



Candidate Information

Position:	Senior Research Fellow / Research Fellow (Data Scientist)
School/Department:	School of Medicine, Dentistry and Biomedical Sciences
Reference:	24/111927
Closing Date:	Monday 17 June 2024
Salary:	Senior Research Fellow: £46,497 - £57,141. Research Fellow: £37,841 - £45,148.
Anticipated Interview Date:	Thursday 27 June 2024
Duration:	24 months

JOB PURPOSE:

To join the research team led by Dr John Busby and Prof. Liam Heaney working on several projects related to chronic inflammatory disease, with an initial focus on chronic respiratory disease (e.g. severe asthma, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease [COPD] and interstitial lung disease). The post is funded by the HDR-UK as part of the Inflammation and Immunity Driver Project 2 (DP2) programme.

The applicant will initially lead on projects building a UK-wide linked cohort of patients with asthma using data from UK Trusted Research Environments – this work will be piloted in Northern Ireland and will then be expanded to other UK nations. This linked data will create a unique resource and will be used for both retrospective and prospective research projects. In parallel, similar linkage will be advanced in other disease areas in collaboration with UK partners in the DP2 programme, with opportunities to lead on specific research programmes in this area.

The post holder will be responsible for liaising with local stakeholders in Northern Ireland to achieve the appropriate approvals for all NI linked data. They will work with partners from across the UK to ensure that standardised definitions are aligned with similar datasets in England, Scotland and Wales to ensure future interoperability. The post holder will take the lead in conducting relevant analyses and publishing these in high impact respiratory journals.

MAJOR DUTIES:

1. Daily management of study projects.
2. Take the lead in building cohorts of respiratory patients within the NI Honest Broker Service and performance of routine statistical descriptive analysis.
3. Secure appropriate governance approval to create bespoke linked datasets.
4. Liaise with national and international collaborators on study methods to ensure future interoperability.
5. Prepare funding proposals and applications to external bodies.
6. Draft and present regular progress reports for research supervisors or to external audiences to disseminate and publicise research findings.
7. Lead on the preparation of material for publication in national and international journals and presentations at international conferences.
8. Carry out routine administrative tasks associated with the research project to ensure that the work is completed on time and within budget. These might include liaising with project funders, organisation of project meetings and documentation, financial control, risk assessment of research activities.
9. Apply working knowledge of theory and proactively share this knowledge with others as appropriate. This may include assistance with supervision of PhD students who may be working on related research.
10. Read academic papers, journals and textbooks to keep abreast of developments in own specialism and related disciplines.
11. Supervise post-doctoral staff and PhD students working on related research.

ESSENTIAL CRITERIA:

1. Have a relevant PhD in epidemiology, applied mathematics/statistics or related discipline.
2. Substantial relevant experience in quantitative research.
3. Substantial experience of using statistical packages such as STATA to conduct reproducible research.
4. A high academic standing with a growing reputation in research within subject specialism.
5. A sustained publication record in peer reviewed/refereed journals or invited presentations that are REF returnable.
6. Ability to devise, advise on and manage research programmes effectively on time and target.
7. Ability to manage resources effectively.
8. Ability to supervise work of others in research team.
9. Demonstrable intellectual ability.
10. Self-motivated and able to work autonomously.

DESIRABLE CRITERIA:

1. Experience of working in a secure research environment.
2. Experience of creating bespoke cohorts for applied healthcare research.
3. Experience within respiratory research.
4. Research interests that are sustainable within the School.
5. Ability to secure grants/contracts independently or as a leader of a section in major projects.