



Academic Affiliate Information Pack

Welcome to ACHA!

Thank you for your interest in becoming an Affiliate of the Academic Centre for Healthy Ageing (ACHA).

ACHA is a collaborative research centre dedicated to improving the health, wellbeing and quality of life of older people through high-quality research, innovation, education and partnership working. Our work brings together expertise from academia, the NHS, local authorities, the voluntary sector, industry and public contributors to address some of the most important challenges facing healthy ageing today.

Our Affiliate Network is at the heart of this mission. By bringing together people with shared interests and complementary expertise, we aim to build a vibrant and inclusive research community that generates new ideas, develops collaborative research, attracts external funding and delivers meaningful improvements for older people and the services that support them.

Whether you are an established academic, an NHS clinician, an early career researcher, a doctoral student, a healthcare professional or a partner organisation, we welcome applications from individuals and organisations whose work aligns with ACHA's vision and values.

We hope this guide gives you a flavour of what it means to be part of the ACHA community and helps you decide whether affiliation is right for you.

1. About ACHA

The Academic Centre for Healthy Ageing exists to develop and support research that makes a tangible difference to the lives of older people.

Working across organisational and disciplinary boundaries, ACHA supports collaborative research and innovation in areas including:

- Healthy ageing and prevention
- Frailty and living well with multiple long-term conditions
- Rehabilitation and recovery



- Cognition and dementia
- Integrated models of health and social care
- Patient and Public Involvement and Engagement (PPIE)
- Applied health and care research
- Service improvement and implementation science

As a partnership hosted by Queen Mary University of London and Barts Health NHS Trust, ACHA is committed to creating an environment where researchers, clinicians and partners can work together to deliver research with real-world impact.

2. Why Become an ACHA Affiliate?

Affiliation is an opportunity to become part of an ambitious and growing research community committed to improving healthy ageing.

As an ACHA Affiliate, you may have opportunities to:

- collaborate with researchers and clinicians across disciplines and organisations;
- contribute to the development of new research ideas and funding applications;
- participate in seminars, workshops and networking events;
- access expert advice and methodological support through ACHA;
- apply to use ACHA-supported infrastructure, including specialist research expertise, our Patient and Public Involvement and Engagement (PPIE) network and Data Analytics, where appropriate;
- increase the visibility of your research through association with ACHA;
- contribute to strategic discussions that shape the future direction of healthy ageing research.

Most importantly, affiliation connects you with a network of people who share a common ambition to improve outcomes for older people through research, innovation and collaboration.

3. What We Value

Our Affiliate Network is built on shared values rather than formal membership alone.



We ask all Affiliates to contribute positively to our research community by:

- working collaboratively and respectfully with colleagues and partners;
- maintaining high standards of research integrity and professional conduct;
- supporting equality, diversity and inclusion in research;
- sharing knowledge and expertise across disciplines;
- recognising and acknowledging collaborative contributions;
- acting in ways that enhance the reputation of ACHA and its partner organisations.

We believe that successful collaborations are built on openness, trust and mutual respect, and we encourage our Affiliates to embody these principles in all aspects of their work.

4. Supporting Research Excellence

ACHA is committed to supporting research that is innovative, collaborative and delivers meaningful impact.

As an ACHA Affiliate, we encourage you to:

- explore opportunities to work with other members of the ACHA community;
- involve patients, carers and the public in your research wherever appropriate;
- share your successes with us, including publications, grants, awards and new collaborations;
- acknowledge ACHA where it has supported your work, helping us demonstrate the collective impact of our research community.

Celebrating the achievements of our Affiliates allows us to showcase the strength of our network, attract new partnerships and secure future investment in healthy ageing research.

5. Access to ACHA Expertise and Infrastructure

Affiliation provides opportunities to engage with the expertise and collaborative environment that ACHA offers.

Depending on the nature of your work, you may be able to access or request support from ACHA in areas such as:

- research collaboration;
- grant development;
- methodological advice;
- Patient and Public Involvement and Engagement (PPIE);
- specialist research expertise;
- data and analytical support;
- knowledge mobilisation and dissemination.

Some services and infrastructure are subject to separate approval processes and may operate on a cost recovery basis to ensure the long-term sustainability of ACHA's research infrastructure. The ACHA team will be happy to discuss these opportunities with you.

6. Becoming Part of the ACHA Community

One of the greatest strengths of ACHA is the breadth and diversity of expertise within our Affiliate Network.

To help foster collaboration and make it easier for researchers and partners to connect, approved Affiliates are invited to have a profile featured on the ACHA website.

Your profile will typically include:

- your name;
- professional title;
- employing organisation;
- a short professional biography;
- your research interests and areas of expertise;
- a professional photograph (where provided).

These profiles help showcase the expertise within our community, encourage new collaborations and enable others to identify potential partners for research, education and innovation.



If there are exceptional circumstances where you would prefer certain information not to be published, please discuss this with the ACHA team during your onboarding process.

7. How the Application Process Works

We have designed our affiliation process to be straightforward, transparent and supportive.

Step 1 – Submit your application

Complete the online application form and tell us about yourself, your organisation (if applicable), your experience and how your interests align with ACHA's work.

Step 2 – Initial review

The ACHA team will review your application to ensure all the required information has been received and may contact you if further information is needed.

Step 3 – Governance review

Applications are considered by the ACHA Assurance Committee, which reviews how each application aligns with ACHA's strategic priorities and the contribution the applicant could make to the Centre. This Committee meets monthly.

Step 4 – Outcome

We will notify you of the outcome of your application as soon as possible following the Committee's decision.

Step 5 – Onboarding

If your application is successful, we will invite you to join the ACHA Affiliate Network. During onboarding, you will be asked to sign an Affiliate Agreement and will receive information about our governance framework, publications guidance and opportunities to become involved in ACHA activities.

Once onboarding is complete, we will create your Affiliate profile and formally welcome you to the ACHA community.

8. What Happens After You Become an Affiliate?

Our relationship with Affiliates is intended to be active and collaborative.



We hope that you will become involved in the life of the Centre by attending our Academic Huddles (every Tuesday in the Whipps Cross Hospital Canteen), events, contributing to research initiatives, developing new collaborations and sharing your successes with the wider ACHA community.

From time to time, we may contact you with opportunities to participate in research, collaborative funding applications, seminars, workshops, public engagement activities or other initiatives aligned with your expertise and interests.

We also periodically review our Affiliate Network to ensure that our records remain up to date and that we continue to support an active and engaged research community.

9. We'd Love to Hear from You

If you have any questions about becoming an ACHA Affiliate, or would like to discuss whether affiliation is right for you before applying, please get in touch.

Academic Centre for Healthy Ageing (ACHA)

Email: bartshealth.acha@nhs.net

We look forward to receiving your application and welcoming you to our growing community of researchers, clinicians, professionals and partners who are working together to improve the health and wellbeing of older people.