IMPERIAL

Clinical Research Fellow in Respiratory Viral Infections

Department/Division/Faculty:	Department of Infectious Disease, Faculty of Medicine
Campus/Location:	Hammersmith Campus, Chelsea & Westminster Hospital and occasionally St Mary's
Job Family/Level:	Clinical Academic, Clinical Research Fellow ST1-5 (plus London Weighting Allowance) (Salary Pay Scale)
Responsible to:	Professor Christopher Chiu
Line management for:	n/a
Key working Relationships (Internal):	Researchers in Professor Chiu's group, the Section of Adult Infectious Diseases, other scientific, technical and administrative staff in the Department of Infectious Disease, research groups in the National Heart and Lung Institute
Key Working Relationships (External):	External scientific and industry collaborators and sponsors; clinical and academic colleagues at national and international partner sites
Contract type:	Full-time and fixed-term for 2 years

Research Programme

Respiratory viral infections (including rhinovirus and RSV) are among the most important causes of disease and death worldwide. Current strategies to prevent these infections and their transmission remain limited at best. Improved understanding of how protective mechanisms in humans may be harnessed to prevent or ameliorate disease is therefore critical. Despite the unprecedented speed of COVID-19 vaccine development, the ongoing pandemic has further highlighted gaps in our understanding of how optimal protective immunity can be generated. The focus of this research programme is to investigate the factors associated with susceptibility to infection and disease in human beings, with a particular focus on mucosal and innate immunity. To achieve this, the project will use unique and world-leading controlled human infection models of human rhinovirus and RSV.

Purpose of the Post

We are aiming to recruit an enthusiastic, dynamic, and motivated physician with an interest in infectious disease and translational medicine, who wishes to build their clinical academic career. The post is funded the Advanced Research and Invention Agency (ARIA) to focus primarily on delivery of human infection challenge studies to model rhinovirus and RSV in older adults.

You will work closely with research nurses, clinical project managers, other clinical fellows and laboratory scientists to set up and conduct respiratory virus human challenge studies to identify determinants of susceptibility and protection against infection and virus transmission. This will involve responsibility for protocol development, volunteer recruitment and screening, and clinical care of study participants during and after challenge.

You will have the opportunity to develop clinical and research skills in virology, immunology and -omics, and will participate in the larger programme, which also includes influenza and SARS-CoV-2 studies. Together, these provide unparalleled ability to investigate the dynamics of the immune response in under-studied anatomical compartments including the upper airway to provide a broad range of experience in clinical research methods.

You will report directly to Professor Chris Chiu at the Hammersmith Campus. As an expert in the immunology of respiratory viral infections in humans, Prof Chiu will supervise the clinical infection studies and provide support in management and regulatory aspects of the project. As a key member of his team of highly-motivated and experienced multi-disciplinary researchers, you will therefore deliver unique world-class translational research with the potential to substantially improve patient health globally.

Key Responsibilities

We anticipate the successful applicant will take up this position in February/March 2027. You will hold an honorary contract with the appropriate NHS Trusts and be expected to take on clinical responsibilities appropriate to your level of experience expertise, with training in study-specific areas provided:

Clinical study delivery

- Assist with the setup and day-to-day management and delivery of respiratory virus human challenge studies
- Assist with recruitment and screening of volunteers
- Collation, review and sign-off of clinical investigations and other documents for eligibility assessment of study participants
- Provide direct clinical care to study participants admitted for respiratory virus challenge, working with research nurses and study PIs
- Support delivery of other clinical studies (including trials) within Prof Chiu's group
- Acting as a point of contact for study participants to provide clinical advice and care before, during and after challenge, under the supervision of the study PI
- Co-ordinate the development of study protocols and associated study documentation.
- Prepare safety reports and briefings for the data safety monitoring committee.
- Ensure adherence to the study protocols and compliance with regulatory requirements.

- Work with the rest of the clinical team, in particular the lead research nurse and clinical project manager, to ensure all clinical research conducted is compliant with Good Clinical Practice.

Academic development, training and supervision

- Participate in the analysis of immune responses using cellular and molecular immunology techniques if desired and as appropriate
- Training of study associated personnel.
- Troubleshooting issues while maintaining and developing good relationships with researchers and clinicians associated with the study in a variety of different settings.
- Identifying and developing further research themes which may be developed within the studies
- All staff are expected to contribute to the administrative work of the study coordinated through the project manager and study PIs. The post holder will need to carry out any other reasonable duties as required by the study PI, which are likely to increase their breadth of research experience.

Person Specification

Requirements Candidates/post holders will be expected to demonstrate the following:	**Essential (E)/ Desirable (D)**
Education	
Medical degree with GMC registration	E
Membership of the Royal College of Physicians or equivalent	D
Knowledge & Experience	
Experience in management of general medical problems, medical emergencies and respiratory infections	E
Demonstrated ability to work collaboratively with other clinicians, nurses and others	E
Knowledge of respiratory infections and current developments in the field	D
Knowledge of research methods and statistical procedures	D
Practical experience of clinical studies or trials	D
Experience of the supervision or training of colleagues	D
Experience of presenting to specialist and non-specialist audiences	D
Evidence of teaching and teaching support	D
Familiarity with Good Clinical Practice and governance of clinical studies	D
Previous research experience in infectious diseases, virology or immunology	D
Skills & Abilities	
Ability to exercise initiative and work independently	E

Ability to provide appropriate medical care for individuals following respiratory infection	E
Creative approach to problem-solving	E
Excellent verbal communication skills and the ability to deal with a wide range of people	E
Excellent written communication skills and the ability to write clearly and succinctly	E
Ability to organise own work with minimal supervision; ability to work effectively, both independently and collaboratively	E
Ability to prioritise own work in response to deadlines	E
Advanced computer skills, including word-processing, spreadsheets and the Internet	E
Willingness to work as part of a team and to be open-minded and cooperative	E
Flexible attitude towards work	E
Discipline and regard for confidentiality and security at all times	E
Willingness to undertake any necessary training for the role	E
Willingness to travel both within the United Kingdom and abroad to conduct research and attend conferences	E

Further Information

Please note that job descriptions cannot be exhaustive, and the post-holder may be required to undertake other duties, which are broadly in line with the above key responsibilities.

Our values are at the root of everything we do and everyone in our community is expected to demonstrate Imperial:

- Respect
- Collaboration
- Excellence
- Integrity
- Innovation

Employees are also required to comply with all Imperial policies and regulations.

We are committed to equality of opportunity, to eliminating discrimination and to creating an inclusive working environment for all. We encourage candidates to apply irrespective of age, disability, marriage or civil partnership status, pregnancy or maternity, race, religion and belief, gender reassignment, sex, or sexual orientation. You can read more about our commitment on our webpages.

Imperial is a proud signatory to the San-Francisco Declaration on Research Assessment (DORA), which means that in hiring and promotion decisions, we evaluate applicants on the quality of their work, not the journal impact factor where it is published. For more information, see https://www.imperial.ac.uk/research-and-innovation/about-imperial-research/research-evaluation/

Imperial believes that the use of animals in research is vital to improve human and animal health and welfare. Animals may only be used in research programmes which are ultimately aimed towards finding new treatments and making scientific and medical advances, and where there are no satisfactory or reasonably practical alternatives to their use. Imperial is committed to ensuring that, in cases where this research is deemed essential, all animals in our care are treated with full respect, and that all staff involved with this work show due consideration at every level. Find out more about animal research at Imperial.

As this post is exempt from the Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974, a satisfactory Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) check, at the appropriate level, will be required for the successful candidate.

[September 2026]