Candidate Information

Position: Research Fellow
School/Department: Centre for Public Health
Reference: 19/107118
Closing Date: Thursday 21 February 2019
Salary: £33,199 - £39,610 per annum (potential to progress to £43,266 per annum through sustained exceptional contribution)
Anticipated Interview Date: Monday 4 March 2019
Duration: Until 31 July 2024

JOB PURPOSE:

The principal aim of the post is to undertake a series of epidemiological studies as part of a Cancer Research UK funded Career Establishment Award. The project will involve statistical analysis of large datasets, and project management of studies relating to the Northern Ireland Barrett's oesophagus register. There may also be the opportunity to be involved in molecular epidemiology studies relating to Barrett's oesophagus and oesophageal adenocarcinoma, which will involve collaborations with a UK consortium.

MAJOR DUTIES:

1. To oversee the update of the Northern Ireland Barrett's oesophagus register via pathology report reviews. This will involve liaising closely with Dr Coleman, staff in the Northern Ireland Cancer Registry, and a Clerical Officer employed on the project.
2. To co-ordinate the linkage of this register with Cancer Registry and General Registrar's Office data.
3. To co-ordinate the linkage of data with Business Services Organisation-held datasets, including endoscopy data and electronic prescription data.
4. To clean, and prepare datasets and then apply statistical techniques to these dataset to determine investigate a number of epidemiological studies utilising this data, for example long-term cancer risk in Barrett's oesophagus patients.
5. Contribute to molecular epidemiology projects related to this research as and when appropriate.
6. Draft and present regular progress reports on research for research supervisor, the Barrett's/upper GI research team (which meets approximately every two months), or to external audiences to disseminate and publicise research findings.
7. Prepare, in consultation with supervisor, material for publication in national and international journals and presentations at international conferences.
8. Carry out routine administrative tasks associated with the research project to ensure that the work is completed on time and within budget. These might include organisation of project meetings and documentation, financial control, risk assessment of research activities.
9. Assistance with supervision of PhD, MPH and BSc students who may be working on related research.
10. Read academic papers, journals and textbooks to keep abreast of developments in own specialism and related disciplines.
11. Willingness to travel occasionally within the UK and internationally for the purposes of collaborative meetings and conferences.

Planning and Organising:
1. To plan for the use of research resources where appropriate.
2. To plan own day-to-day activity within framework of the agreed research programme.
3. To plan to meet deadlines for journal publications and to prepare presentations and papers for conferences.
4. Coordinate and liaise with other members of the research group regarding progress.

Resource Management Responsibilities:
1. To ensure research resources are used in an effective and efficient manner.
2. To provide guidance as required to support staff and any students who may be assisting with research.

Internal and External Relationships:

1. To liaise on a regular basis with colleagues and students.
2. To build internal contacts and participate in internal networks for the exchange of information and to form relationships for future collaboration.
3. To join external networks to share information and ideas.

ESSENTIAL CRITERIA:
1. A primary degree in a health-related subject or mathematics/statistics.
2. Have or be about to obtain a relevant PhD in epidemiology, public health, applied statistics or molecular pathology/cancer subjects that include a substantive quantitative data analysis component.
3. At least 3 years research experience and skills relevant to this project e.g. database management, statistical analysis, working with large epidemiological datasets.
4. A high technical competence in statistical analysis and experience of working with large datasets is essential.
5. Experience of using statistical packages such as STATA.
6. Major contribution to authorship of articles in international scientific peer reviewed journals, commensurate with stage of career.
7. Sufficient breadth and depth of knowledge in research methods and techniques pertinent to cancer epidemiology.
8. Ability to deal competently with administrative tasks.
9. Excellent IT skills e.g. Microsoft Office suite.
10. Excellent organisational skills.
11. Excellent inter-personal skills.
12. Excellent oral and written communication skills.
13. Ability to write reports and meet deadlines.
14. Ability to communicate complex information clearly.
15. Ability to build contacts and participate in internal and external networks.
16. Good presentation skills.
17. Articulate, fluent.
18. Ability to work independently and on own initiative.
19. Ability to assess and organise resources.
20. Access to transport or ability to meet the mobility requirements of the post and a willingness to travel to meet the needs of the post.

DESIRABLE CRITERIA:
1. Ability to work in a multi-disciplinary environment as part of a research team
2. Experience of cancer epidemiology research.
3. Experience of molecular epidemiology resarch.
4. Experience of oesophageal adenocarcinoma and/or Barrett's oesophagus research.
5. Strong commitment to a career in research.