



UK Dermatology Clinical Trials Network SpR Fellowship Awards

Two awards per year of up to £1,500 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. 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. In order to complete the fellowship within their training period, candidates should ideally be within their initial two years of training upon commencing the award (please note that LAT and Clinical Fellows are not eligible to apply – an NTN is required).

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 on the first fully funded UK DCTN studies, the PATCH trials.

The Fellowship will compose of:

Year One

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. The course is for 3 days, and the Fellowship will cover the course fees, accommodation and travel costs. Applicants who have already been on this course may still apply for the Fellowship, and may instead attend another course of relevance to clinical trials.
2. The further development of critical appraisal skills by working on a targeted reading curriculum with Professor Hywel Williams and the other UK DCTN fellows. This will be conducted via e-mail and teleconferences along with time spent at the UK DCTN co-ordinating centre. The fellow will be encouraged to discuss those articles that are selected for discussion at their local journal club and submit a commentary on an important critically appraised trial to the evidence-based section of *The Archives of Dermatology*. Please be aware that such teleconferences 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 3 days at the UK Dermatology Clinical Trials Network base 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.
4. The Fellow will join the UKDCTN Steering Committee and attend all relevant meetings (2 to 3 per year) as a participant, and all travel expenses will be covered (for the two year duration of the award).

Year Two

1. The successful fellow 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. The fellow 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 CEBD.
2. All expenses paid to attend the CEBD 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.
4. Referee a Cochrane Systematic Review before publication.

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.

Fellowships are solely awarded on the basis of:

1. A case for support from the applying trainee. This 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. Letters of support/references from both the applicant's educational supervisor and local Programme Director. If this is the same person an additional reference should be sought from a senior clinical colleague.

(Please note that additional references and supporting materials such as CVs will not be taken *into* consideration.)

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.

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 phone: 0115 8468625 e-mail: carron.layfield@nottingham.ac.uk

Further information about the UK DCTN SpR Fellowship can be found at www.ukdctn.org/awards/spr/

The closing date for application is Fri 27th October 2017, with the fellowships to commence December 2017.