



UK Dermatology Clinical Trials Network SpR Fellowship

Up to two Fellowships per year of up to £1,500 each will be awarded to UK Specialist Registrars to work with the UK Dermatology Clinical Trials Network (UK DCTN) as part of a 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 two year fellowship within their training period, candidates should be within their initial two years of training upon commencing the 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 Fellowship will compose of:

Year One

1. All expenses paid to attend the BEES '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 (currently £300), accommodation and travel costs. This will be followed up by attending the BEES summer school later in the year looking at 'How to Write and Publish your Paper'. Applicants who have already been on the BEES course may still apply for the Fellowship, and may instead attend another course of relevance to clinical trials (to be approved by the UK DCTN Executive).
2. The further development of critical appraisal skills by working on a targeted reading curriculum on a one to one basis with Professor Hywel Williams (two to one basis if two awards are made). 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 these also 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.
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 and the NLH Skin Disorders Specialist Library.
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).

5. The Fellow will join the UK DCTN Research Prioritisation Panel (1 meeting a year held as part of the BAD annual meeting).

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 the CEBD.
2. All expenses paid to attend the CEBD Annual Evidence 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.

Other research outputs include co-authorship of the clinical trial or systematic review which they have been involved in developing and submission of the trial protocol to the BJD for consideration for publication.

It is estimated that the time commitment for this fellowship (with the exception of attending the BEES/other relevant course) will be twelve days per annum, approximating to one day per month, for a period of two years.

Fellowships will be awarded on the basis of:

1. A case for support (two A4 pages maximum) made by the applying SpR.
2. A letter of support from the SpR's educational supervisor and local Programme Director

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

Or via the UK DCTN website www.ukdctn.org

The closing date for application is Fri 24th Oct 2008, with the fellowships to commence December 2008.