**Post Title:** Clinical Research Fellow in Hepatology  
**School:** Brighton and Sussex Medical School  
**Hours:** full time or part time hours considered up to a maximum of 1.0 FTE. Requests for flexible working options will be considered (subject to business need).  
**Contract:** fixed term for 2 years  
**Reference:** 5629  
**Salary:** ST3-ST5. Pay for clinical academic doctors in training (2016 contract)  
**Placed on:** 10 May 2021  
**Closing date:** 24 May 2021. Applications must be received by midnight of the closing date.

Applications are invited for Clinical Research Fellow in Hepatology at Brighton and Sussex Medical School (BSMS). The post is being offered by BSMS in association with University Hospitals Sussex Foundation NHS Trust (UHS) (Royal Sussex County Hospital) where the successful applicant will hold an honorary consultant contract.

It is open to suitably qualified specialist trainees with prior research experience and or interest.

Our preference is to appoint a suitably qualified physician in Hepatology.

The appointee will undertake clinical sessions in their specialty at the Royal Sussex County Hospital. He/she will hold an honorary NHS contract with University Hospitals Sussex Foundation NHS Trust.

There is no specific requirement for provision of Internal Medicine/Gastroenterology on-call/emergency services in this post, but this can be negotiated with the successful candidate and the Trust according to the specialty on appointment.

From an academic perspective, this post will be based in the Department of Clinical & Experimental Medicine (CEM) at BSMS.

Interested candidates are encouraged to discuss the position informally with Professor Sumita Verma, Professor of Hepatology, S.Verma@bsms.ac.uk

For full details and how to apply visit:  
www.sussex.ac.uk/jobs  
www.brighton.ac.uk/jobs  
www-bsms.ac.uk

*The Universities of Brighton and Sussex are committed to equality and valuing diversity, and applications are particularly welcomed from women and black and minority ethnic candidates, who are under-represented in academic posts in science, mathematics, medicine and engineering at the universities.*
Department/Unit: BSMS / Clinical and Experimental Medicine

Locations: BSMS Teaching Building / Royal Sussex County Hospital

Job title: Clinical Research Fellow in Hepatology

Grade: ST3

Terms and conditions:

The post
The post is being offered by BSMS in association with University Hospitals Sussex Foundation NHS Trust where the successful applicant will hold an honorary consultant contract. It is open to suitably qualified specialist trainees with prior research experience and or interest.

Clinical activities
The postholder will have the option to undertake clinical sessions (Liver Clinic and or endoscopy once a week) at the Royal Sussex County Hospital.

Where appropriate, matters relating to honorary clinical contracts, accreditation and on-going clinical practice will be discussed with the successful candidate. The postholder will join the BSMS Department of Clinical and Experimental Medicine.

Academic activities
From an academic perspective, the postholder will be based in the Department of Clinical and Experimental Medicine at BSMS, and will undertake a research project supervised by Professor Sumita Verma. Details of the project are given below. The postholder will be expected to register for an MD through BSMS following the usual project/supervisor approval and registration processes (see below).

Research project

ENgaging the Disengaged to Achieve Micro Elimination of Hepatitis C: An Integrated Community Model for vulnerable individuals in Sussex ODN

Study acronym: END C Study

Funder: Gilead Sciences CHIME stream (ISR-GB-18-10442): 269K

BSMS Research Governance & Ethics Committee Ref no ER/BSMS 1398/1

In England of the 89,000 living with chronic hepatitis C virus (HCV) infection, a significant proportion remain undiagnosed. HCV predominantly affects marginalised and disenfranchised individuals such as people who inject drugs (PWIDs) and the homeless. Unfortunately, such individuals do not engage with health services, our prior work showing that < 10% attend
their hospital appointments. Therefore, HCV treatment amongst such vulnerable adults remains unacceptably low (5-20/1000).

Despite the high HCV disease burden, due to suboptimal investment, the PWID/homeless thus remain an important reservoir of HCV infection. It will be impossible to achieve HCV elimination by 2030 (as mandated by the WHO) without engaging this cohort. This endorses the need for a paradigm shift in HCV management, moving away from the traditional hospital to a community-based HCV “find and treat” strategy. Potential benefits include earlier intervention and treatment, prevention of onwards-viral transmission, cost effectiveness and reduction in health inequalities.

We are one of the 22 national hepatitis C centres (Sussex ODN) and cover East and West Sussex. We have been working towards holistic and integrated community-based model for vulnerable adults with HCV since 2011. Project ITTREAT (2013-2021) is set up at a drug and alcohol in SE England in 2013 and a similar service (Project VALID) established at two homeless hostels in Brighton in 2015. We provide blood borne virus (BBV) screening and HCV treatment, assessment of hepatic fibrosis (Fibroscan), liver health promotion and work closely with social workers, peer mentors and psychiatrists.

This current research builds on our previous work. We are aiming to set up similar models of care at homeless hostels/day centres in Brighton, Hastings and Eastbourne

**Study design**

**Prospective cohort study**

**Study objectives**

1. Assess service uptake (blood borne virus screening, liver scan (fibroscan), HCV treatment) and HCV treatment outcomes
2. Assess patient reported outcomes (generic and liver specific) before and after HCV treatment using Short-form Liver Disease Quality of Life (SF-LDQOL) SF-12v2, which is a shortened form (12 items) of the SF-36v2 Health Survey EQ-5D-5L
3. Assess community pathway economic analysis (cost of diagnosis to cure)
4. Conduct interviews with community non-NHS staff to assess facilitators and barriers to engaging with the service

It is anticipated that the project will be conducted over the 2 years of the Fellowship, leading to an MD degree.
Job description:  **Academic accountabilities and responsibilities**

Within BSMS (Department of Clinical and Experimental Medicine) the postholder will be responsible to Professor Sumita Verma for the following:

**Principal accountabilities**

To engage in individual and/or collaborative research activity resulting in high-quality publications; and to develop research funding and knowledge exchange income individually or in collaboration with others, as appropriate, depending on the size and scope of the bid.

To contribute to School teaching activities as time permits.

**Key responsibilities**

1. **Teaching and student support**
   1.1 Limited undergraduate and/or postgraduate teaching duties, if required, including student support and clinical mentorship.
   1.2 Assist in the assessment of student knowledge and supervision of student projects if required, in partnership with a senior academic or clinical supervisor.
   1.3 Assist in the development of student research skills, for example as part of a postgraduate supervision team.

2. **Research, scholarship and enterprise**
   2.1 Develop research objectives and proposals for own or joint research, at acceptable levels, with assistance if required.
   2.2 Conduct the supervised research project individually and in collaboration with others working in cognate domains.
   2.3 Analyse and interpret research findings and draw conclusions on the outcomes.
   2.4 Continually update knowledge and understanding in specialist field and engage in continuous professional development.

3. **Contribution to school and university**
   3.1 Attend and contribute to relevant School research and project meetings.
   3.2 Undertake additional duties, as required by the Principal Investigator and/or Head of School.
Role-specific duties

The postholder will primarily work out of the specialist Hepatology unit at the Royal Sussex County Hospital, the Clinical Investigation and Research Unit (CIRU) and at University Hospitals Sussex Foundation NHS Trust community based clinics. This is a 2 year post in which the postholder will work with a team of clinicians, research nurses and academics delivering the research project described but also supporting other academically-led research projects and early-phase clinical trials if time allows.

A core component of the post will be the opportunity to register and study for a higher degree (MD) through Brighton & Sussex Medical School, subject to the submission of an approved proposal to the School. Extension of the post for a further year may be possible, depending on the availability of funding and progress of the relevant research programme.

In addition to their own research the postholder will provide first-line support to Professor Verma working on Hepatology clinical trials conducted at CIRU. In addition the postholder will also be expected to provide medical cover for other CIRU based interventional studies on a rotational basis, not exceeding a frequency of one day/week. This may involve reviewing protocols, assessing patient eligibility for trials and overseeing treatment of research patients. As appropriate, the postholder will conduct regular research clinics to review patients being followed up as part of their research endeavours and/or identify new participants.

Indicative performance criteria

- A full clinical medical qualification recognised by the GMC.
- Full MRCP or equivalent.
- Pursuing a line of independent research leading to the successful completion of a MD degree.
- Evidence of successful engagement in teaching or supervision.

Clinical accountabilities and responsibilities

This a full-time clinical academic post. With regard to any clinical duties and responsibilities the postholder will be responsible to the Medical Director UHS Foundation NHS Trust through the Chief of Medicine.

Provisional timetable:

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<td>Research community clinic</td>
<td>Data entry</td>
<td>Research meeting Research community clinic</td>
<td>CIRU Cover</td>
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<tr>
<td>pm</td>
<td>Research community clinic</td>
<td>Literature review/ thesis</td>
<td>Research community clinic</td>
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This is an indicative programme. The fixed session commitments will be agreed with the postholder. Appropriate administrative support and office space will be provided to support the postholder’s academic and clinical commitments.

The postholder will develop partnerships and identify opportunities for joint working between BSMS, other academic units within the Universities of Brighton and Sussex and partner NHS Trusts.

An important early role will be contributing to the development of the individual’s own research project and establishing appropriate links across BSMS/University Hospitals Sussex Foundation NHS Trust and our partner universities (University of Brighton and University of Sussex).

The postholder will provide specialist services in Hepatology to include outpatient clinics.

It is expected that the postholder will contribute to the relevant departmental/hospital clinical governance programmes and to the teaching of junior medical staff, nursing staff and other paramedical staff and external bodies.

The postholder will have continuing responsibility for patients in his/her care and the proper functioning of the department in his/her charge.

The postholder will be encouraged to utilise the full quota of study leave to pursue his/her continued medical education and will be required to register with the appropriate Royal College for CPD purposes and to assure his/her continued revalidation with UHS Foundation NHS Trust and Registration with Licence to Practise with the GMC.

This job description sets out the duties of the post(s) at the time it was drawn up. Such duties may vary from time to time without changing the general character of the duties or level of responsibility entailed. Such variations are a common occurrence and cannot of themselves justify a reconsideration of the grading of the post.

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<th>Person specification</th>
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**Essential criteria (both academic and clinical activities)**

- Normally educated to Masters/Part 2 MRCP level, or other equivalent qualification, or appropriate level of experience, as appropriate to the discipline (see role-specific criteria below).
- Evidence of some engagement in high-quality research activity.
- Excellent presentation skills, with the ability to communicate effectively, both orally and in writing, with students, colleagues and external audiences.
- Ability to work individually on own initiative and without close supervision, and as part of a team.
- Ability to exercise a degree of innovation and creative problem-solving.
- Excellent organisational and administrative skills.
- Ability to prioritise and meet clinical and academic deadlines.
- Excellent IT skills.
Essential role-specific criteria (including clinical criteria)

- NHS Senior specialist trainee in Gastroenterology/Hepatology
- Primary UK medical qualification (or equivalent)
- Appropriate postgraduate medical qualification (e.g. full MRCP or equivalent)
- In current clinical practice and on GMC register with current license to practise.
- Satisfactory enhanced level Disclosure and Barring service check.

The appointment process

An initial selection of candidates will be made on the basis of applications against the person specification criteria outlined above.

For purposes relating to the Data Protection Act applicants are asked to complete and sign a 1) Clinical Academic application form if medically qualified or a standard Academic application form if not medically qualified, and forward this document along with their written application.

Applicants are also invited to submit a written application including: 2) curriculum vitae, 3) with supporting statement (as described below), and 4) to nominate three referees (names, positions and addresses) who are able to comment on the applicant’s suitability for the position. One of these referees should be the applicant’s current employer.

Curriculum vitae

Curriculum vitae should contain at least the following details:

Personal details
Name, home and office addresses including telephone numbers and email addresses.

Higher education
Name of institution(s) and dates attended, full or part-time attendance, subjects studied, qualifications obtained.

Institutional or professional membership
Involvement, institution(s) and date of admission, and positions of responsibility.

Employment history
Employment history should be in chronological order. If periods of employment are not consecutive it would be helpful if details of activity in the intervening period could be included even if these have been covered in other sections, e.g. periods of full-time study.

Research/consultancy
Interests and outcomes including publications and research funding obtained within the last five years. Please include details of the funding body, the duration of the research grant and the title of the project.

Teaching experience
Experience of teaching undertaken within the last five years including the titles and levels of the courses taught and the institutions at which these were taught.
Experience of postgraduate research students supervised including the number of students and their degree outcome.

Bibliography
This should list in separate sections:
(a) papers published in peer-reviewed journals
(b) review articles and invited submissions
(c) books and book chapters
(d) scientific correspondence
(e) patents awarded or applied for.

Details of abstracts or conference proceedings are not required. Your five most notable publications should be marked with an asterisk.

Supporting statement
In a supporting statement of not more than one page, applicants should relate their previous experience to the current post.

Administrative details
Your application form should be attached to a written application to assist in administering the selection process. Any additional information we should be aware of in relation to your application should be supplied by covering letter.

Enclosures
a) BSMS undergraduate prospectus
b) Undergraduate prospectuses of the University of Brighton and the University of Sussex;
c) BSMS Postgraduate Taught prospectus
d) BSMS magazine (most recent hard copy available on request)
f) Organisational structure charts for BSMS (available on request)
g) University Hospitals Sussex Foundation NHS Trust – Guide to Clinical Services (available on request);
h) Recruitment monitoring and information pro forma (on application form).

Brighton and Sussex Medical School and partners
Brighton and Sussex Medical School is an equal partnership between the Universities of Sussex and Brighton together with NHS organisations throughout the South East region. Find out more at: bsms.ac.uk/about

The University of Sussex is a leading research-intensive university near Brighton, currently ranked top 20 in all major league tables. Find out more: http://www.sussex.ac.uk/about/

The University of Brighton is a complex and diverse institution with a long and distinguished history of applied research. Find out more: brighton.ac.uk/about-us/

University Hospitals Sussex Foundation NHS Trust is the regional teaching hospital working across five sites: the Royal Sussex County Hospital in Brighton, the Princess Royal Hospital in Haywards Heath, St Richards Hospital in Chichester, Southlands Hospital in Shoreham-by-Sea and Worthing Hospital. Find out more: https://www.uhsussex.nhs.uk/

Sussex Partnership NHS Foundation Trust specialises in working with people who are experiencing mental health difficulties and those with learning disabilities, across Sussex, Kent and Hampshire. Find out more: sussexpartnership.nhs.uk/about-us
Submission of applications

Applicants wishing to discuss the position informally are invited to contact:

Professor Sumita Verma
Professor of Hepatology
S.Verma@bsms.ac.uk

Application details and application forms are available from sussex.ac.uk/jobs or by request and should be returned to the Human Resources Division, Sussex House, University of Sussex, Falmer, Brighton, BN1 9RH. Tel 01273 678706, Fax 01273 877401, email bsmsrecruitment@sussex.ac.uk.

Details of all vacant posts can be found via the university websites: sussex.ac.uk/jobs brighton.ac.uk/jobs bsms.ac.uk

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