



2023 UK Dermatology Clinical Trials Network GP Fellowship Award

A GP Fellowship of up to £1,750 is available to UK based GPs (or GPSTs in their final year) with a special interest in dermatology to work with the UK Dermatology Clinical Trials Network (UK DCTN) to develop their clinical research skills. Funds are to cover relevant expenses incurred for the duration of this educational research fellowship award.

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 condensed and completed within a two-year period with activities adjusted accordingly.

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.

Award activities are as follows:

Year One

1. An opportunity to spend 2-3 days at the UK Dermatology Clinical Trials Network co-ordinating centre (based at the Centre of Evidence Based Dermatology (CEBD) in Nottingham) to understand the structure and processes of organising a national trials network. This visit will also involve finding out more about other aspects of CEBD.
2. The development of critical appraisal skills by working on a targeted reading curriculum with the UK DCTN Chair and other UK DCTN award winners such as the UK DCTN SpR fellows. This will be facilitated via a series of video/teleconferences (3 across the year) along with time spent at the UK DCTN co-ordinating centre (see below). The successful applicants will be encouraged to discuss those articles that are selected for discussion at a local study group (if available).
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 “BEES – Better Evaluation of Evidence and Statistics’ Course. 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 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 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 6-8 days per annum, for a period of three years (10-12 days per annum if taken over two 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/courses listed above, there will be flexibility about dates.

Applications should consist of:

1. A case for support from the applying GP; 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. Two references from local colleagues regarding your suitability for the award and commitment and capacity to undertake relevant activities. GPST’s will be expected to obtain approval and study leave from their local deanery.

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

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 the UK DCTN GP 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.