ITCC Fellowship 2025

The Royal Marsden Hospital & The Institute of Cancer Research (ICR)

Background to The Royal Marsden Hospital and the Institute of Cancer Research

The Royal Marsden's 31-bed Oak Centre for Children and Young People is one of the largest comprehensive cancer centres in Europe for children and teenagers. Built as a £20 million purpose-built facility which opened in 2011, the Centre comprises 18 children's inpatient beds, a dedicated 13 bed Teenage and Young Adult (TYA) Cancer Unit, and outpatient and day care facilities including facilities for children's and young people's oncology drug development, the paediatric and adolescent oncology drug development unit (PA-DDU). The Centre sees almost 600 inpatients and more than 5000 day-patients every year, with around 220 new malignant registrations per year including leukaemia, lymphoma, central nervous system (CNS) and extra-cranial solid tumours. Our PA-DDU is the largest and most active within the UK's Paediatric Experimental Cancer Medicines Centre (ECMC) network and also one of the most active centres within the ITCC, We are a designated ITCC First-in-Child centre. The Centre has excellent integration with all adult oncology specialities and enjoys the significant benefits of co-location with The Institute of Cancer Research (ICR), a world-leading cancer research centre and a College of The University of London.

The research activities of the clinical Unit are closely integrated with the Division of Cancer Therapeutics and The Division of Clinical Services within the ICR. The Paediatric and Adolescent Oncology Targeted Drug Development Programme at the Royal Marsden and the ICR is a comprehensive programme which comprises drug discovery, pre-clinical evaluation in a comprehensive range of model systems, preclinical imaging, and biomarker-rich early clinical trials conducted within the Centre's clinical facility (the Oak Foundation Unit, which is an NIHR Research Facility). In addition to the clinical facilities described above the outpatient and day care unit houses an adjacent 'hot' laboratory on site for pharmacokinetic and pharmacodynamic sample processing. The inpatient unit houses two suites for radioisotope therapy (including mIBG therapy and others) to help facilitate novel studies involving radioisotope components.

Paediatric & Adolescent Oncology Drug Development Fellowship – Job Description and Training Opportunities

This position is a key post within the Paediatric and Adolescent Oncology Drug Development Team, which was the first of its kind in the UK when set up in 2007.

Within this clinical post the fellow will work very closely with other members of the multidisciplinary team carrying out early clinical studies of novel agents in children and young people and will be involved in the eligibility assessment and care of children and young people enrolled on early clinical studies of new agents, including first-in-child studies of molecularly targeted drugs, and novel immunotherapy agents, including combination and multi-arm basket trials.

The team has developed excellent links with academic and pharmaceutical industry clinical trial sponsors for clinical trial design and implementation. Patients are referred from other UK centres through the Paediatric ECMC Network via well-defined pathways. The team delivers an excellent level of patient care, providing access to novel therapies, within clinical trials and with strong regulatory levels of pharmacovigilance and practising to the highest standards of Good Clinical Practice (GCP). Where clinical trials are not available, we also deliver a significant programme of compassionate/managed access programmes in partnership with pharma, and these patients are cared for by our team, to the same standards as patients on early phase clinic\al trials.

There will be opportunities for the fellow to be involved in devising and writing early phase clinical studies/study arms and in other projects. The fellow will also have an opportunity to develop a specialist interest of their own, in clinical trials for haematological malignancies, neuroblastoma, neuro-oncology, or sarcoma. The fellow would participate actively in weekly tumour-based multidisciplinary team meetings (MDTs) (1 MDT each for neuro-oncology, solid tumours, haematological malignancies, bone marrow transplantation (BMT), the weekly ECMC regional relapse teleconferences where patients with newly relapsed disease are discussed for consideration of clinical trials eligibility, 1-2 weekly molecular tumour boards, as well as in the weekly drug development clinical planning meeting and the weekly clinical research operational governance meetings and Trust 3 monthly immunotherapy governance group meetings. They would be responsible for and become competent in reviewing patients on Phase I/II clinical trials, both on the ward and in the Paediatric Drug Development clinics, with the research nurse and consultant team members. The post holder will receive training in and be actively involved in liaising with academic and commercial clinical trial sponsors about patients recruited onto trials, new trials and new drugs, collection of clinical trial data to GCP standards and the regulatory aspects of paediatric early phase trials to enable them to work effectively in the set-up of new early phase trials, under consultant supervision. The post holder will link closely with radiology colleagues and receive training in the relevant imaging assessments of patients on clinical trials. Via links with the ICR, a central theme of the programme will be the translation of laboratory research to clinical trials. There is also the opportunity to attend laboratory team meetings at The ICR in tumour area of interest (Paediatric Glioma, Medulloblastoma, Sarcoma, Neuroblastoma or Leukaemia).

The post in paediatric oncology is suitable for trainees wishing to gain experience in paediatric and adolescent oncology drug development and clinical trials. The post holder will have the opportunity to develop their own project(s) in the area of drug development and to contribute to the academic output of the Unit and build on their own academic profile via authorship on publications and presentations at relevant national/international meetings such as ECMC, ITCC, ACCELERATE and/or tumour group meetings. It may also be a stepping stone to develop a project that could be taken forward in future towards a higher research degree (MD or PhD).

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