



UK Dermatology Clinical Trials Network GP Fellowship

One GP Fellowship of up to £1,500 will be awarded to UK based GPs or GPSTs in their final year to work with the UK Dermatology Clinical Trials Network (UK DCTN). The UK DCTN co-ordinating centre is based within the Centre of Evidence Based Dermatology at The University of Nottingham, led by Prof Hywel Williams.

The UK Dermatology Clinical Trials Network (UK DCTN) is a collaborative group of over 950 dermatologists, nurses, primary care staff, health care researchers and patients/carers. Established in 2002 in order 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 years one and two and then apply these skills in year three as the successful applicant becomes increasingly involved in the Network. If preferred, the award can be completed within a two year period.

The fellowship programme has previously been highly successful amongst SpR's in dermatology and the opportunity is now being offered to GPST's and GPs. Briefly, the award will be as follows and each prize will be composed of expenses to cover:

Year One

1. An opportunity to spend 2-3 days at the UK Dermatology Clinical Trials Network co-ordinating centre to understand the structure and processes of organising a national trials network. This visit will also involve finding out more about other aspects of the Centre of Evidence Based Dermatology (CEBD) such as the Cochrane Skin Group.
2. The development of critical appraisal skills by working on a targeted reading curriculum with Professor Hywel Williams and other UK DCTN award winners such as the UK DCTN SpR fellows. This will be conducted via e-mail and teleconferences (3 over the year) along with time spent at the UK DCTN co-ordinating centre. The successful applicants will be encouraged to discuss those articles that are selected for discussion at a local study group (if available) and submit a commentary on an important critically appraised trial to the evidence-based section of *The Archives of Dermatology*.
3. The Fellow will join the UKDCTN Steering Committee and attend relevant meetings (2-3 per year).

Year Two

1. All expenses paid to attend the 'Getting to Grips with Evidence-Based Dermatology' Course at Nottingham to understand the fundamentals of clinical trial interpretation and critical appraisal (see). The course is for 3 days, and the award will cover the course fees accommodation and travel costs.
2. Continue with Steering Committee responsibilities (2-3 meetings per year).

Year Three

1. The successful applicant will join a trial development team and see the development of a clinical trial through from idea through to vignette, through to protocol and funded study. They will participate in all associated meetings and teleconferences for this team. If preferred, alternative opportunities for research development can be pursued for example by joining a systematic review team with the Cochrane Skin Group based at the CEBD.
2. All expenses paid to attend the CEBD Annual Evidence Update Meeting. The programme for this one day event includes presentations by European experts in their field of recently conducted randomized controlled trials, clinical viewpoints and systematic reviews.

It is estimated that the time commitment for this award will be 6 days per annum, for a period of three years. The fellowship is unpaid but provides a unique opportunity for gaining new skills and professional development. Attendance at meetings would not be met by locum expenses as it is anticipated that these would be covered by the applicant's existing study leave arrangements. With the exception of the main meetings listed above, there would be flexibility about dates. GPST's will be expected to obtain approval and study leave from their local deanery.

Please note that the award can be completed within a two year period (increasing the time commitment to approx 9 days per annum) if the successful applicant prefers this option.

Awards will be made on the basis of:

1. A case for support (two A4 pages maximum) from the applicant. (CVs may also be sent in addition)
2. Two references from local colleagues.

All applications and informal enquiries should be made to:

Dr Carron Layfield, UK DCTN Network Manager, Centre of Evidence Based Dermatology, University of Nottingham, Kings Meadow Campus (Room A103), Lenton Lane, Nottingham NG7 2NR
Tel 0115 8468625 e-mail carron.layfield@nottingham.ac.uk

The closing date for applications is Friday 27th October 2017 with the Fellowship to commence December 2017.