

Quote ref: MHS/034/08

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THE UNIVERSITY OF MANCHESTER
PARTICULARS OF APPOINTMENT
FACULTY OF MEDICAL AND HUMAN SCIENCES
ENDOCRINE SCIENCES & DIABETES RESEARCH GROUP
CLINICAL RESEARCH FELLOWSHIP (REF MHS/034/08)

- 1 The University invites applications for the above post which is tenable for a 12 month period in the first instance with a possible further 24 month extension
- 2 Salary will be within the range £29,585 - £32,510 per annum according to relevant experience and qualifications. The University of Manchester will implement a new pay and grading structure in line with the national framework agreement, therefore all grades and salaries are currently under review and may change.
- 3 Informal inquiries may be made to Professor Frederick Wu, tel 0161 276 6330 or e-mail frederick.wu@manchester.ac.uk
- 4 Applications should be returned by 18 February 2008 to

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Fax 0161 275 1183
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- 5 **All correspondence should quote reference number.**
- 6 The University does not acknowledge applications or contact all unsuccessful applicants. If you have not been contacted within 4 weeks of the closing date you should assume that, on this occasion, your application has not been successful. We would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your interest in The University of Manchester.

WITH THE COMPLIMENTS OF THE DIRECTORATE OF HUMAN RESOURCES

THE UNIVERSITY OF MANCHESTER
SCHOOL OF CLINICAL & LABORATORY SCIENCES
ENDOCRINE SCIENCES RESEARCH GROUP
CLINICAL RESEARCH FELLOWSHIP

Further particulars

Research

The Research fellow will participate in two major research projects. He/she will also recruit, screen and monitor subjects in a clinical trial of hormonal male contraception funded by the World Health Organisation (WHO). He/she will also supervise the assessments of research volunteers participating in the European Male Ageing Study (phase 2 – follow-up) and analyse the (phase 1 - baseline) data to define the contribution of reproductive and metabolic hormones to the physical and psychological functional changes and deterioration in health status during ageing in men. This is the largest study on hormone ageing in men in the world funded by the European Union.

Both studies are supervised by Professor Frederick Wu in the Andrology Research Unit, Department of Medicine. The appointee will receive training in clinical research methodologies, statistical analysis of large datasets, scientific presentation, scientific manuscript preparation and publication. The post will be suitable for candidates interested in pursuing an academic track in their career and to complete a PhD/MD thesis. Alternately, the post would also suit those wishing to gain some experience in clinical research to broaden and improve their specialist professional training.

The Andrology Research Unit (ARU)

The ARU is located within the Department of Medicine, Manchester Royal Infirmary. Under the leadership of Professor Wu, the ARU has been involved in clinical research in male health for many years. The main focus of research is in male contraception, frailty and ageing studies. It is expected that the fellow will register for a PhD and complete this within the tenure of the fellowship. PhD students in the Unit are very closely supervised with regular meetings and the requirement to submit a detailed report at the end of the first year which is subject to oral examination. The fellow will join a group of research training fellows in the Unit and will appreciate the relaxed and supportive environment for their work. For potential candidates interested in pursuing research for an MD rather than a PhD degree, similar supervision will be offered but the work may be completed in a shorter time than 3 years.

Male Hormonal Contraception

Male participation in family planning is an under-appreciated resource in regulating the inexorable world population expansion that threatens to erode economic advances especially in developing countries. Our work has been in the forefront of research into developing a hormonal male contraceptive using exogenous sex steroid suppression of gonadotrophins. We will be embarking on a new phase IIB multi-centre male contraceptive efficacy trial supported by the World Health Organisation in which 60 men will be given a combination of testosterone undecanoate and norethisterone enanthate every 8 weeks for 18 months.

Ageing and Hormones

The European Male Ageing Study (EMAS) is a prospective, population based investigation into the health and quality of life in men aged 40 to 79 years of age from 8 European countries. A random population sample of over 3300 community-dwelling, apparently healthy men are studied on two occasions 4 years apart in order to document changes in their health status longitudinally. Each of the 8 centres has recruited a total of 400 men (100 men from each decade). The follow-up phase of this study has just started in January 2008.

Data collection covers a wide range of factors important to, and indicative of, ageing men's health, including: hormone dysregulation, body composition, sexual health, bone health, metabolic function & obesity, cognitive function and physical function (frailty). One of the main aims of the study is to determine the role(s) of hormone decline in the ageing process.

Frailty

One of the most pressing problems in 21st century healthcare is how to maintain quality of life and functional independence in adults as they age. It is important to understand the mechanisms that underlie the physiological dysregulation, and identify biomarkers that will predict the progressive loss of wellbeing and functional decline in the elderly. This may lead to preventative opportunities to sustain good quality of life in old age. Physical frailty, loss of muscle and its concomitants of curtailment of activities of daily living, disability and dependency are key components of the ageing phenotype. There is a growing belief that many of the symptoms and functional deficits experienced by elderly men are associated with ageing-related endocrine alterations. We are currently conducting a randomized placebo-controlled trial in 260 frail men with low testosterone to investigate whether testosterone replacement for 6 months will improve muscle power, physical function and quality of life.

In-House Educational Activities

The appointee will be trained in all research techniques directly related to the main research projects including semen analysis. The Unit has a weekly analysis meeting at which the successful applicant will be expected to present their work. There is also a journal club held fortnightly. There will be opportunities for in-house training courses in epidemiology, statistics and writing skills from time to time. The Fellow will be encouraged to attend and present at regional, national and international meetings.

Department of Endocrinology

The Department of Endocrinology was established in the 1960s. Since then the Department has been transformed into an academic University unit led by three Professors of Endocrinology (FCW Wu, JRE Davis and DW Ray), each with an international profile in their own areas of research in addition to being active clinicians covering a comprehensive range of endocrine disorders, including reproductive endocrine conditions. The Department is a leading academic Endocrine unit attracting many referrals from far reaching areas of the UK as well as visiting students and scholars from abroad.

The Department of Endocrinology is the largest general endocrine tertiary referral centre in the North West of England offering a comprehensive range of endocrine services to a catchment population of 5 million in Greater Manchester. In addition to three Professors, there are two NHS consultants supported by 4 rotating SpRs, a Senior House Officer, several research fellows and one endocrine nurse specialist. Patients from outpatient clinics are admitted electively for planned programmes of investigation and treatment in the Programmed Investigation Unit staffed by nurses with expertise in dynamic endocrine tests. A weekly Consultant ward round is held in the Programmed Investigation Unit with the SHO, SpRs, nurses and students. These are management as well as teaching rounds followed by weekly clinical case meetings, X-Ray meetings, seminars and regular journal clubs.

Accredited European Academy of Andrology Centre

The Manchester Andrology Centre is a new venture, the first in the U.K., in postgraduate clinical training that integrates the andrological activities of three constituent departments – Reproductive Medicine, St Mary's Hospital for Women and Children, Urology and Endocrinology, Manchester Royal Infirmary. This reflects the burgeoning interests in clinical Andrology in the UK as a subspecialty, research in male reproductive health worldwide and the breadth of andrological expertise in Manchester. It is a natural progression of many years of close collaboration between the clinical and research staffs of the three departments. The advertised post also presents the first opportunity in the U.K. for the candidate to embark on training in clinical Andrology.

Clinical Opportunities

The Fellow will be encouraged to undertake a single outpatient clinical session per week in the Clinics of the Department of Endocrinology, Manchester Royal Infirmary and attend a limited number of clinical educational sessions including clinical rounds and Endocrine Grand Rounds. For those interested in clinical Andrology, an individual training programme will be organized.

Person Specification

Essential:

- Full GMC Registration
- MRCP or equivalent diploma
- Clinical experience in internal Medicine or other allied specialties
- Excellent writing and presentation skills
- Excellent time-management skills
- Computer literacy including word processing and Powerpoint skills
- Medical Degree or equivalent experience
- Familiarity with undertaking comprehensive literature searches.
- A demonstrated interest in research and experience of writing publications
- Attention to detail

Desirable

- A basic grounding in medical statistics