



2023 UK Dermatology Clinical Trials Network (UK DCTN) CESR Fellowship Award

One award of up to £1,750 will be made to a UK based clinician actively pursuing the Certificate of Eligibility for Specialist Registration (CESR) scheme for dermatology. They will work with the UK DCTN to develop their clinical research skills as part of a two-year educational research fellowship. Funds are to cover relevant expenses incurred for the duration of the award and applications are welcomed from those in relevant clinical roles undertaking the CESR pathway including SAS Grade Clinicians, Clinical Fellows, GPs with Extended Roles (GPwERs) and Locum Consultants.

The UK Dermatology Clinical Trials Network (UK DCTN) is a collaborative group of over 1,000 dermatologists, nurses, primary care staff, health care researchers and patients/carers. Established in 2002 to provide much needed evidence for dermatology clinical practice, the aim of the Network is simple - to develop independent, high quality randomised controlled clinical trials of interventions for the treatment or prevention of skin disease. For further background information on the UK DCTN please visit our website www.ukdctn.org.

The aim of the award is to develop skills in clinical trials and critical appraisal in year one and to then apply these skills in year two as the successful applicants become increasingly involved in the Network. The award can be taken over three years if preferred by the successful applicant with activities adjusted accordingly.

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 DCTN 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 UK DCTN 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. 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 applicant; this application should be no more than 2 pages of A4. Please note other than this 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. Supporting references from two local senior colleagues confirming your suitability for the award and your commitment and capacity to undertake the activities required.

It is important to 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.
- You need to be a member of the UK DCTN to be eligible to apply.
- The CESR Fellowship is only open to those clinicians pursuing the CESR pathway to CCT – those actively seeking an NTN are not 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. Further information about this 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.