



Paediatric Oncology/Haematology Drug Development Clinical Fellowship

Our paediatric experimental cancer medicine centres (ECMC) network brings together clinicians and translational scientists to run early-phase clinical trials for children and young people with cancer across the UK. The network is formed of 12 paediatric phase 1/2 centres, including a centre in Scotland (Glasgow) and a centre in Wales (Cardiff). It functions as a single virtual centre to improve patient recruitment and expand geographical access to novel anticancer agents.

In our current funding cycle, we're supporting one additional 12-month Paediatric Oncology/Haematology Drug Development Fellowship.

The fellowship aims to provide the candidate with the opportunity to work in one of our paediatric centres within the oncology and haematology drug development teams to gain exposure to children undergoing participation in early phase trials.

Alongside this clinical exposure, the candidate will have the opportunity to follow a site-prepared educational package specific to the unique site set up or collaboration partners.

The package will include aspects of:

- drug discovery
- preclinical testing
- genomics and personalised medicine
- biomarkers
- pharmacokinetic/pharmacodynamics/pharmacogenetic concepts
- trial designs
- protocol development
- regulatory and ethical aspects.

The anticipated duration of the clinical training will be 12 months. Fellows will gain experience in early phase trials for solid, CNS and haematological malignancies, and will have the opportunity to further develop an area of interest in one of these sub-categories.

The training centres will be responsible for all contractual and employment arrangements with the fellow. Candidates will have a choice of centres which have put themselves forward to host a fellow (see the Appendix below for the list of centres). We will provide an educational grant to support the fellowship but will hold no legal responsibility for the employment of the fellows.

The fellow will be expected to participate in our Junior Investigator Network Group: Training the Next Generation workshop (<https://www.ecmcnetwork.org.uk/jing-tng>) and in regular network meetings.

Who can apply?

The fellowship is intended for doctors in training who are committed to becoming paediatric haematologists / oncologists in the UK and want to further extend their expertise in drug development. The candidates should be undertaking their paediatric haematology/oncology training, i.e. have a solid understanding of the core principles of paediatric oncology/haematology when embarking on this role.

One fellowship will be available to **start in March 2027** although earlier start dates may be possible. Please see the full job description below for further information on centres that have put themselves forward to host a fellow in this round.

Funding

The salary scale for this 12-month fellowship will be as per the NHS resident doctor salary scale at the chosen centre/region and depending on individual's level of experience. The expected range in the most expensive region is £69,547-£79,109.

How to apply

Please send a two-page CV and a letter of intent explaining why you are interested in this fellowship.

To submit an application or for any queries, please contact our programme office - ecmadmin@cancer.org.uk

Key timelines

- Application deadline is **9 August**.
- Shortlisted candidates will be informed by 21 August, with online interviews arranged shortly after.
- Selection will be made no later than mid-September 2026.

Informal enquiries:

- For generic and oncology- related enquiries, contact Lynley Marshall (LynleyVanessa.Marshall@icr.ac.uk)
- For haematology-related enquiries, contact Donna Lancaster (Donna.Lancaster@rmh.nhs.uk)

Appendix 1–host centre descriptions

University of Birmingham (UoB) and Birmingham Children’s Hospital (BCH)

This ECMC Drug Development Fellowship opportunity is a shared arrangement between the Cancer Research Clinical Trials Unit (CRCTU) of the University of Birmingham (UoB) and the Birmingham Children’s Hospital (BCH) which is part of the Birmingham Women’s and Children’s NHS Foundation Trust.

Birmingham Children’s Hospital

The Haematology/ Oncology department at BCH is one of the largest paediatric haematology/ oncology services in the UK seeing 200-250 new cases of childhood malignant disease each year. A team of 15 NHS consultants, 3 academic consultants and 14 post-graduate doctors in training, provide care through 5 cancer MDTs including solid tumours, neuro-oncology, leukaemia, stem cell transplant and retinoblastoma. BCH is one of the 5 First-in-Child ECMC early Phase trial centres in the UK and our current clinical trial portfolio includes a range of industry and academic early Phase trials including the platform trial GIO-BNHL. The fellow will have a dedicated fellow role in the Early Phase trials team, be sub-investigator on all Phase I/II trials and gain experience across all aspects of early Phase clinical trials conduct.

Cancer Research UK Clinical Trials Unit

The CRCTU is the largest paediatric cancer clinical trials unit in Europe. Prof. Amos Burke, who is part of the BCH oncology consultant team, has been director of CRCTU since December 2023. The CRCTU has 4 dedicated Children’s Cancer teams which together deliver the broad CRCTU portfolio of international, academic children’s cancer trials. The fellow will have the unique opportunity to work alongside one or more of these teams. Several of these trials are large platform trials with innovative Bayesian, multi-arm, multi-stage designs. Prominent examples include the highly innovative GIO-B-NHL trial Phase I/II platform trial for relapsed/ refractory B-NHL with several treatment arms all delivering to filing standards in collaboration with different Pharma partners. In this environment, trials can be experienced through their whole life cycle from idea generation and new business meetings to trial setup/ protocol writing, regulatory application and authorisation, trial opening and monitoring, as well as trial closure.

Bristol Royal Hospital for Children

Bristol Royal Hospital for Children (BRHC) is a tertiary referral centre covering paediatric cancer care across the Southwest of England. A newly developed Paediatric Clinical Research Facility co-located with oncology services offers a dedicated clinical research delivery space. The research team – senior trial co-ordinator, assistant trial coordinator, three research nurses, three data managers, research practitioner and senior research health care support worker – is led by a highly experienced paediatric research sister, supported by the Lead Nurse for Research who is additionally Co-Specialty Lead for Children across the Southwest Research Delivery Network, and a medical research lead with significant experience in novel therapy trials. With a strong history of early phase clinical trial delivery BRHC is a committed ECMC centre and an accredited early phase clinical trials centre of the European network Innovative Therapies for Children with Cancer (ITCC). Furthermore, BRHC has been designated a Tessa Jowell Paediatric Neuro-Oncology Centre of Excellence.

Research-experienced team

A robust ethos of high-quality research delivery is solidly embedded within clinical practice. The consultant team has significant expertise and includes the Co-author, UKNPI, and lead for the Molecular Residual Disease (MRD) Group of the European practice-changing AllTogether clinical trial; the Lead Early Career Investigator for Glo-BNHL, an innovative fit-for-filing international platform trial evaluating multiple, including first-in-child, novel agents for relapsed/refractory B-NHL; Co-investigator on the FaR-RMS overarching study for children with rhabdomyosarcoma; Associate Director of VIVO Biobank, and an independent Data Monitoring Committee member for several early phase and CAR T-cell immunotherapy trials. Strong cross-departmental working incorporates the vast expertise of paediatric research colleagues who have delivered multiple highly experimental trials including vaccine and gene therapy studies.

Extensive early phase clinical trial portfolio

BRHC deliver a large portfolio of both academic-led and industry-sponsored trials spanning benign haematology, malignant haematology, solid tumour oncology, neuro-oncology and bone marrow transplant. Early phase work encompasses delivery of first-in-child novel agents, targeted medicines and more recently immunotherapy. Currently open and recruiting early phase trials include DETERMINE, Glo-BNHL, BEACON2 and rEECur with several further, such as HemiSMART and CONNECT TarGeT, anticipated in the pipeline.

ECMC Drug Development Fellowship

The ECMC Drug Development Clinical Fellow will follow a robust training programme to gain the skills required to pursue a research career and become a Chief Investigator of the future. Comprehensive training will cover the set-up, design and delivery of clinical trials. With dedicated consultant support, the post holder will lead on the care of all children on early phase trials from recruitment, through complex care coordination, delivery of treatment, evaluation and management of adverse events, interpretation of response assessment and advanced communication with families. Additionally, the Fellow will be supported to become an Associate Principal Investigator on an early phase trial and a sub-investigator on all other trials.

Our key research priorities are expansion of the early phase trial portfolio and building on our strong foundation of opening clinical trials across our Paediatric and Teenage and Young Adult (TYA) unit. Therefore, an element of career-enhancing service development

work in developing the service and driving forward improvements in access to targeted and novel agent trials for the TYA population will be available. Furthermore, preliminary discussions are being held, in conjunction with the Co-Lead of the Paediatric Emerging Therapies theme of the ambitious Brain Tumour Consortium's multimillion-pound NIHR funding bid, to develop a Bristol-investigator-led high impact novel neuro-oncology study; this would bring a unique opportunity to be a core part of a team developing a trial from initial concept through protocol development, regulatory interactions, study initiation and delivery and ultimately publication and dissemination of results.

Cambridge–Addenbrookes Paediatric Clinical Trials/Drug Development Fellowship

Addenbrooke's Hospital, Cambridge, is the Primary Treatment Centre for children's cancer and blood disorders across the East of England. We work closely with our 9 Shared Care Hospitals to provide equitable access to clinical trials. Our team consists of 7 Paediatric Oncologists, 4 Paediatric Haematologists, and 2 Bone Marrow Transplant consultants. We have JACIE accreditation and are a Tessa Jowell Centre of Excellence for Children with Brain Tumours.

We have 17 interventional and 9 observational trials, currently recruiting, and were the 2nd highest recruiting site nationally for Children's Cancer and Leukaemia in 2024/25 (*source: NIHR RDN Reporting Platform*). Our trial portfolio spans haematology, oncology, BMT and cancer genomics trials. Our Research Team is composed of the NIHR Specialty Lead for Children (East of England), a Senior Trial Coordinator, Data Coordinators, Research Nurses, Biosamples Assistant, Pharmacy and QA.

Our site is the leading centre for innovation in childhood cancer genomics in the UK, with novel WGS technologies being evaluated and rapidly implemented through clinical trials. We co-lead the StratifiedMedicinePaediatrics2 and Beacon2 trials. Our co-location with the world-class University of Cambridge (UoC) offers unique opportunities to develop further research programmes from basic science to clinical translation.

In addition to learning the process of trial set-up, regulatory process and governance, we offer a specific educational package, including drug discovery, preclinical testing, genomics, personalised medicine, biomarkers, trial design, protocol development, and ethical aspects of trial design in collaboration with the UoC. We will provide the necessary training and support to either lead a trial, an arm of a trial, or complete an audit or project of interest. We will support participation in training courses including ECMC-JING, "EOSTC/ESMO/AACR Methods in Clinical Cancer Research" workshop and the next "ITCC Introductory Courses to Paediatric Drug Development" (November 2026).

Cardiff–Noah’s Ark Children’s Hospital for Wales (NACHfW)

Clinical activity

Cardiff joined the paediatric ECMC network in 2022 and has several early phase trials open including Beacon2, CARE Repotrectinib study, LIGHTBEAM 01A and 01C, Determine and SMPaeds2. The ECMC fellow will have the opportunity to manage recruitment and monitoring of patients undertaking these trials as well as attendance at MDT and molecular tumour board. The adult ECMC centre in Cardiff is very well established and there is excellent cross working and collaboration in both the clinical and research settings. Clinical care is delivered via the paediatric oncology department, and the children and young adult research unit (CYARU) is a dedicated research unit for children and young adults and delivers many clinical trials for both oncology and other paediatric specialities.

Translational activity

Fellows will have the opportunity to spend research time within our translational research community which spans expertise across genomics (NGS, ctDNA, cfDNA, long read sequencing), Data Integration and AI modelling of patient outcomes, High resolution advanced Imaging (CUBRIC), Telomere biology (Hi STELA sequencing), ATMP development (TCR-T, CART, virotherapy), tumour microenvironment and immunometabolism and drug discovery and combinations research.

CUBRIC advanced imaging

Cardiff University Brain Imaging Centre (CUBRIC) has advanced MRI and microstructural imaging techniques, which are currently being studied in a feasibility study for children with newly diagnosed brain tumours. This resource has potential for numerous studies of advanced imaging in paediatric malignancy and the ECMC fellow will have the opportunity to participate in these studies.

All Wales Medical Genomics Service (AWMGS)

AWMGS is one of the leading genomic diagnostic services in the UK routinely delivering high capacity, high-throughput oncology screening across Wales using the Illumina 500 NGS panel and WGS for Paediatrics and data linkage at the population level.

Quality of life and patient reported outcomes research

The team in Cardiff have expertise in the development of patient reported outcome measures (PROMs) and their use in clinical trials and are collaborating on a number of projects nationally and internationally via organisations such as ACCELERATE and EpSSG. The fellows will have an opportunity to participate in this research activity. Underpinning all our activities is a strong focus on Patient and Public Involvement and Engagement (PPI&E) which is supported by our dedicated ECMC PPI officer and lay lead who liaise with local and national PPI groups

Glasgow

The Royal Hospital for children, Glasgow (opened June 2015), co-located with the Queen Elizabeth University Hospital (QEUH), is the largest hospital campus in Europe and is serviced by the largest comprehensive laboratory complex in Europe.

The hospital provides a large number of specialist services to the West of Scotland and the wider population of Scotland in addition to the full range of secondary care services to people of Greater Glasgow and Clyde. Specialist services include: renal and stem cell transplantation, cardiology and cardiac surgery, ECMO, early phase clinical trials, molecular radiotherapy and single site radiotherapy for children with cancer. For a number of these services, the children's hospital is recognised as the sole provider in Scotland.

The clinical Haematology/Oncology Department of the Royal Hospital for Children in Glasgow, within its 26 bedded Schiehallion Unit, is the largest UK CCLG centre in Scotland and sees approximately 90 new cases a year with cancer of which two thirds are solid or brain tumours. For Neuro-oncology, we have just been awarded Tess Jowell centre of excellence award for children designation.

Glasgow is one of 12 UK based ITCC (Innovative Therapies for Children with Cancer)/ECMC (Experimental Cancer Medicine Centre) units delivering phase I/II trials to children in Scotland and the North East of England. A clinical trials service is embedded in the Children and Young Adult Cancer Unit within the Children's hospital. The unit has developed a broad and expanding portfolio of early phase clinical trials (more than 10 trials open now) and plays an important collaborative role within ECMC and ITCC. The unit is very active in recruitment to late phase trials and has a well-established team for national and international trials. It has important links with University of Glasgow, and Adult ECMC centre. Prof Christine Halsey, paediatric haematologist is head of the school of cancer Sciences and is leading over 200 staff and post graduate students. Her main research interest is CNS leukaemia.

We jointly lead with Newcastle a network for the North of Britain and Ireland which comprises Northern England, Scotland, Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland - a population of 15 million. This was the prototype for the ECMC Paediatric network relapse MDTs. We hold weekly teleconferences as a part of relapse MDT to identify trial opportunities for patients with relapsed/ refractory disease within this network and enable travel between the centres for trial entry.

The Drug development fellow will work closely with other members of the multi disciplinary team carrying out early clinical studies of novel agents in children and teenagers at the Royal Hospital for Children. The fellow will also be involved in the care of children and young people enrolled on early phase clinical trials, both in the wards and Day Care. The post holder will also have an opportunity to develop an interest in Leukaemia/Lymphomas, Neuroblastoma, Neuro-oncology, Sarcoma and other solid tumours.

The post is suitable for trainees paediatric oncology/haematology, wishing to gain further experience in paediatric oncology drug development. The post holder will be in an ideal position to acquire new skills and expertise allowing them to pursue a career in

clinical/scientific research. The post holder will have the opportunity to develop their own projects in the early phase clinical trial and drug development

The drug development fellow will be responsible, under the direction of consultants, for assessment, investigation and treatment of these patients and will be expected to participate in clinical research as appropriate.

Applicants should have previous experience in the field of paediatric haematology and oncology and be fully registered with the GMC.

For informal discussions please contact Dr Milind Ronghe.

Email address - Milind.Ronghe@ggc.scot.nhs.uk Tel No 0141 4526692

Great Ormond Street Hospital for Children NHS Foundation Trust (GOSH)

Great Ormond Street Hospital for Children NHS Foundation Trust (GOSH) is an international centre of excellence in child healthcare. Together with our research partner, the UCL Great Ormond Street Institute of Child Health, we form the UK's only academic Biomedical Research Centre specialising in paediatrics. In partnership with six other NHS trusts, we are the lead provider for North Thames Genomics Medicine Centre, part of the national 100,000 Genomes Project. Team members of two CRUK Grand Challenge teams focusing on childhood cancer.

The ECMC Paediatric Oncology Drug Development fellow will join the GOSH Experimental Cancer Therapeutics programme, which aims to improve the efficiency of introducing novel targeted agents (including biological therapies) into children with cancer. GOSH/UCL have established a team of doctors, research nurses and data managers to conduct translational and clinical research. The programme will offer the following:

- Cover whole range of early phase trials across oncology and haematology.
- GOSH/UCL has unique expertise in developing CAR-T cell therapies in leukaemia, solid and brain tumours providing ward experience in managing these patients, opportunity to spend short period in the pre-clinical CAR-T cell teams.
- Expertise in developing academic trials in neuro-oncology including novel drug delivery systems.
- Assist in development and writing of regulatory submissions.
- Join team coordinating the CRUK funded Stratified Medicine Paediatric 2 National Molecular Profiling programme.
- Will be support in participation in the ECMC-JING: training the next generation workshop (<https://www.ecmcnetwork.org.uk/jing-tng>) and paediatric ECMC.

Please contact Prof Darren Hargrave (d.hargrave@ucl.ac.uk) for more information.

Leeds Children's Hospital, Leeds Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust

Leeds Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust is one of the largest acute trusts in the UK and the Children's Hospital hosts all paediatric sub-specialties on a single site including supra-regional liver surgery and transplantation and cardiac surgery services.

The oncology and haematology consultant team has 13 consultants with clinical research interests in neuroblastoma, neuro-oncology, supportive care research, sarcoma, allogeneic stem cell transplantation and bone marrow failure. Clinicians in Leeds are national chief investigators for SIOPEN HR-NBL2 and CiproPal clinical trials.

Leeds has an excellent track record in clinical trial recruitment, and the current early phase clinical trial portfolio consists of 7 open interventional studies including BEACON-2, Y-mABS 201, SMPaeds2, ONC-201 and others in set-up. Early phase clinical trials are usually delivered within the NIHR funded Leeds Paediatric Clinical Research Facility. The children's clinical research delivery team includes 19 research nurses and 8 clinical trial assistants with specific staff dedicated to paediatric oncology and haematology research.

University affiliations

CHORAL (Children's Outcomes Research at Leeds)

Major funded collaboration between the University of Leeds and Leeds Children's Hospital to support and deliver children's research, grow and develop children's researchers in Leeds and link professionals. The programme is led by Prof Adam Glaser (paediatric oncologist) and the Children's Cancer Translational Research Theme is led by Prof Sue Burchill, professor of childhood and adolescent research.

Candlelighter's Supportive Care Research Centre

The Candlelighter's charity funded 5-year programme is led by Prof Bob Phillips and delivered by University of York and has worldwide collaborations and specific interests in infection, chemotherapy induced nausea and vomiting, mucositis and photo-biomodulation.

Paediatric Oncology and Drug Development Fellowship Programme

The training programme will be adapted to the needs of the appointed fellow and can include:

- Attendance at paediatric, teenage and young adult oncology, haematology and neuro-oncology MDT meetings to assess patients potentially eligible for early phase trials.
- Recruit and manage patients on clinical trials with an emphasis on early phase trials.
- Attend oncology-radiology meetings and MDT's to support trial imaging assessments
- Research delivery including visit assessments, delivery of novel agents / immunotherapies, pharmacovigilance assessment and reporting.
- Attend weekly research delivery meetings and monthly oncology research management meetings.

- Prepare cases and attend bi-weekly ECMC regional relapse meeting (Leeds, Manchester, Leeds and Sheffield).
- Prepare cases and attend bi-weekly The North East and Yorkshire Genomic Medicine Service Paediatric Tumour Genomic Advisory Board (GTAB) meeting.
- Collaborate with paediatric clinical research fellows to gain experience in non-oncology but related early phase trials particularly in neuro-muscular, rheumatology and intensive care studies.
- Experience in pre-clinical research with Prof Burchill's research team.
- Experience in young adult oncology early phase trial research in collaboration with the adult oncology CRF team.
- Attendance at relevant local, regional and national meetings.
- We will support attendance at training opportunities including ECMC JING meeting and ITCC drug development course.

For further information, please contact Dr Martin Elliott - martin.elliott1@nhs.net Tel 0113 3928779

Liverpool–Alder Hey Children’s NHS Foundation Trust

The Cheshire and Merseyside/North Wales and Isle of Man Principal Treatment Centre for Children and Young People with cancer. Alder Hey is a specialist children’s hospital of international repute.

We would be happy to offer fellowship training in Early Phase Clinical Trials through the ECMC Paediatric Oncology Clinical Fellowship. We are a clinical trials team offering all the aspects of early and late phase clinical trials in CYP oncology.

Our current early phase portfolio contains 6 open trials with a further 2 in set-up (1 in house and 1 PIK3CA vascular anomalies). We have a full portfolio of later phase trials.

We work in collaboration with;

- **The Hospital’s** Clinical Research Unit (CRU); an active NIHR funded unit with a cancer theme
- **The City**, TYA cancer services and Liverpool Health Partners
- **The Region**, with RMCH as part of the North West Children’s Cancer Operational Delivery Network (NWCCODN),
- **Supra-regionally** with Manchester, Leeds and Sheffield as part of the ECMC North North West relapse and resistant panel,
- **Nationally** as part of the children’s ECMC network and
- **Internationally** as part of the innovative therapies in childhood cancer consortium (ITCC)

We offer a comprehensive paediatric oncology, neuro-oncology and haemato-oncology service for the populations described above and up to the age of 18. Service is delivered on a bespoke haematology-oncology unit with 13 inpatient beds and 10 daycase beds/chairs. The hospital has specialist neuro-surgery, paediatric surgery and cardiothoracic surgery. Radiotherapy is delivered by colleagues in The Christie Hospital Manchester (part of our diagnostic and treatment MDTs).

There is opportunity:

- To work within the Alder Hey oncology clinical trials team with emphasis on early phase trials.
- To integrate into the trust Clinical Research Unit to understand the interplay between cancer and other early phase studies in other specialties. There is particular expertise in the field of paediatric pharmacology within the CRU.
- To spend time at our partner ODN centre hospitals (RMCH and The Christie) to gain experience in CAR-T trials and TYA, depending on preference.

Our clinicians have significant research related experience, with particular expertise in renal tumours of childhood, basic research as part of collaboration with UoLiverpool, Germ cell tumours, supportive care, a (Tessa Jowell accredited) neuro-oncology service and vascular anomalies service.

Newcastle–Great North Children’s Hospital Newcastle-upon-Tyne

The North of England Principal Treatment Centre for Children and Young People with cancer based at the Great North Children’s Hospital Newcastle upon Tyne will be happy to offer fellowship training in Early Phase Clinical Trials through the ECMC Paediatric Oncology and/or Haematology Drug Development Clinical Fellowship. We are a clinical trials team established for 30 years fulfilling all the aspects of early and late phase clinical trials, biological, Pharmacokinetic and quality of life, survivorship studies. Our current early phase portfolio is of 10 interventional trials with a further 8 in start-up. We are closely allied with a much larger adult early phase service which as well as having a larger portfolio of trials and a very high level of activity also has a drug development programme and its own clinical trials unit.

There is substantial opportunity to get first hand experience of the groups co-ordinating early phase children’s cancer research in the UK and Europe. The lead for early phase in Newcastle is the current chair of the UK New Agents Group committee. We are an active site within the European Innovative Therapies in Childhood Cancer (ITCC) and UK Experimental Cancer Medicines Centres (ECMC) paediatric networks. Within ITCC staff from the site sit on both the solid and brain tumour steering committees. We are one of the sites accepted for the ITCC Early Phase trials fellowship programme and we can fulfil all of the training requirements for this programme. We jointly lead a network for the North of Britain and Ireland which comprises Northern England, Scotland, Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland – a population of 15 million. This was the prototype for the ECMC Paediatric network relapse MDTs. We hold weekly teleconferences to identify trial opportunities for patients within this network and enable travel between the centres for trial entry.

We offer a comprehensive paediatric oncology, neuro-oncology and haemato-oncology service for the whole population of the North of England up to the age of 18 and for some young adults. This includes Stem cell transplantation both autologous and allogeneic and we have a busy CAR-T programme including CAR-T trials. Within our service we have specialist Neuro-surgery, paediatric surgery, all aspects of sarcoma surgery, Cardiothoracic surgery and Hepatobiliary surgery. We have a photon radiotherapy service and a comprehensive palliative care service which offers 24 hour management at home where necessary.

Our clinical service is closely integrated with a long established preclinical research institute and 6 of our clinicians have substantial preclinical research programmes with world leading research in Neuro-oncology, Leukaemia and Lymphoma, Neuroblastoma and Late effects. A comprehensive range of cutting edge scientific investigatory techniques are routinely practised and can be demonstrated and taught including a mouse hospital. There is a large preclinical scientific community here with abundant experience of training clinical colleagues in scientific techniques. We have a longstanding programme supporting clinical colleagues through preclinical research including PhDs. The UK children’s cancer tissue bank is administered from our site and we have a clinical cytogenetics facility providing next generation sequencing facilities. Integral to our service is the national Paediatric Oncology Pharmacology unit which undertakes the pharmacokinetic and pharmacology services for the UK. This service also has a long pedigree of training clinical colleagues in the field of clinical pharmacology.

We are closely engaged with the much larger and busier adult cancer early Phase Sir Bobby Robson Trials Unit within our hospital trust. We conduct our trials collaboratively and make trials from the paediatric oncology unit available for suitable adult patients and where permitted make adult trials available to paediatric patients opening these trials in both allied units. Our clinical service spans age range and incorporates a Teenage and Young adult service which bridges. We sit in the same MDTs and within the same research group in Newcastle University cancer centre. The SBRF has a much higher volume of trials and recruitment than in paediatric oncology and there will be opportunity to gain experience in this adult setting as well as our paediatric unit.

The Royal Marsden Hospital & The Institute of Cancer Research

The Royal Marsden Hospital (RMH)'s 31-bed Oak Centre for Children and Young People based in Sutton, Surrey forms part of the South Thames Paediatric Oncology Principal Treatment Centre and is one of the largest comprehensive cancer centres in Europe for children and teenagers. It currently comprises 18 children's inpatient beds, a dedicated 13 bed Teenage and Young Adult (TYA) Cancer Unit, and outpatient and day care facilities including the Paediatric and Adolescent Oncology Drug Development Unit (PA-DDU). The Centre sees almost 600 inpatients and more than 5000 day-patients every year, with around 220 new malignant registrations per year including leukaemia, lymphoma, central nervous system (CNS) and extra-cranial solid tumours. Patients are referred from South Thames, Kent and the south coast, although for early phase clinical trials patients are referred from all around the UK via defined referral networks, with a third of patients recruited to paediatric early phase studies coming from out of region. Our PA-DDU is the largest and most active in the Paediatric ECMC network and within the European ITCC early phase trial consortium. We have excellent integration with all adult oncology specialities including the RMH/ICR adult ECMC, and enjoy the significant benefits of close collaboration with our lead academic partner, The Institute of Cancer Research (ICR), a world-leading cancer research centre and a College of The University of London. The research activities of the clinical Unit are closely integrated with the Division of Cancer Therapeutics and The Division of Clinical Studies within the ICR. The overall goal of the research strategy is to improve the survival of childhood and adolescent cancer via the Paediatric and Adolescent Oncology Targeted Drug Development Programme which comprises drug discovery, preclinical evaluation, and early clinical trials conducted within the Centre's clinical facility (the Oak Foundation Unit, an NIHR Research Facility). The outpatient/day care unit houses an adjacent 'hot' laboratory on site for pharmacokinetic and pharmacodynamic sample processing. The inpatient unit houses two suites for radioisotope therapy (including mIBG therapy and others) to help facilitate novel studies involving radioisotope components.

As part of an NHS England-directed transformation programme, the South Thames Principal Treatment Centre clinical service for children aged under 16 years of age, including the PA-DDU Team, and associated clinical trials and translational research studies will be relocated to Evelina London Children's Hospital, a comprehensive children's hospital, with links to the Guy's & St Thomas's (GSTT)/King's Health Partners (KHP) adult ECMC in addition to the RMH/ICR adult ECMC – current timeline Q2 2027. This ECMC fellowship post will be hosted within the PA-DDU and is expected to bridge the period of relocation (fellow will be based where the PA-DDU is), with the additional research opportunities that will bring.

Paediatric & Adolescent Oncology Drug Development Fellowship – Job Description

This position is a key post within the PA-DDU Team, which was the first of its kind in the UK when set up in 2007. The Paediatric and Young People's Targeted Drug Development Programme encompasses molecular pathology, drug discovery, preclinical investigation (in a comprehensive range of model systems), preclinical imaging and early clinical studies with functional imaging and pharmacodynamic biomarker analysis.

Within this clinical post the fellow will work very closely with other members of the multidisciplinary team carrying out early clinical studies of novel agents in children and

young people and will be involved in the eligibility assessment and care of children and young people enrolled on early clinical studies of new agents, including first-in-child studies of molecularly targeted drugs, and novel immunotherapy agents, including combination and multi-arm basket trials. The team has developed excellent links with academic and pharmaceutical industry clinical trial sponsors for clinical trial design and implementation. The team delivers an excellent level of patient care, providing access to novel therapies, within clinical trials and with strong regulatory levels of pharmacovigilance and practising to the highest standards of Good Clinical Practice (GCP). Where clinical trials are not available, we also deliver a significant programme of compassionate/managed access programmes in partnership with pharma, and these patients are cared for by our team, to the same standards as patients on early phase clinical trials.

There will be opportunities for the fellow to be involved in writing early phase clinical studies/study arms and in other projects. The fellow will also have an opportunity to develop a specialist interest of their own, in clinical trials for haematological malignancies, neuroblastoma, neuro-oncology, or sarcoma. The fellow would participate actively in weekly tumour-based multidisciplinary team meetings (MDTs), the weekly ECMC regional relapse teleconferences where patients with newly relapsed disease are discussed for consideration of clinical trials eligibility, 1-2 weekly molecular tumour boards, as well as in the weekly drug development clinical planning meeting and the weekly clinical research operational governance meetings. They will be responsible for and become competent in reviewing patients on Phase I/II clinical trials, with the research nurse and consultant team members. The post holder will receive training in and be actively involved in liaising with academic and commercial clinical trial sponsors about patients recruited onto trials, new trials and new drugs, collection of clinical trial data to GCP standards and the regulatory aspects of paediatric early phase trials to enable them to work effectively in the set-up of new early phase trials, under consultant supervision. The post holder will link closely with radiology colleagues and receive training in the relevant imaging assessments of patients on clinical trials. Via links with the ICR, a central theme of the programme will be the translation of laboratory research to clinical trials.

The post in paediatric oncology is suitable for trainees wishing to gain experience in paediatric and adolescent oncology drug development and clinical trials. The post holder will have the opportunity to develop their own project(s) in the area of drug development and to contribute to the academic output of the Unit and build on their own academic profile via authorship on publications and presentations at relevant national/international meetings. The post holder may have already obtained a higher degree, may be in the process of doing so or have a strong interest in pursuing such an opportunity in the future. This post may be a stepping-stone to developing a future higher degree project. Previous PA-DDU fellows have gone on to win substantive consultant posts in this area, including at RMH and in other renowned early phase trials units nationally and internationally, as well as senior posts within regulatory bodies (MHRA, European Medicines Agency) and in the pharmaceutical industry.

New clinical fellows receive a comprehensive induction programme to familiarise them with the functioning of the hospital, the Trust's procedures, treatment and supportive care protocols and issues of clinical governance. They will complete the necessary Trust mandatory training modules which include (amongst others) GCP Training, Human Tissue

Act Training, Information & Governance Training and Equality & Diversity Training as well as training in antimicrobial stewardship, infection control and blood product management. Level 3 child protection training will be undertaken. They will also have dedicated time allocated to undertake all the necessary study-specific training on a per-trial basis, to allow them to be delegated to trial-specific activities on the trial delegation logs. They will subsequently attend study site-initiation visit meetings for new trials opening. There is also the opportunity to attend laboratory team meetings at The ICR in tumour area of interest (Paediatric Glioma, Medulloblastoma, Sarcoma, Neuroblastoma or Leukaemia).

The fellow will work Mondays-Fridays, 08h30-17h00, except for Thursdays when the solid tumour MDT may run until 18h00. There are no overnight on-call duties, in order to maximise PA-DDU experience during day-time hours. There is an opportunity to carry out paediatric oncology ward shifts in the early evenings (17h30-20h30) or long/short days at weekends (08h30-20h30/08h30-15h30 respectively) - these are remunerated separately. The fellow will be allocated an Educational Supervisor who will be one of the Consultants working within the Paediatric and Adolescent Oncology Drug Development Team. A personal training plan will be developed at the beginning of the post to suit the individual's training needs. Progress will be monitored by regular meetings with the educational supervisor and by annual appraisal.

Southampton

The Southampton Children's Hospital Paediatric Oncology Unit has particular expertise in early phase immunotherapy and neuroblastoma trials. It is co-located with the University of Southampton Centre for Cancer Immunology, where there are a number of projects involving the pre-clinical evaluation of novel immunotherapies for neuroblastoma.

Depending on the experience and interests of the candidate, the post will offer opportunities to be involved in a pre-clinical project as well as aspects of trial design, set up and delivery, and recruitment and management of patients recruited to trials. In addition, there will be the opportunity to help with the analysis, correlation with clinical data and publication of immunological data from current immunotherapy trials. For more information, please contact Professor Juliet Gray jcgray@soton.ac.uk.