I have been able to continue to develop such diverse interests over a short period of time and I'm looking forward to what ST4 brings.



News from our Specialised Foundation programme doctors

We receive a fixed annual income to our Small Grant Fund from the Isaac Schapera Research Trust to support research conducted during Specialised Foundation Programme years. Three of our AFP doctors have made successful applications to the fund and here are their reports

Ella Tumelty and Hilary Warrens

We were recently awarded the GAT small grant fund, enabling us to attend the annual UK Kidney Week Conference; this year hosted in Birmingham.

We presented two posters at the moderated poster presentations, "Perioperative major adverse cardiovascular events with kidney transplantation", and "pre- and post-operative heart failure in kidney transplant recipients: a single centre experience." These presentations demonstrated the results of a recent audit we had undertaken with our colleagues Daniel Murphy, Simran Singh Parmar, Tony Lopez, Thomas McNally, and which was overseen by Professor Debasish Banerjee and Dr Phanish Mysore.

For this audit, we had reviewed all renal transplants which took place in St George's Hospital between 1st January 2019 and 31st December 2021. We audited the incidence of perioperative major adverse cardiovascular events occurring within 30 days of transplantation. We hope that the results obtained from this ongoing project will inform the trusts pre-renal transplanting cardiovascular screening policy.

We are very grateful to have been given the opportunity to attend such an interesting day. As well as watching the excellent talks and participating in discussions surrounding the other poster presentations, we participated in an interventional nephrology workshop, where we simulated inserting central venous catheters and identifying pathology using ultrasound. We are incredibly grateful to GAT for their support.



News from our Specialised Foundation programme doctors

Naomi Melamed Specialised Foundation Programme doctor

In September 2022, I was able to present at the International EURETINA conference in Hamburg, Germany. This conference allowed me to meet many fantastic ophthalmic researchers and clinicians from around the world and gave me the opportunity to further develop my portfolio for the ever-important specialty training applications. I had a great experience and am extremely grateful to be a recipient of the Isaac Shapera fund.

The conference occurred early in my academic block. This was perfect timing for me as I was able to compile a poster based on data I had generated in my previous rotation. The poster was titled "Are we losing future talent? Factors that influence students on a career in ophthalmology". As someone currently in the process of applying to the specialty, I am very aware of the difficulties of the application. I wanted to examine this further. With the help of some peers, we organised a 1-day virtual conference in ophthalmology to determine which factors would deter or promote medical students to consider a career within the specialty. Our results were unsurprising, deterring factors included the competitiveness and difficulty in examinations. Whereas we were surprised to see that the opportunity for research was one of the most influential factors. This had also surprised many at the conference, the ability to discuss this with leading clinicians was scary but extremely rewarding.



Dr. Mohammad Razai

NIHR In-Practice Fellow

Mohammad is pleased to report that he has been awarded a distinction for his MA in Applied Medical Humanities at Birkbeck University of London. His MA dissertation was entitled Capturing the Lived Experiences of Postgraduate Doctors: A Critical Humanities Approach Drama and Creative Writing. Mohammad extends thanks to his PHRI and IMBE colleagues for their support and encouragement throughout his MA.

Congratulations

News from Mohammad:

- ▶ Poems in **Tears in the Fence** literary magazine
- ▶ Massive Open Online Course on the FutureLearn platform: Lyme Disease Prevention and Management
- ▶ Three medical publications:



Husain F, Razai MS. Ethnic disparities in fertility care: causes and solutions. *Obstetrics, Gynaecology & Reproductive Medicine*. 2022 Sep 5.

Husain F, Powys VR, White E, Jones R, Goldsmith LP, Heath PT, Oakeshott P, Razai MS. COVID-19 vaccination uptake in 441 socially and ethnically diverse pregnant women. *PLoS One*. 2022 Aug 17;17(8):e0271834. doi: 10.1371/journal.pone.0271834.

Magee L, Knights F, Mckechnie DGJ, Al-Bedaery R, Razai MS. Facilitators and barriers to COVID-19 vaccination uptake among ethnic minorities: A qualitative study in primary care. *PLoS One*. 2022 Jul 8;17(7):e0270504. doi: 10.1371/journal.pone.0270504.



COURSES AND TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES



SGUL PgCert Healthcare Research Skills and Methods

This course is suitable for a wide range of healthcare professional, and is of particular relevance to doctors and allied healthcare professionals in academic training, or established clinicians who wish to develop, enhance and implement their research skills. It will also be of benefit to healthcare educators, social care practitioners and researchers.

- » Knowledge and techniques
- » Personal effectiveness
- » Engagement, influence and impact
- » Research governance and organisation.

You will gain an excellent foundation for critically understanding and evaluating research, its design, conduct, dissemination and funding, as well as acquiring knowledge of appropriate statistical methods. And you will develop knowledge, practical skills and attitudes you need to become an effective healthcare researcher and conduct your own research.

»» Starter grants – the Academy of Medical Sciences



To apply for the Academy's Starter Grants for Clinical Lecturers, Springboard, GCRF, Networking, Newton Fellowship, and Daniel Turnberg Travel Fellowship schemes please use Flexi-Grant, the Academy's online application system. A Flexi-Grant user guide can be downloaded from the link below. In addition, when an application is open, you can download a template application form for the scheme you want to apply from the scheme's webpage:

<https://acmedsci.ac.uk/grants-and-schemes/grant-schemes/information-for-applicants/start-your-application>

You can find application tips just below the application link. In the Learning Hub you can find more tips for researchers at all stages of their careers.



COURSES AND TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES



SGUL Developing Teaching Course

Developing Teaching short course designed and delivered by the Centre for Innovation and Development in Education (CIDE) offers staff who are involved in teaching and/or supporting the learning of St George's students, the opportunity to improve their knowledge and understanding about learning and teaching. This course is aimed at full and part time academics (who are not suitable candidates for St George's Postgraduate Certificate in Healthcare and Biomedical Education course), research staff, postgraduate students, honorary fellows and professional services colleagues who support students' learning.

If you are keen to update and/or further improve your knowledge and skills about learning and teaching as part of your career enhancement plan, this 6-weeks blended course is for you.

➤➤ For further information and to book a place on the course please visit the dedicated page on the CIDE website.

➤➤ NIHR Funding Programmes

The screenshot shows the NIHR website header with the logo and name 'NIHR | National Institute for Health and Care Research'. Below the header is a navigation bar with dropdown menus for 'Health and Care Professionals', 'Researchers', 'Patients and the Public', 'Partners and Industry', and 'About us'. A search bar is visible on the left. The main content area features the heading 'Funding Programmes' and a breadcrumb trail: 'Home > Explore NIHR > NIHR Programmes'. On the right side of the page, there is a large circular graphic with a red center and blue and white concentric rings.