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Getting “animated” about a clinical academic career

Healthcare professionals are being encouraged to develop a clinical academic career through a new animation developed by Health Education England (HEE) and the National Institute for Health Research (NIHR).

The eye catching animation describes the opportunities on offer to all professions as part of HEE’s Clinical Academic Careers Framework which brings together research programmes funded by HEE and the NIHR.

The animation is available to view at: <http://bit.ly/hee-nihr-animation>.

Opportunities are split into two distinct programmes; the NIHR Integrated Academic Training (IAT) Programme for doctors and dentists, and the HEE/NIHR Integrated Clinical Academic (ICA) Programme for non-medical healthcare professions. Both programmes allow the opportunity for clinicians to combine their clinical and academic development, and each programme contains awards at different levels, to allow all professions to consider developing a clinical academic career.

The IAT programme is for doctors and dentists to work towards a clinical academic career. The programme includes academic clinical fellowships which allow medical and dental trainees in the early stages of training to get involved in both research alongside clinical training over three years. For those more advanced in specialty training, who already have a research doctorate and who show potential for a career in academic medicine or dentistry, clinical lectureships are available for up to four years.

Within the ICA programme, opportunities are now available for non-medical healthcare professionals wishing to kick start their clinical academic career through a short introductory internship or a Masters in Clinical Research Studentship. Whilst applications for the annual round of doctoral and post-doctoral awards may have passed for this year, potential applicants are being encouraged to start thinking about their applications in plenty of time, as Professor Nicki Latham, HEE Executive Director of Performance and Development, explains;

“We are delighted to have received the number of applications we’ve had to the ICA Programme doctoral and post-doctoral award schemes. We took the decision to widen the range of professions eligible to apply and we are really pleased that everyone has risen to the challenge in submitting applications. I hope this new video will get more people thinking about a clinical academic career and remind everyone planning their applications for next year to allow plenty of time to enable them to be the best they can be.”

Potential applicants looking for more information on the NIHR IAT Programme should look at www.nihr.ac.uk/iat , whilst applicants looking for more information on the HEE/NIHR ICA Programme should see visit www.nihr.ac.uk/hee-ica.