

Candidate Information

Position:	Research Fellow
School/Department:	Centre for Public Health
Reference:	19/107788
Closing Date:	Wednesday 2 October 2019
Salary:	£33,797 per annum
Anticipated Interview Date:	Wednesday 16 October 2019
Duration:	Available until 31 October 2020

JOB PURPOSE:

The NEPHSTROM study is a phase 1-2 trial to establish the safety and tolerability of a single intravenous infusion of stem cells in the treatment of patients with type II diabetes and progressive diabetic kidney disease. As part of the study an exploratory economic evaluation of the intervention will be conducted under the direction of Professor Ciaran O'Neill.

The successful candidate will undertake the development and analysis of a Markovian model of the infusion of stem cells compared with a placebo within a cost-utility analysis. The model will be populated with data collected alongside the clinical trial, augmented as necessary with data from the literature. The study will examine costs, effects and provide an indicative cost-utility analysis of the intervention against a placebo provided in conjunction with usual care. The trial will be conducted in three European countries: Ireland, Italy and the UK.

MAJOR DUTIES:

1. Review the literature on the economic evaluation of treatments for progressive diabetic kidney disease.
2. Source appropriate unit costs for the monetization of resource use collected as part of the trial.
3. Source appropriate preference weights for deployment with the EQ5D5L survey instrument for capturing health related quality of life.
4. Develop a Markov model based on the disease natural history and envisaged impact on this of stem cell therapy.
5. Devise an appropriate range of sensitivity analyses that will allow the model's robustness across a variety of outcome measures, health care systems and models of care to be assessed.
6. Oversee the collection of economic data within the trial.
7. Identify and source data to augment that collected as part of the trial as appropriate.
8. Estimate the model and examine its robustness over a series of sensitivity analyses.
9. Contribute to the development of recommendations for economic evaluation alongside phase 1-2 trials.
10. Contribute to the dissemination of findings of this work.

Planning and Organising:

1. Draw up a Gantt chart and plan for specific deliverables of the research project.
2. Plan for the use of research resources and workshops where appropriate.
3. Plan own day-to-day activity within framework of the agreed research programme.
4. Plan to meet deadlines for journal publications and to prepare presentations and papers for conferences.
5. Coordinate and liaise with other members of the research group regarding progress.

Resource Management Responsibilities:

1. Ensure research resources are used in an effective and efficient manner.
2. Provide support and guidance as required to staff and students assisting with the research.

Internal and External Relationships:

1. Liaise on a regular basis with colleagues and key stakeholders.

2. Maintain existing and establish new internal contacts and participate in internal networks for the exchange of information and to form relationships for future collaboration.

ESSENTIAL CRITERIA:

1. *A PhD in economics or cognate subject or having given notice to submit PhD within 3 months.
2. 3 years relevant research experience.
3. *Good evidence of extensive experience in applied health economics research.
4. * Experience in publishing in medical and health services, health policy and/or health economics journals.
5. *Experience of using data analysis packages such as TreeAge, STATA or R.
6. Excellent IT skills e.g. Microsoft Office suite.
7. Excellent organisational skills.
8. Excellent inter-personal skills.
9. Excellent oral and written communication skills.
10. Evidence of ability to write reports and meet deadlines.
11. Evidence of ability to deal competently with administrative tasks and contribute to broader management tasks.
12. Clear and confident communicator.
13. Ability to give formal presentations.
14. Ability to work independently and on own initiative.
15. Ability to act decisively and confidently.
16. *Access to transport and willingness to travel to meet the needs of the post.
17. Ability to work outside normal hours when necessary.

DESIRABLE CRITERIA:

1. PhD in the area of health economics.
2. Experience in the application of health economics across different healthcare systems.
3. Evidence of having published in medical and health services research or economics journals as first named author.
4. Experience of providing training in economic evaluation.
5. Experience of project management.
6. Evidence of ability to work as part of a multidisciplinary team and to manage workload effectively.