**Job Summary**

**Job Title:** Clinical Research Fellow in Cardiovascular Medicine/Cardiology  
**Grade:** Clinical  
**Salary:** Up to £46,215 per annum  
**Department:** Cardiovascular Sciences  
**Contract:** Full-time fixed term contract for 2 years  
**Job Reference:** MBP02042

**Role Purpose:**

This post is funded by the NIHR Leicester BRC Cardiovascular theme based at Glenfield Hospital. The post is for two years in the first instance.

You will work within the Leicester Biomedical Research Centre including a recently built Translational Medicine Facility for clinical research to support translational studies in heart failure. The work will primarily involve two clinical studies: One will assess the effect of indapamide on phosphate metabolism and fibroblast growth factor 23 (FGF23); the second will study changes in circulating natriuretic peptide metabolism, using mass spectrometry, on switching patients with heart failure with reduced ejection fraction from treatment Angiotensin Converting Enzyme to Sacubitril Valsartan.

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Principal Responsibilities</th>
<th>% Time</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Research</strong></td>
<td>70</td>
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| The first aspect of the work will assess circulating natriuretic peptide, and other relevant vasoactive peptides, in patients with HFrEF prior to and after switching from treatment with Angiotensin Converting Enzyme to Sacubitril Valsartan. Plasma levels of intact peptide as well as metabolites will be measured using state-of-the art mass spectrometry. Sixty patients will be recruited.  
The second aspect to the work will assess the effects of indapamide 2.5 mg and 5 mg once daily (OD) on serum phosphate and FGF23 levels and urine phosphate excretion, in patients with HF (with reduced or preserved ejection fraction), to assess whether it has the potential to lower serum FGF23, phosphate and natriuretic peptide levels. If this is confirmed, further studies on indapamide effect on left ventricular hypertrophy and myocardial structure would be indicated. Approximately 90 patients will be recruited.  
You will work under the direction of Prof. Iain Squire (clinical aspects), Prof. Gerry McCann (Cardiac MR imaging), and Prof Leong Ng/Prof Toru Suzuki (laboratory aspects). You will work within a team and alongside the BRC cardiovascular research nurses and laboratory scientists.  
• Together with Prof Squire, and working with research nurses, you will be responsible for patient recruitment. |
### Job Summary

- Primarily responsible for patient management during introduction of short-term indapamide treatment and during introduction and titration of sacubitril valsartan.
- Together with research nurses, responsible for blood sampling, processing and storage.
- Primarily responsible for clinical data acquisition.
- Perform a literature search and write reviews on phosphate metabolism in heart failure.
- Write first drafts of papers on two clinical studies described above.

You will contribute to clinical trials recruiting patients to Phase III clinical trials in heart failure and to ongoing multi-centre studies in cardiac magnetic resonance imaging (CMR). This will be a minor aspect of the post but training in CMR will be offered if undertaken.

The work undertaken is expected to contribute to higher degree and the candidate will be expected to register for MD or PhD.

#### Teaching
Occasional lectures and small group teaching for students/junior doctors

#### Clinical duties
Attend research clinics, related to the clinical studies, as required (2-3 per week, variable) for the duration of patient recruitment and follow-up. Some exposure to clinical sessions, such as cardiac imaging, may be possible depending upon the interests of the successful candidate.

#### Internal and External Relationships

The post requires frequent and close collaboration with the following:

**Internal:**
Multi-disciplinary team at Glenfield Hospital (Currently there are several clinical research fellows whose research involves various aspects of cardiology, including Cardiac Magnetic Resonance Imaging, electrophysiology, coronary intervention, and heart failure. Several phase III clinical trials.)

Patients with heart failure identified through cardiology clinics, waiting lists and databases.

**External:**
Members of the NIHR Biomedical Research Centre and UHL NHS Trust- cardiology
### Planning and Organising

Plan and perform research on a day to day basis

Register for a higher degree including completion of annual reports and presentation to the higher degrees committee

Collect, process and analyse data for the study

Planning research publications and presentations incorporating own data and that of others

### Qualifications, Knowledge and Experience

**Essential**

- MB BS or equivalent*
- Full GMC registration *
- License to practice*
- Possessing MRCP or equivalent*
- Good Clinical Practice certificate, or ability to obtain*
- Have a sound knowledge of cardiac imaging*
- Knowledge of IT, able to use Word and Excel competently, evidenced by previous experience or qualification*

**Desirable**

- Current NTN in Cardiology*
- Cardiology trainee preferably wishing to subspecialise in heart failure
- Previous research experience eg. intercalated BSc with evidence of outputs*
- Academic potential as evidenced by undergraduate performance*
- Statistical knowledge and understanding
- Experience of writing scientific papers*

### Skills, Abilities and Competencies

**Essential**

- High level of proficiency in English, sufficient to undertake research, teaching and administrative activities utilising English Language materials and to communicate effectively with staff and students*
- Ability to plan, prioritise and work on own initiative
• Excellent, fluent oral communication skills
• Evidence of good written communication skills
• Flexible attitude to work
• Desire to learn
• Willingness and aptitude to present work at international and national meetings
• The ability to constructively interact with other members of the research group
• The ability to complete work on time and to work to deadlines
• Self-motivation
• Good organisational skills
• Excellent team working skills
• Enthusiasm and ability to register for a higher degree
• Enthusiasm and willingness to participate in a generic postgraduate training programme

*Criteria to be used in shortlisting candidates for interview*

**Additional Requirements**

• Satisfactory enhanced DBS disclosure
• Satisfactory occupational health clearance
• Meets professional health requirements (in line with GMC standards/Good Medical Practice)

**Additional Information**

You must be registered with the GMC, hold a licence to practice, abide by the codes of professional practice and have appropriate cover from a medical defence organisation for the duration of your appointment. Lapsing may render you subject to disciplinary action and you cannot be lawfully employed should registration lapse. You are required by the GMC to revalidate every five years. You must therefore advise the University of your revalidation dates and provide written evidence of your satisfactory revalidation where these fall within your period of employment with the University. You are also required to abide by the codes of professional practice as detailed by the professional body GMC.

Where the duties of a post involve work with NHS patients, identifiable patient data and/or patient material/tissues, or NHS staff or their data for the purposes of research it is necessary to ensure that the performance of the duties attached to the post is covered by NHS indemnity arrangements and the appointee must comply with all such arrangements.

You will be required to comply with all NHS employment checks and satisfactorily meet these requirements prior to commencement in post. You are required to comply with the appropriate occupational health procedures for the post which you are to undertake. Where the post requires that
you undertake Exposure Prone Invasive Procedures any offer of employment is subject to satisfactory clearance from the Trust Occupational Health department and you cannot commence in post until satisfactory clearance has been received. Where the post does not require Exposure Prone Invasive Procedures you must provide evidence of attendance at a Trust occupational health interview within the first 3 days of commencing in post.

This post is exempt from the Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974 because the appointee will have substantial access to young people and/or vulnerable adults. Therefore, an appointment to this post will be subject to checking through the Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS)). The successful applicant for this post will, therefore, be required to give consent for the University to check with the DBS for the existence and content of any criminal record in the form of an Enhanced Disclosure. Information received from the DBS and the police will be kept in strict confidence and will be destroyed once the University is satisfied in this regard.

Further information about the Disclosure and Barring Service is available at http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/agencies-public-bodies/dbs/

Equality and Diversity

The University of Leicester is committed to positively advancing equality of opportunity. We participate in a number of equalities initiatives which celebrate good employment practice for the advancement of diversity and equality. These include the Stonewall Workplace Equality Index, the Race Equality Charter and Athena Swan.

We are proud to be selected as one of only ten Universities internationally to be an impact champion for HeForShe, a global solidarity movement for gender equality. We also have a number of staff equality fora who champion the advancement of equalities for diverse groups. To find out more please visit the Equalities webpage.

Selected Staff Benefits

- 24 days annual leave, plus bank holidays and 6 closure days
- Generous pension
- Discounted gym membership
- Childcare voucher schemes

For more information about our fantastic benefits please click here.

VITAL - living our values

We believe that the University of Leicester is a great place to work. Our values go to the heart of everything we do and underpin our motto Ut Vitam Habeant - so that they may have life – but are denoted be the simple acronym, VITAL.
**Valuing people** - We respect, trust and appreciate our people. We recognise others' achievements and our own. We celebrate success. We help everyone to achieve their potential.

**Innovators** - We have the confidence to solve problems creatively. We are always striving to improve our service. We are resilient, proactive, clear communicators. We nurture a safe environment for innovation.

**Together** - We work better when we work together. We collaborate with other stakeholders to share knowledge and best practice. We draw on others' expertise and create networks to develop new ideas.

**Accountable** - We are responsible for our actions. We hold ourselves and others to account and admit our mistakes. We agree what is expected and deliver on our promises. We are responsive and able to demonstrate where we've made a difference.

**Leaders** - We are confident professionals; we value knowledge and expertise and know when to use them. As leaders, we demonstrate integrity, honesty and transparency. We use our judgement and work well with others across all departments.