

Candidate Information

Position:	Research Fellow - Belfast Ophthalmic Reading Centre
School/Department:	Centre for Public Health
Reference:	21/108748
Closing Date:	Monday 12 April 2021
Salary:	£33,797 per annum
Anticipated Interview Date:	Monday 26 April 2021
Duration:	Available until 31 December 2021

JOB PURPOSE:

To provide high level grading for complex ophthalmic research studies and trials undertaken at BORC. To assist with the development and implementation of new teaching and training material for the ophthalmic photo-graders within Belfast Ophthalmic Reading Centre (BORC) and NetwORC UK with the aim of developing advanced grading skills and to ultimately improve the quality of the grading service provided by BORC and NetwORC UK. To contribute to the research portfolio of the department.

MAJOR DUTIES:

1. Undertake specialised grading and arbitration activities for complex ophthalmic research studies and trials at BORC/NetwORC UK. Maintain and interrogate the databases of results recorded.
2. Assist with the development and implementation of new teaching and training material for ophthalmic photo-graders within BORC and other NetwORC UK centres, to develop the skills of grading staff. Undertake training of clinical visitors and research fellows from international locations at the Reading Centre.
3. Contribute to the research portfolio of the department (particularly image analysis and reading centre based research). To include production, publication and presentation at relevant conferences and events.
4. Contribute to the development and review of grading algorithms, grading forms and grading protocols for research studies undertaken at the reading centre and managed by CARF for NetwORC UK. Utilise expertise to customise and enhance grading protocols for specific new studies as required. Involvement in the specification of grading form rules and refinement of these rules for new studies being undertaken.
5. To plan, carry out and participate in regular quality assurance and concordance exercises within BORC and NetwORC UK.
6. Foster excellent working relationships within and outside BORC.
7. Direct and mentor research staff where appropriate.
8. Enhance and broaden the reading centre and NetwORC UK service and ensure optimal use is made of all resources allocated to the service.

Planning and Organising:

1. To organise own workload.
2. To ensure all grading and arbitration activity is completed in a timely manner.
3. To ensure time for research activities.
4. To assist with training on a weekly basis for Belfast graders and on a 4-monthly basis for reading centre meetings with graders from Moorfields and Liverpool Reading Centres.
5. To plan and carry out concordance and QA exercises as required for studies currently being undertaken by the Reading Centre and NetwORC UK.

Resource Management Responsibilities:

1. To manage the daily output activities for a number of more complex studies and ensure that targets are met.
2. To provide training, feedback and guidance to staff and any students who may be assisting in research activities.
3. To ensure research resources are used in an effective and efficient manner.
4. 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 BORC colleagues and other NetwORC UK staff and clinicians at Moorfields Ophthalmic Reading Centre, Moorfields Eye Hospital, London and the Liverpool Ophthalmic Reading Centre, Royal Liverpool Hospital.
2. To maintain existing and build new internal contacts and participate in internal and external networks for the exchange of information and to form relationships for future collaboration.
3. Required to work with national and international collaborators.

ESSENTIAL CRITERIA:

1. BSc in a relevant area.
2. Having defended or having been awarded a PhD in relevant area.
3. 3 years recent relevant research experience and skills relevant to this project e.g. experience of image analysis and grading.
4. Recent research into retinal disorders.
5. Relevant clinical and research experience of Diabetic Retinopathy Grading and dealing with other diseases.
6. Experience of managing and analyzing data generated from patient based research.
7. Proven ability to grade ophthalmic images.
8. Experience in using grading software.
9. Publication track record commensurate with the stage of career.
10. Sufficient breadth and depth of specialist knowledge in research methods and techniques pertinent to imaging studies.
11. Excellent understanding of different health systems.
12. Ability to work in a multi-disciplinary environment as part of a research team.
13. Excellent IT skills e.g. Microsoft Office suite.
14. Excellent organisational skills.
15. Evidence of ability to deal competently with administrative tasks.
16. Excellent oral and written communication skills.
17. Evidence of ability to write reports and meet deadlines.
18. Excellent inter-personal skills/clear and confident communicator.
19. Ability to work independently and on own initiative.
20. Ability to work outside normal hours when necessary.
21. Willingness to travel to meet the needs of the post.

DESIRABLE CRITERIA:

1. Valid GOC registration and relevant clinical experience.
2. Having worked in diabetic retinopathy screening or on studies in diabetic retinopathy screening including grading for other diseases.
3. Experience of using SAS, Stata, R or an equivalent statistics program.
4. Good understanding of regulatory requirements such as Good Medical Practice.
5. Proven ability to participate in collaborative research.
6. Strong commitment to a career in research.