



## 2023 UK Dermatology Clinical Trials Network SpR Fellowship Award

Two awards per year of up to £1,750 each will be awarded to UK Dermatology Specialist Registrars to work with the UK Dermatology Clinical Trials Network (UK DCTN) as part of a two-year educational research fellowship. To complete the fellowship within their training period, candidates should ideally be within their initial two years of training upon commencing the award. Funds are to cover relevant expenses incurred for the duration of the Fellowship Award.

The aim of the award is to develop skills in clinical trials and critical appraisal in year one and then apply these skills in year two as the successful applicants become increasingly involved in the Network. The applicant with the highest overall score will be awarded the UK DCTN Neil Cox SpR Fellowship in memory of the late Dr Neil Cox who was lead clinician for the first fully funded UK DCTN studies, the PATCH trials.

The Fellowship will comprise:

### Year One

1. Attendance at the 'BEES – Better Evaluation of Evidence and Statistics' course covering the fundamentals of clinical trial interpretation and critical appraisal. The course is for 3 days, and the Fellowship funds will cover course fees and travel/accommodation costs. Successful applicants who have already been on this course may attend another relevant course (subject to approval).
2. The further development of critical appraisal skills by working on a targeted reading curriculum with the UK DCTN Chair and other UK DCTN fellows. This will be facilitated via a series of video/teleconferences along with time spent at the UK DCTN co-ordinating centre (see below). The fellow will be encouraged to discuss articles that are selected for discussion at their local journal club and submit a commentary on an important critically appraised trial for publication. Please be aware that the associated remote meetings are likely to be held outside what you may consider to be normal working hours (typically 8am-9am or 5pm-6pm).
3. An opportunity to spend three days at the UK Dermatology Clinical Trials Network co-ordinating centre (located at the Centre of Evidence Based Dermatology (CEBD), Nottingham) to learn more about the structure and processes of the network and studies in the UK DCTN portfolio. This visit will also involve sessions on other aspects of CEBD.
4. Fellows will join the UKDCTN Steering Committee and attend all relevant meetings (three per year) as a participant with all travel expenses covered for the two-year duration of the award.

## Year Two

1. The successful fellow will have the opportunity to undertake some form of research and related publication activity. For example, they may join a trial development team, get involved in a feasibility project or become involved in a Priority Setting Partnership Steering Committee. Other opportunities for research development such as joining a systematic review team can also be pursued.
2. All expenses paid to attend the Annual Evidence Based Update Meeting. The programme for this includes presentations by European experts in their field of recently conducted randomized controlled trials, clinical viewpoints and systematic reviews.
3. Fellows will join the faculty delivering the online UK DCTN Journal Club to help embed evidence-based practice and critical appraisal of research within the dermatology clinical community.
4. Continue with membership of the UK DCTN Steering Committee, attending all meetings.

**It is estimated that the time commitment for this fellowship will be twelve days per annum (approximating to one day per month) for a period of two years.**

Applications should consist of:

1. A case for support from the applying trainee, this application should be no more than 2 pages of A4. Please note we are not directive in what you choose to include here - it is entirely up to the applicants to decide how they formulate their application.
2. Letters of support/references from both the Educational Supervisor and local Programme Director. These should indicate both suitability of the applicant and local support of the time commitment involved. If this is the same person, a second reference should be sought from a senior clinical colleague.

The marking system used for applications is a global scoring system which takes the following criteria into account: overall clarity and coherence of proposal, commitment of the candidate to the award, awareness of the UK DCTN and what the fellowship can offer, clinical academic track record to date, degree to which the fellowship is at an appropriate time ie "fit" with training and development needs, how well supported they are locally, likelihood that the candidate will deliver a sustained contribution to the UK DCTN given future aspirations for career development and any other special factors not covered above such as dual training, additional skills or interests that could be useful to the UK DCTN.

Please note the following before applying:

- Fellowships are awarded solely on the basis of the above information (no interviews are conducted).
- Additional references and supporting materials such as CVs will **not** be taken into consideration and feedback on unsuccessful applications will **not** be provided.
- LAT and Clinical Fellows are not eligible to apply – a National Training Number in dermatology is required.
- You need to be a member of the UK DCTN to be eligible to apply

All applications and informal enquiries should be made via e-mail to: Dr Carron Layfield, UK DCTN Network Manager [carron.layfield@nottingham.ac.uk](mailto:carron.layfield@nottingham.ac.uk). Further information about the UK DCTN SpR Fellowship can be found at <http://www.ukdctn.org/fellowships/index.aspx>

**The closing date for application is Monday 23rd October 2023, with the fellowships to commence December 2023.**