



2026 UK Dermatology Clinical Trials Network (UK DCTN) Portfolio Pathway Fellowship Award

One award per year of up to £1,750 will be awarded to a UK based clinician actively pursuing the Portfolio Pathway scheme for dermatology to work with the UK Dermatology Clinical Trials Network (UK DCTN) as part of a two-year educational research fellowship. Funds are to cover relevant expenses incurred for the duration of the Fellowship Award and applications are welcomed from those in relevant clinical roles undertaking the portfolio pathway including SAS Grade Clinicians and Clinical Fellows.

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 award can be taken over three years if preferred by the successful applicant 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.

The Fellowship will comprise:

Year One

1. Attendance at the 'BEES – Better Evaluation of Evidence and Statistics' course (dates TBC but usually in January) 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 online meetings along with time spent at the UK DCTN co-ordinating centre. Fellows 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 this may be held outside what you may consider to be normal working hours.
3. A three-day visit to the UK Dermatology Clinical Trials Network Co-ordinating Centre (located at the Centre of Evidence Based Dermatology, 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 dermatology research.
4. Fellows will join the UKDCTN Steering Committee and attend all relevant meetings (three per year) as a participant with travel expenses covered.

Year Two

1. 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.
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 completed UK DCTN Fellowship application form which is available from the UK DCTN website <https://www.ukdctn.org/fellowships/index.aspx>.
2. References in support of the application from two senior colleagues. In addition to outlining your suitability for the award, these letters should include confirmation of protected/allocated time to undertake all UK DCTN Fellowship activities including a UK DCTN related research project in the final year. Such letters need to be signed and on headed paper and should be submitted with this application form if possible or sent directly to the e-mail address below.

All applications and informal enquiries should be made via e-mail to: Dr Carron Layfield, UK DCTN Network Manager ukdctn@nottingham.ac.uk. Further information can be found at <http://www.ukdctn.org/fellowships/index.aspx>.

Please note the following before applying:

- Fellowships are awarded based on applications only (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.
- The Portfolio Pathway Fellowship is only open to those clinicians pursuing this pathway to registration – those actively seeking an NTN are not eligible to apply.
- Applications are warmly welcomed for all Fellowships from those without research experience, particularly if there are extenuating circumstances for this.
- Please only apply if you can fully commit to all UK DCTN Fellowship activities. If you are awarded the Fellowship and are unable to undertake all activities the award will be withdrawn.
- You need to be a member of the UK DCTN to be eligible to apply.

The closing date for application is Monday 5th October (5pm), with Fellowships to commence December 2026