

**St George's School of Health and Medical Sciences**

**City St George's, University of London**

**Centre for Neonatal & Paediatric Infection**

**Clinical Research Fellow**

**Ref: 652-25-R**

**JOB DESCRIPTION**

<b>Post Title</b>	Clinical Research Fellow
<b>Grade</b>	CRF
<b>Contract type</b>	Fixed term for 1 year (extendable to 2 years if funding available)
<b>Responsible to</b>	Clinical Lecturer in Paediatric Infectious Diseases
<b>Accountable to</b>	Professor in Paediatric Infectious Diseases; Director of Operations CNPI
<b>Responsible for</b>	N/A
<b>Liases with</b>	Penta Child Health Research, Global Antibiotic Research and Development Partnership, the co-ordinating partner organisations, other relevant institutional managers and individual Principal Investigators

**Overall purpose of job**

This is an exciting opportunity for a Clinical Research Fellow to take part in a range of ongoing neonatal and paediatric research activities, focusing on strategic clinical trials and observational studies in antimicrobial resistance (AMR) run by the Centre for Neonatal and Paediatric Infection (CNPI).

The CNPI AMR group works in collaboration with multiple international partner organisations with the aim to define novel treatment and prevention interventions to improve outcomes in infections caused by antimicrobial resistant pathogens. The group has conducted multiple observational and interventional studies in neonates and children, building a global research network on the prevention and optimal treatment of severe infections. The group have been involved in major neonatal randomised controlled trials (RCTs), including EU funded NeoMero and NeoVanc, the first neonatal sepsis trials to be conducted in Europe for 20 years.

More recently the group has developed a strategic alliance with the Global Antibiotic R&D Partnership (GARDP), focusing on research to improve an evidence base for the antibiotic



management of neonatal sepsis in the hospital setting in LMICs by initially conducting a global observational study, NeoOBS. This observational cohort of 3000 babies demonstrated the high mortality of neonatal sepsis and informed the design of the new NeoSep1 trial, the first global hospital based LMIC neonatal unit (NNU) based trial comparing multiple novel antibiotic regimens to treat multidrug resistant (MDR) neonatal sepsis globally.

In parallel to the optimal treatment trials the team have developed a programme of trials focusing on improving the evidence base for infection, prevention and control (IPC) interventions in different settings. The team attracts funding from major research bodies in the UK and Europe, including the European Commission, Horizon 2020, the Medical Research Council, Wellcome Trust, the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation and the World Health Organization.

The Centre works closely with the MRC Clinical Trials Unit at UCL, specifically with Professor Sarah Walker's group, focusing on the implementation of novel clinical trial designs.

There are two Clinical Research Fellow (CRF) posts available. Both CRFs will work primarily on the NeoSep1 and SNIP-AFRICA projects, assisting with protocol/document development, site feasibility, site set up, site training, safety and clinical reviewing activities. The primary project for each candidate will depend on experience, interests and preference. They will also play a key role in overseeing and supporting other projects focussed on neonatal infections when required. This exciting post offers a unique opportunity to work on innovative and ambitious research projects within the CNPI to further their research experience in a range of areas.

### NeoSep1

A GARDP funded and sponsored international, multi-centre, multi-site personalised randomised controlled trial comparing novel combination and existing antibiotic regimens for the empiric treatment of clinically diagnosed neonatal sepsis. The trial investigates multiple antibiotic regimens using the PRACTical design and incorporating a Sequential Multiple Assignment Randomised Trial (SMART) design to allow randomisation to second-line antibiotic treatment where indicated. Part 1 of this trial has now completed having been undertaken in Kenya and South Africa. Part 2 will recruit from 20 neonatal units in the global South, including sites in South Africa, Kenya, Ghana, Uganda, Vietnam, India, Pakistan and Bangladesh.

### SNIP-AFRICA

An EDCTP3 funded project coordinated by Fondazione Penta ETS and City St George's, University of London. It is an African – European collaboration aiming to improve the way severe infections in newborns are treated. The project will use an innovative approach, and tackle questions around antibiotic management of neonatal sepsis in Africa, in a time of rising antimicrobial resistance. The project will conduct an adaptive trial and interventional studies across neonatal units in sub-Saharan Africa to identify optimal treatment for difficult to treat infections. A broader goal is to develop research infrastructure for future trial implementation to better treat neonatal infections given rising antimicrobial resistance.

## **Role of the CNPI**



The CNPI is part of the Institute for Infection and Immunity, a recognised centre of excellence for clinical care, teaching and research at City St George's, University of London (CSGUL). The CNPI attracts funding from major research bodies in the UK and Europe including the European Union (EU), the Medical Research Council (MRC), the UK Research and Innovation (UKRI), the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation (BMGF) and many commercial companies focused on research such as Pfizer, GSK, amongst others.

Professor Paul Heath, Professor Mike Sharland, Professor Kirsty Le Doare and Professor Julia Bielicki have developed the CNPI which undertakes a variety of projects and studies in children focusing on the epidemiology of vaccine-preventable diseases, clinical vaccine trials, cohort studies, perinatal infections and optimisation of the best use of antimicrobials in children. Professor Mike Sharland has worked in close collaboration with Professor Julia Bielicki for over 10 years on multiple research projects focusing on antimicrobial prescribing, resistance and healthcare associated infections in children globally. They jointly lead the CNPI AMR Research Group at CSGUL.

The aim of the position is to train future paediatricians who are able to design and conduct global studies to prevent and treat severe infections in neonates and children.

## 1. Main Duties and Responsibilities

- To assist with the conduct of multi-centre, multi-country observational and interventional studies including but not limited to clinical reviewing, protocol and study document development, amendments and approval processes
- To assist the sponsor with the overall scientific coordination of the project and networking
- To ensure that the studies are conducted strictly in accordance with the study protocol
- To lead the production of high-quality research reports and/or publications as required by the funding body or for dissemination to the wider academic community
- To work in conjunction with other team leaders in executing and implementing project activities according to the study design and protocol
- To identify barriers to recruitment and ensure that the study sponsors/Principal Investigators are made aware of these
- Identify and implement action plans as required
- To ensure that all data is recorded accurately and complies with the requirements of the study protocol and the Data Protection Act
- To work in conjunction with senior colleagues in preparing submissions to the Research Offices, Competent Authorities and Ethics Committees
- To lead relevant meetings associated with the research project or related activities
- To take lead responsibility for resolving problems affecting the delivery of the research project
- To undertake any other duties relevant to the programme of research

## Clinical and Professional

- To maintain clinical expertise in paediatric/neonatal/public health research
- To undertake extended roles in relation to the demands of individual protocols and studies
- To observe the confidentiality of patient data at all times in accordance with the Data Protection Act
- To work as part of the research and multidisciplinary team and contribute to the ongoing development of CNPI



- To adhere to all clinical protocols for the CNPI, Division, CSGUL, NHS and partner organisations (where applicable)
- To adhere to CSGUL, CNPI and study SOPs, policies, guidelines and current legislation including Health and Safety, Equal Opportunities, Data Protection, Intellectual Property and No Smoking
- To be responsible for management of own time and workload

### Administration

- To ensure that study records are accurately maintained
- To access computer network as required to retrieve and input relevant information
- To participate in relevant professional activities, such as departmental research seminars

### Personal, Education, Training & Development

- To keep up to date with Divisional, CSGUL, NHS and global developments for the implementation of clinical research
- To take part in the CSGUL Training & Education Programme as appropriate
- To keep up to date with current and potential research and information relevant to the care of patients in the clinical areas.
- To maintain current knowledge by attending relevant courses and conferences
- To undertake individual performance review.
- To identify learning needs in relation to specialist area of practice.
- Ensure that all relevant health care professionals are educated and supported as required, enabling them to care for children in clinical studies.
- To contribute to the Clinical Research Group meetings and discussions regarding research, training and education.
- To continue your own professional development, keeping updated with current practice and maintaining a professional portfolio.

### Staff Management and Development

- To act as a resource and role model to less experienced staff and other members of the research team.
- To facilitate and maintain effective communication within the research team.

### Other Duties

- To undertake such duties as may be required from time to time as are consistent with the responsibilities of the grade.
- To work on other research projects (if required), within the CNPI as deemed appropriate to Grade and Clinical Skills
- To cross cover appropriately for colleagues in their absence

It is expected that staff working with St George's School of Health and Medical Sciences, will be involved in our mentoring and tutoring activities, as appropriate, as well as supporting admissions, student recruitment and access and widening participation activities (MMI interviews, Open Days, school visits, clearing etc) where applicable. All academic staff are expected to act as a personal tutor.

You are also expected to undertake other activities appropriate to your grade as directed by your manager. This job description reflects the present requirements of the post. As duties



and responsibilities change, the job description will be reviewed and amended in consultation with the post holder from time to time. CSGUL aims to provide opportunities for all its employees to develop the skills required to be successful in their role and to further develop their careers.

St George's School of Health & Medical Sciences, University of London, is committed to the San Francisco Declaration on Research Assessment (DORA) principles.

## 2. Special Factors

There is a wide range of paediatric/public health research ongoing within the CNPI. The group runs academic trials, surveillance studies and maintains databases to the highest standards. The post holder may be asked to provide support in coordinating other current research projects of the CNPI.

The post holder will be required to travel. Part of this role will be spent travelling to different parts of the world to open clinical trial sites, attend meetings and interacting with co-ordinating partner organisations globally and you must be able to travel in a semi-regular basis.



### Person Specification

Criteria	Description	Essential/ Desirable	How it is to be tested
<b>Qualifications</b>	Medical degree, full GMC registration	E	PQ, AF, <b>SS1</b>
	MRCPCH or equivalent	D	AF
	MSc in Epidemiology or Public Health	D	AF
<b>Experience</b>	Experience in Paediatrics and/or Public Health	E	AF, <b>SS2</b> , INT,
	Medically qualified to at least Foundation Year Two Level	E	AF, INT
<b>Knowledge/ Skills</b>	Interest in Paediatric, Infectious Diseases, Public Health research	E	AF, <b>SS3</b> , INT
	Excellent communication and interpersonal skills	E	AF, <b>SS4</b> , INT
	An understanding of the principles of Good Clinical Practice within research	E	AF, INT
<b>Personal Attributes</b>	Ability to develop and deliver high-quality research and to publish in peer-reviewed journals	D	AF, INT
	Flexible Enthusiastic Good use of initiative Strong organisational, multi-tasking and record keeping skills	E	AF, <b>SS5</b> , INT

#### Key:

PQ=Prerequisite Qualification, AF=Application Form, CV=Curriculum Vitae,  
SS=Selection/Supporting Statements, ST=Selection Test/Presentation, INT=Interview

*Note: Elements marked SS (Supporting Statements) in the Person Specification will be highlighted in Step 6 (Supporting Statements) on the online application form. Applicants' answers to Step 6 are an essential part of the selection process. Applicants should write individual supporting statements to demonstrate how their qualifications, experience, skills and training fit each of the elements highlighted in this section.*



Applicants should address other elements of the Person Specification in Step 7 (Additional Information). Shortlisting will be based on applicants' responses to Step 6 **and** Step 7. Therefore applicants should complete both sections as fully as possible on the online application form.

### 3. Date

February 2025





## About us

City St George's, University of London is the University of business, practice and the professions.

City St George's attracts around 27,000 students from more than 150 countries.

Our academic range is broadly-based with world-leading strengths in business; law; health and medical sciences; mathematics; computer science; engineering; social sciences; and the arts including journalism, dance and music.

In August 2024, City, University of London merged with St George's, University of London creating a powerful multi-faculty institution. The combined university is now one of the largest suppliers of the health workforce in the capital, as well as one of the largest higher education destinations for London students.

City St George's campuses are spread across London in Clerkenwell, Moorgate and Tooting, where we share a clinical environment with a major London teaching hospital.

Our students are at the heart of everything that we do, and we are committed to supporting them to go out and get good jobs. Our research is impactful, engaged and at the frontier of practice. In the last REF (2021) 86 per cent of City research was rated as world leading 4\* (40%) and internationally excellent 3\* (46%). St George's was ranked joint 8th in the country for research impact with 100% of impact cases judged as 'world-leading' or 'internationally excellent'. As City St George's we will seize the opportunity to carry out interdisciplinary research which will have positive impact on the world around us.

Over 175,000 former students in over 170 countries are members of the City St George's Alumni Network.

City St George's is led by Professor Sir Anthony Finkelstein





St George's School of Health and Medical Sciences currently offers a range of employee benefits:

**Salary:** **£44,159** plus £2,162 London Allowance pa, (pro-rated for part-time staff). The salary range for **Post 2009 CL Scale** is **£44,159 – £54,468** (plus £2,162 London Allowance) and appointment is usually made at the minimum point,

**Hours:** 40 hours per week which can be done flexibly in various ways or part time/job share can also be considered. Staff are expected to work the hours necessary to meet the requirements of the role and this will be dependent on the service area.

**Annual leave:** 30 days per annum. Plus eight UK public holidays and four days when CSGUL is closed (usually between Christmas and New Year). Part time staff receive a pro rata entitlement.

**Pension:** Membership of competitive pension schemes with generous employer contribution and a range of extra benefits.

[Superannuation Arrangements of the University of London \(SAUL\)](#)

[London Pension Fund Authority \(LPFA\)](#)

[Universities Superannuation Scheme \(USS\)](#)

[National Health Services Pension Scheme \(NHSPS\) \(existing members only\)](#)

**Flexible working** Flexible working, including part-time or reduced hours of work, opportunities to work from home for many posts, compressed hours and local flexibility in agreeing start and finish times of work.  
Staff are expected to be on site 60% of their working hours

**Travel** CSGUL offers an interest free season ticket loan and participates in the [Cycle to Work Scheme](#).

**Gift Aid** If you would like to make a tax-free donation to a charity of your choice, this can be arranged through our Payroll.

**Sports and Leisure Facilities** Rob Lowe Sports Centre, situated on the St George's Healthcare NHS Trust site offers exercise facilities that can be utilised by CSGUL staff.

Within walking distance from St George's is Tooting Leisure Centre. Facilities include a swimming pool, gym and various exercise classes. The Centre offers staff an all-inclusive corporate membership. For more information please contact [Tooting Leisure Centre](#).



**Shops and facilities** There are a number of shops and facilities situated on site including ATMs, student bar and shop, Pret a Manger, M&S Simply Food store, library and multi-faith room.

### Informal enquiries

Informal enquiries may be made via email to: Dr Louise Hill [lhill@sgul.ac.uk](mailto:lhill@sgul.ac.uk)

### Making an application

All applicants are encouraged to apply online at <http://jobs.sgul.ac.uk> as our system is user friendly and the online application form is simple to complete. Please note that CVs only will not be accepted.

Applicants who are currently in a clinical training post can consider applying for out of programme status in advance of final Clinical Research Fellow candidate selections being made, dependent on specific Deanery/programme requirements (often 6 months in advance), to facilitate starting the Clinical Research Fellow position from the beginning of September 2025. Out of programme status does not have to be in place to be considered for this post; all suitable candidates will be considered. Please contact Dr Louise Hill if you have any queries ([lhill@sgul.ac.uk](mailto:lhill@sgul.ac.uk)).

For any accessibility issues please contact [hrhelp@sgul.ac.uk](mailto:hrhelp@sgul.ac.uk)

Closing date: 30 March 2025

**Interview date will be confirmed.** As shortlisted candidates will be notified by email, it is imperative that you provide an email address that is accessed frequently.

Please quote reference **652-25-R**

We are delighted that you are interested in working at St George's School of Health and Medical Sciences. You will be notified of the outcome of your application by email. We aim to respond to all candidates within 5 weeks of the closing date of the vacancy.

