Candidate Information

Position: Research Fellow
School/Department: Centre for Public Health
Reference: 23/111249
Closing Date: Monday 2 October 2023
Salary: £37,841 per annum
Anticipated Interview Date: Thursday 19 October 2023
Duration: Fixed term for up to 3 months or until 2 February 2024, whichever is sooner

JOB PURPOSE:

The principal aim of this post is to support the completion of an observational cohort study.

This study has followed-up 315 participants recruited in 2012-2014 to investigate post-operative delirium following primary arthroplasty surgery. Telephone and in-person study visits have been completed. Laboratory analysis of baseline and follow-up biosamples are ongoing. Active global collaborations are in place. In addition to the originally-planned statistical analyses there is the opportunity to undertake more novel and complex analyses.

Evidence is accumulating that postoperative delirium is a marker of brain vulnerability. Cognitive prognosis following delirium remains unclear. This project aimed to test the hypothesis that participants who developed postoperative delirium will have worse cognition eight years later compared to those who did not develop postoperative delirium and the effect of delirium will be independent of preoperative cognition and biomarkers. This project followed up participants previously recruited between 2012 and 2014 to an observational cohort study (n=315) investigating postoperative delirium following elective orthopaedic surgery which sampled DNA, plasma and cerebrospinal fluid. Participants were invited for a telephone interview followed by a one-off follow-up study visit where updated medical history, repeat cognitive assessments, collateral history taking and blood sampling were completed. It is anticipated that the results of this study will inform individualised prognosis following postoperative delirium. This in turn will strengthen the case for national and international guidelines regarding postoperative patient counselling, follow-up care planning and intervention to improve brain health and potentially modify Alzheimer's disease processes after postoperative delirium.

MAJOR DUTIES:

1. Work within the programme of work as determined by the Principal Investigator and co-investigators.
2. Work within multidisciplinary team to ensure smooth running of project.
3. Independently run latent-class analyses of the cohort data – recent experience of running latent class analyses is required.
4. Management of research data in line with relevant regulations – knowledge of the research cohort study data is required.
5. Oversee governance, contract and finance requests and approvals covering laboratory analyses of bio samples by national and international collaborators.
6. Preparation and submission of manuscripts for publication – evidence of previous publication required.
7. Contribute to relevant press releases and public relations exercises.
8. Ensure adherence to project milestones and be responsible for regular production of progress reports.
9. Assist the Principal Investigator in the preparation of funding proposals and applications to external bodies.
10. Draft and present final progress report for the funder and for external 'audiences' in order to disseminate and publicise research findings.
11. Carry out routine administrative tasks associated with the research project to ensure that the work is completed on time. These might include organisation of project meetings and documentation, financial control, risk assessment of activities.
12. Maintain study website.
13. Read academic papers, journals and textbooks to keep abreast of developments in own specialism and related disciplines.
14. Any other duties related to the successful achievement of the above study.

ESSENTIAL CRITERIA:

1. Honours Degree minimum of a 2:1 (or equivalent) in a health, social sciences, public health, or statistics related subject.
2. Have or be about to obtain a relevant PhD in epidemiology, social sciences, applied statistics, informatics, or public health related area including pharmacy and economics.
3. Significant relevant research experience to this project.
4. Experience of using statistical packages such as SPSS or STATA.
5. Demonstrable proficiency in academic paper writing.
6. Experience handling raw clinical data.
7. Sufficient breadth and depth of specialist knowledge of research methods pertinent to the present research programme.
8. Ability to deal competently with administrative tasks.
9. Knowledge and experience of using relevant statistical techniques, e.g. regression and survival analysis.
10. Excellent IT skills e.g. Microsoft Office suite.
11. Excellent organisational skills.
12. Excellent inter-personal skills.
13. Excellent oral and written communication skills.
14. Ability to work independently and demonstrate initiative whilst recognising limits of capabilities.
15. Clear and confident communicator.
16. Ability to build contacts and participate in internal and external networks.
17. Ability to give formal presentations.
18. Ability to work independently and on own initiative.
19. Ability to write reports and meet deadlines.
20. Ability to work in a multi-disciplinary environment as part of a research team.
21. Ability to act decisively and confidently.
22. Access to transport/ ability to meet the mobility requirements and a willingness to travel to meet the needs of the post.

DESIRABLE CRITERIA:

1. Experience of advanced statistical techniques.
2. Good publication track record commensurate with the stage of career.
3. Experience in use of database software.
4. Experience of data governance and issues related to data linkage.
5. Demonstrable knowledge and experience of research in the area of dementia and cognitive decline.
6. Experience of neuropsychological testing in a normal and/or cognitively impaired population.
7. Experience guiding and supporting more junior research colleagues.
8. Evidence of having co-ordinated a research project to successful completion.
9. Strong commitment to a career in research.