

Programme 8 – Rheumatology – based at Guy’s and St Thomas’ Hospital

Reference: 2122/KCL/08

Individual Placement Descriptor (IPD) for the four month academic placement

Separate IPDs for clinical placements are available on foundation school websites

<p><i>Type of programme</i></p> <p>A combined clinical and research training programme ideally suited to individuals with prior undergraduate research experience who are interested in a clinical academic career focused on immunity and inflammation.</p>	
<p><i>Employing trust:</i></p> <p>Guy’s and St Thomas’ NHS Foundation Trust</p>	<p><i>Academic placement based at:</i></p> <p>Guy’s or Denmark Hill Campus (depending on chosen research project), KCL</p>
<p><i>Brief outline of department</i></p> <p>The Academic Rheumatology is led by Professor Andrew Cope. The Faculty has a long track record in basic laboratory research with an emphasis on the immunobiological and inflammatory basis of rheumatic diseases, epidemiology, statistics and health outcomes relating to musculoskeletal disease, early phase experimental medicine studies and clinical trials. In the laboratory current research focuses on pathways of T cell activation and differentiation, functional genomic studies of genetic variants that contribute to disease, and pathways of inflammation. This programme is undertaken in the Centre for Inflammation Biology and Cancer Immunology (CIBCI). A new emerging programme of work focuses on studying cancer patients who develop autoinflammatory syndromes following cancer immunotherapy with immune checkpoint inhibitors. On the Denmark Hill campus the focus is on clinical trials, health outcomes and epidemiology. The group hosts the Arthritis Research UK funded Experimental Arthritis Treatment Centre, and is currently leading the first ever multi-centre RA prevention study. It also runs one of only three MSc in Rheumatology in the UK.</p>	
<p><i>Structure of academic project/what expected</i></p> <p>Previous academic foundation trainees have been offered a variety of research projects depending on their own specific interests. Previous trainees have undertaken clinical projects (e.g. imaging, clinical studies), data centred projects (e.g. analysis of large datasets) or laboratory based projects (e.g. mouse models, in vitro cellular immunology, high resolution imaging or biochemistry). During their attachment trainees will acquire Good Clinical Practice certification and acquire core skills required for completing clinical trial assessments. Depending on the choice of research group, trainees may gain skills cellular and molecular immunology, cell culture and flow cytometry, as well as an understanding of the approach to analysis of large clinical and trial datasets. Trainees will be encouraged to present their work at weekly laboratory meetings.</p>	

Clinical commitments during academic placement

The academic F2 will be required to be on an out of hours rota at Guy's and St Thomas' NHS Foundation Trust which comprises of 1 in 4 weekend twilight shifts and will not affect the academic weekday timetable. The F2 is expected to attend the monthly F2 teaching and encouraged to engage with other relevant clinical educational events where applicable.

Academic Foundation trainees have the option of full time laboratory research, or if the research project dictates, the option of running (or attending) a specialist clinic e.g. inflammatory arthritis, remission, imaging clinic.

Departmental academic teaching programme (if applicable)

Weekly CIBCI Work in Progress (WIP) meeting; weekly Divisional Research Under Construction (RUC) meeting; weekly journal club, weekly laboratory research meeting; weekly postgraduate clinical department meeting (optional).

Academic Lead

Professor Andrew P. Cope
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