**Faculty of Medicine**

**Clinical Professor of Primary Care Research in the Faculty of Medicine, School of Primary Care and Population Sciences (PCPS)**

**Particulars of Appointment**

The University of Southampton wishes to appoint a Clinical Professor in General Practice. This is a tenured post and will consist of at least five academic sessions per week to enable the post-holder to develop their own portfolio of research and teaching. Successful applicants can arrange for clinical general practice for at least two sessions per week in a local practice alongside the academic component.

**The University**

The University of Southampton is a leading research-intensive University, a member of the Russell Group and one of the top 100 universities worldwide. We deliver an excellent educational experience and world-leading research, and we are known for successfully commercialising that research through enterprise.

This is an exciting time to join the University of Southampton. We have an aspirational University Strategy (see [www.southampton.ac.uk/strategy](http://www.southampton.ac.uk/strategy)), setting out our ambitions over the next five years. The strategy involves achieving a top 10 place in the UK for research, through investing in the highest quality staff and facilities. We are also transforming the education offered to undergraduate and postgraduate students, providing greater flexibility and modular courses, with a strong international focus.

**The Faculty of Medicine**

The Faculty of Medicine seeks to build upon strong foundations of basic research and clinical translation.  Working with colleagues across the University and in the local NHS we have strengthened our position as a renowned centre for translational research, leading innovative learning and discovery for better health across the lifecourse.

Key to the success of the Faculty of Medicine is the delivery of high-quality undergraduate and postgraduate education and research, building on our strong partnerships with University Hospital Southampton NHS Foundation Trust, Solent NHS Trust, Southern Health NHS Foundation Trust, and general practices across Wessex.

**Medical Education**

We offer a range of undergraduate programmes: the BM4 programme, a graduate-entry four-year programme which accepts 40 students per year; and the BM5and BMedSc programme which accepts 200 students per year including approximately 30 students from a BM6 programme aimed at widening access to a medical career. Science teaching in the first three years of the BM programmes is delivered in the South Block of Southampton General Hospital as well as the Life Sciences Building on Highfield Campus. Clinical teaching takes place at Southampton General Hospital and the adjoining Princess Anne Hospital, the Royal South Hants Hospital, and in NHS Trusts and general practices throughout Hampshire, Dorset, West Sussex and Wiltshire.

The BM5 programme has a number of distinctive features. These include the integrated nature of teaching where the scientific disciplines are taught together in a clinical context using a systems based approach and the BMedSc programme, a five month supervised research project undertaken in Year 3. There is also the opportunity, for selected students, to undertake an integrated, intercalated Masters in Medical Science (MMedSc). The BM4 programme also has a number of key features. These include clinical topics in the first two years where students meet on a regular basis in Graduate Groups, and learning with BM5 students in the third and fourth years on all clinical attachments. All students take the same intermediate and final examinations. All programmes have substantial clinical experience in the first two years, student selected components, dispersed final year attachments, work shadowing prior to commencing a Foundation post and inter-professional learning.

In addition to the undergraduate BM programmes the School provides two Master’s Degree programmes in Public Health Nutrition and Allergy.

**Research**

The Faculty of Medicine has a clear research strategy to investigate the biomedical basis of common human diseases and to translate this into clinical practice. The Faculty’s research is delivered through four Academic Units:

* Cancer Sciences
* Clinical and Experimental Sciences
* Human Development and Health
* Primary Care and Population Sciences

All research is organised and managed by these Academic Units, each of which has clear evidence of international excellence. Each carries a significant degree of devolved responsibility for its research budgets and grants, space, equipment and personnel.

Working in close partnership with University Hospital Southampton NHS Foundation Trust, translational research is delivered through the Southampton Centre for Biomedical Research, bringing together the Wellcome Trust Clinical Research Facility, the Clinical Trials Unit, NIHR Biomedical Research Centre in Nutrition & Lifestyle, NIHR Biomedical Research Unit in Respiratory Medicine, shadow Biomedical Research Units in Cardiovascular, and Bone and Joint Disease, and the Cancer Research UK, Experimental Cancer Medicine Centre.

**Primary Care and Population Sciences** **Academic Unit**

PCPS is an academic group of over 70 staff with an increasingly unified management and research strategy led by Professor Julie Parkes. Our constituent Groups are:-

• The Primary Care Research Group

• The Public Health Group

• The Medical Statistics Group

• The Health Economics Assessment Team (HEAT)

• The Qualitative Research Methods Group

• The NIHR RDS (Research Design Service) South Central.

Since 2008 the Primary Care Group (research-led by Professor Paul Little) has been a member of the NIHR School for Primary Care Research (SPCR). The School has attracted a wide range of funding, notably from NIHR (Programme Grants, Health Services Research, EME, Public Health Research, RfPB, and Health Technology Assessment) as well as other research bodies e.g. MRC, Arthritis Research Council and Macmillan Trust. Several NIHR funded large HTA trials and five 6 year applied programme grants are already underway, see our list of active programme and projects on our webpages at:

<http://www.southampton.ac.uk/medicine/academic_units/academic_units/primary_care_population.page#related_projects>.

Researchers in population health from Primary Care and Population Sciences are working on a number of multi-disciplinary projects with other Faculties and Departments right across the University of Southampton.

We are a very diverse and vibrant School with a broad range of research disciplines. Primary Care is a thriving group of 7 academic general practitioners; 7 primary care scientists (in health economics, medical sociology, statistics, and psychology); 9 postdocs; 15 doctoral students registered in Primary Care plus 20 registered outside and co-supervised; and 34 research staff (trial managers, research nurses, health service researchers and a full-time research coordinator). To find out more, please visit our website:-

<http://www.southampton.ac.uk/medicine/academic_units/academic_units/primary_care_population.page>

Details of the Post

**Research**

The successful applicant will be part of the senior academic team and will be expected to engage in the teaching and management roles within the group.

It is anticipated that a successful clinician will have achieved sufficient research output, evidenced by publication, to be submitted in the 2020 Research Assessment Exercise.

The post holder will be on a balanced pathway (80% research and 20% teaching).

Research time will include:

* relevant literature/systematic reviews
* to identify and pursue suitable research projects
* to produce applications for external funding for project grants
* to produce papers for publication arising from the projects conducted
* to link with existing networks for research across the Wessex region

Teaching time will include

* to co-supervise postgraduate research student projects in appropriate topic areas
* to contribute to the undergraduate teaching programme from time to time, where appropriate and in discussion with other senior academic staff
* to identify personal training needs

Key clinical research topics for the PMC group currently include:

* treatment decisions in the management of acute self-limiting illness (including antibiotic prescribing strategies for common infections)
* asthma and COPD
* mental health
* kidney disease
* liver disease and alcohol use
* early diagnosis and survivorship in cancer
* patient communication, and
* the use of complementary and alternative medicines, examining specific effects and non-specific (placebo and contextual) effects.

The group employs a range of methodologies including:

* randomised controlled trials to identify clinical benefit, cost-effectiveness and predictors of response;
* cohort studies using routinely collected data (from the Clinical Practice Research Datalink and Hampshire Health Record databases) to identify outcomes in routine practice including uncommon complications;
* case-control studies to identify high risk groups;
* validation studies to assess the diagnostic value of clinical decision rules and near patient tests;
* qualitative studies of patient and practitioner decision-making including organisational factors affecting the implementation of research evidence;
* observational and questionnaire studies of help-seeking behaviour, treatment decisions, and adherence to treatment

The group collaborates with a range of non-medical research scientists in multi-disciplinary projects. Within the University of Southampton these include Professor Paul Roderick (Public Health), Professor Peter Smith, Professor Phillip Prescott, Professor Mark Mullee and Professor Ruth Pickering (Statistics) and Professor James Raftery; Professor Lucy Yardley and Dr Felicity Bishop (Health Psychology); and Professors Alison Richardson, Mandy Fader, and Maria Stokes (Health Sciences).

Twenty PhD students are currently being co-supervised by members of the School, which also hosts four post-doctoral fellowships.

**Senior staff: Primary Care Team**

Professor Michael Moore is research lead in a practice in Salisbury. He was active in the local Integrated Clinical Research Network and was the RCGP National Clinical Champion for Antibiotic Stewardship 2012-15. He is a member of the government advisory board for antimicrobial stewardship (APRHAI) His research interests include minor illness with a focus on antibiotic sparing strategies, depression, obesity and chronic liver disease.

Professor Paul Little was a work package leader for the EU FP GRACE project (EU network of excellence for respiratory infection research linking basic laboratory science with clinical practice), and Chief Investigator (CI) on the MRC DESCARTE multi-centre cohort study of complications of upper respiratory infections in 14000 patients. He has recently completed and NIHR Programme grants, PRIME, on the management of respiratory infections. He is CI or co-CI or three further NIHR Programme grants - the RECON programme on physical and cognitive exercises to prevent dementia, and STREAM programme on screening for under-nutrition, and the CLASP Programme for cancer survivors. He has led studies on the development and trial of web based behavioural interventions for obesity (POWER) and hypertension (HOME-BP) and for the largest ever multicentre cohort study to develop clinical prediction rules for cancer (the NIHR CANDID study).

Professor Tony Kendrick has carried out research into mental health problems in primary care for 30 years, the results of which have influenced NICE guidelines and performance indicators in the GP contract QOF for depression and schizophrenia. He is formerly Chair of the NIHR Doctoral Fellowships and GP Academic In-Practice Fellowships Panels and a member of the NICE QOF Clinical Indicators Advisory Committee (since 2009). He chaired the NICE guideline development group on identification and care pathways for common mental health disorders and is a member of the NICE depression guideline development group. He is CI on the NIHR REDUCE six year programme of research into helping patients come off inappropriate long-term antidepressants, and the three year PROMDEP HTA trial of patient reported outcome measures in depression.

Professor Mike Thomas’s research interests centre on respiratory disease management in community settings. He has a particular interest in dysfunctional breathing and the effectiveness of breathing exercises in the treatment of asthma. He is an associate editor of the journals Thorax and the Primary Care Respiratory Journal, Chief Medical Officer of Asthma UK, the Research Chairman of the International Primary Care Respiratory Group, and an expert advisor on several NICE evaluations and to the MHRA. He is Co-CI on the NIHR funded DIPSS digital interventions programme, and leads the BREATHE respiratory exercises in asthma research programme.

Professor Geraldine Leydon is a medical sociologist with qualitative research expertise and special interests in communication in the consultation, cancer care and support, and mental health. She was an NIHR postdoctoral fellow and had a joint post with Health Sciences on communication in cancer. She is content and linguistic editor for the Qualitative Sociology Review.

Associate Professor Hazel Everitt is a former NIHR CL and University funded CL. She has research interests in the management of acute infections, irritable bowel (leading the HTA funded ACTIB trial with King’s and co-leading the HTA ATLANTIS trial with Leeds), insomnia and doctor patient communication (leading the SPCR Empathica project with Oxford and Keele). She is co-supervising two PhDs, one MD student and three ACF and is co-author of the Oxford Handbook of General Practice.

Associate Professor Miriam Santer is also a former NIHR CL. She is particularly interested in self-management support for acute and chronic conditions, including childhood eczema, gout, and acute respiratory illnesses. She is evaluating the RfPB funded SPaCE (Supporting Parents and Carers of children with Eczema) web-based intervention with Little and Yardley, and leads the HTA funded BATHE (Bath Additives for the Treatment of cHildhood Eczema) trial with Bristol, Cardiff and Nottingham. She has just been awarded a new NIHR programme grant on supporting eczema self-care in the community. She is co-supervising two postgraduate students, is also involved in GRACE, and is collaborating with Nottingham on vitiligo research and with Keele, Oxford & Nottingham on gout.

Associate Professor Beth Stuart is a statistician and both supports the trials and other studies within the group as well as following her own interests. She has expertise in individual patient meta-analysis and in appropriate adjustment using propensity scoring techniques to enable incorporation of observational data in to meta-synthesis of results thus expanding the power of meta-analytical analysis.

It is an explicit strategy to increase our component of ACFs and CLs both to ensure succession within the School and to contribute to the capacity building of academic primary care through the NIHR SPCR. We have appointed nine NIHR academic clinical fellows and three GP in-practice fellows since 2006. Hazel Everitt and Miriam Santer were both previously NIHR CLs in our School and we appointed Mark Lown and Merlin Willcox to NIHR CL posts in 2016 and 2017 respectively. We have been awarded a further ACF and ACL post in the national competition for 2019/20

All academics in Southampton have access to a formal taught postgraduate research training programme which includes Statistics, Trial design, Epidemiology, Ethics, Research governance, and Project design. In addition, transferable skills courses are available to Clinical Lecturers including GCP, Time management, Leadership, Grant writing, and Presentation skills.

## **Teaching and Administrative Duties**

The successful applicant will join the senior academic team running the Primary Care Group and will be expected to contribute both to management roles within the academic unit and in the provision of undergraduate education in the specialty. The post-holder will be encouraged to attend relevant education training programmes.

**For further information regarding the appointment, please contact any of the following:**

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GC updated