Candidate Information

Position: Research Assistant (Optometrist) (Clinical Co-ordinator)
School/Department: School of Medicine, Dentistry and Biomedical Sciences
Reference: 24/111675
Closing Date: Monday 18 March 2024
Salary: £32,024 - £35,680 per annum
Anticipated Interview Date: Thursday 28 March 2024

JOB PURPOSE:

Works as a member of the Northern Ireland Clinical Research Facility team to support and promote the practice of clinical research in the NICRF, especially for Ophthalmology and Vision Science related studies.

Works unsupervised/supervised in day-to-day practice coordinating a portfolio of supported clinical trials and other high-quality research studies.

You will be responsible for agreed functions within the delivery of a study which may include, but is not limited to, screening and recruitment, consenting, care, management and follow-up of a caseload of patients in clinical trials and research studies, adhering to local and national regulatory research and professional guidelines, policies and standard operating procedures.

To undertake administration duties relating to the Clinical Trials and research studies.

To support other clinical research and audit as agreed with the NICRF Director.

The post holder will assist the NICRF to catalyse our clinical trial growth and drive high-quality research and excellence in clinical trial delivery. This post will initially be based in the Northern Ireland Clinical Research Facility (NICRF) but will be relocated within iREACH Health building on Belfast City Hospital

MAJOR DUTIES:

1. Undertake research activities including performing ophthalmic refraction and visual function testing according to standard protocols, critical evaluation and interpretation of the results in consultation with the NICRF director and the research grant holder as appropriate.
2. Identify potential study participants though interpretation of retinal images (Colour fundus photographs and Optical Coherence Tomographs).
3. Consent participants, as appropriate, and facilitate informed consent process study participation, according to Standard Operating Procedures and ethical and Good Clinical Practice (GCP) standards.
4. To act as part of NICRF team supporting trials within the NICRF.
5. To work in a multi-disciplinary environment within the NICRF and to communicate effectively with other relevant healthcare professionals.
6. To perform techniques requiring highly developed skills in ophthalmic examination techniques e.g. slit lamp biomicroscopy.
7. Present regular progress reports on research to the NICRF team and/or external teams.
8. Write up results and contribute to the production of research reports, publications and proposals.
9. Read academic papers, journals and textbooks to keep abreast of developments.
10. Carry out routine administrative duties in the NICRF as requested, e.g. sending out participant invitations, arranging participant appointments, data entry, data management, arranging meetings.
11. To complete accurate paper and electronic case report forms.
12. To abide by all QUB and NICRF policies and to comply with health and safety regulations.

13. To follow research and clinical protocols and best working practice, relevant to optometric aspects within the NICRF.
14. Carry out any clinical trial co-ordinator activities or duties designated by a line manager and which fall within the general ambit of the post.

ESSENTIAL CRITERIA:

1. Degree or equivalent in a relevant subject area e.g. Optometry.
2. Registered Optometrist (GOC Registered and appropriate professional indemnity cover). Or eligibility to be registered to fulfil the requirements of the post.
3. Relevant experience in Optometry, post registration.
4. Sufficient breadth or depth of specialist knowledge in the discipline and of research methods and techniques to work within own area.
5. Experience taking retinal images using either fundus photography or Optical Coherence Tomography.
6. Relevant computing skills including Microsoft Office.
7. Ability to interact with research colleagues and support staff.
8. Ability to analyse and communicate effectively.
9. Ability to work alone and as part of a team as appropriate.
10. Excellent interpersonal skills.
11. Flexibility to work the hours required for the job.
12. Willing to handle participant samples.

DESIRABLE CRITERIA:

1. A post graduate qualification in a relevant discipline.
2. Holds a current GCP certificate.
3. Research or clinical trials experience.
4. Experience in Hospital Optometry or use of advanced imaging and examination techniques.
5. Knowledge of clinical trials and consent process.
6. Knowledge of Research Governance and Ethics.
7. Knowledge of relevant database, statistical and presentation packages.
8. Ability to analyse and communicate research data effectively in different settings.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

This is a full-time post however part time hours (minimum of 0.5 fte) and job share arrangements will be considered.

iREACH Health is an exciting new project for healthcare in Northern Ireland, the outcome of creative collaboration between academia, industry, the NHS, and public sector/government stakeholders to drive UK science and innovation and is focused on modernising our research infrastructure.

iREACH Health will drive continuous improvement in patient care and outcomes through innovation by integrating the activities of clinicians, life scientists and data scientists with industry partners to identify and develop new diagnostic tests, treatments, and health related technologies.

iREACH Health is due to be operational in 2026/7, provides the platform to create a patient-centred, pro-innovation and digitally enabled clinical research environment.