



Candidate Information

Position:	Research Assistant
School/Department:	Centre for Public Health
Reference:	19/107226
Closing Date:	Thursday 21 March 2019
Salary:	£27,831 - £28,660 per annum
Anticipated Interview Date:	Monday 1 April 2019
Duration:	Available until 29 February 2020

JOB PURPOSE:

The aim of this study is to identify the causes (aetiology) of myeloproliferative neoplasms (MPNs), a group of rare blood cancers in the United Kingdom.

The study will involve updating a systematic review of previous studies to identify potentially relevant research articles identifying the causes of MPNs. The researcher will facilitate securing ethics and governance approvals, NIHR badging and liaising with clinical research teams across multiple UK sites. The researcher will conduct structured telephone interviews with patients and non-blood relatives/friend controls and process and store biological samples.

Additional Information:

The post-holder will be based in the Centre for Public Health, Royal Victoria Hospital but will liaise closely with colleagues in hospitals across the UK.

This position is funded by MPN Voice.

MAJOR DUTIES:

1. To work as part of the Cancer Epidemiology Group within the Centre for Public Health, School of Medicine, Dentistry & Biomedical Science, Queen's University Belfast.
2. To build and maintain close working relationships with key stakeholder groups including clinical partner sites across the UK and charities funding the research project.
3. To assist with the updating of a systematic review of previous studies to causes of MPNs
4. To assist with securing research ethics and governance approvals.
5. To facilitate securing NIHR badging.
6. To conduct semi-structured telephone interviews with cases and controls.
7. To facilitate recruitment of patients into both the MOSAICC and MPN PACES research studies.
8. To analyse quantitative and qualitative data.
9. To help prepare articles for submission to relevant journals
10. To help prepare reports for the research funder and their newsletter
11. Any other duties related to the successful achievement of the above duties

Planning and Organising:

1. Plan for the use of research resources where appropriate using these in an effective and efficient manner.
2. Plan own day-to day activity within framework of the agreed research programme.
3. Feedback and liaise with research supervisor/(s) on work progress.
4. Coordinate and liaise with other members of the research group, over work progress

Resource Management Responsibilities:

1. Ensure research resources are used in an effective and efficient manner.

2. Contribute to the planning of research projects, reports and publications etc. usually 1-6 months in advance.

Internal and External Relationships:

1. Liaise with research colleagues and support staff on routine matters
2. Make internal and external contacts to develop knowledge and understanding and form relationships for future collaboration.
3. Attend and contribute to relevant meetings

ESSENTIAL CRITERIA:

1. First or upper second class honours degree or equivalent in Public Health, Medicine, Nursing/Midwifery, Biomedical Science, or closely related discipline.
2. At least one year of recent experience working in one of the following fields (or a closely related field): medicine, biomedical science, public health, nursing.
3. Experience using statistical software packages, e.g. STATA or similar.
4. Proven ability to work in a multi-disciplinary environment.
5. Must have excellent inter-personal skills.
Good IT skills.
6. Evidence of ability to deal competently with administrative tasks.
7. Excellent oral and written communication skills.
8. Evidence of ability to write reports and meet deadlines.
9. Clear and confident communicator.
10. Confident demeanour.
11. Ability to give formal presentations.
12. Ability to act decisively and confidently.
13. Ability to work independently and on own initiative.
14. Ability to work outside normal hours when necessary.
15. Access to transport or ability to meet the mobility requirements of the post and willingness to travel to meet the needs of the post (to partner sites across the UK).

DESIRABLE CRITERIA:

1. MSc in Public Health
2. Experience working directly with patients or research participants.
3. Experience working alongside or within a clinical setting.
4. Experience recruiting, retaining and engaging with participants for research.
5. Experience of using quantitative research methods within a research study.
6. Experience of using qualitative research methods within a research study.

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