NHS Research Scotland

Primary Care Research Champion Job Description

Background

NHS Research Scotland (NRS) is a partnership involving Scottish NHS Boards and the Chief Scientist Office (CSO) of the Scottish Government. The overarching aim of NRS is to ensure that NHS Scotland provides the best environment to support clinical research. This is achieved through the application of best practice and processes that can support efficient working, as well as providing the solid infrastructure that is needed to support all research undertaken in the NHS for patient benefit. CSO provides NRS funding to the NHS to support this aim. More generally, NRS contributes towards a thriving life sciences sector in Scotland, which is in turn critical to the ability of the NHS to deliver world-class health outcomes. One of the initial successes of NRS has been the system of coordinated NHS permission for research, operated through the NRS Permissions Coordinating Centre.

NRS operates in 4 regional nodes and is overseen by the NRS Strategy Board which is comprised of CSO representatives and the R&D Directors of the 4 Boards which lead the regional nodes. The Board meets monthly to agree policy and discuss issues of relevance to the overall operation of NRS. NRS is working to develop common, simplified systems and mechanisms to support both non-commercial and commercial patient-oriented research.

The NRS Primary Care Network is supported by the CSO with a core remit to support primary care clinical research in the NHS. CSO invests approximately £400,000 annually to support recruitment to a complex portfolio of research projects. In addition, the network manages the Service Support Cost (SSC) budget for primary care.
The NRS Primary Care Network operates as a single national network across the 14 geographical NHS Scotland Boards. The overall aim of the Network s to increase the amount of research in primary care. The Network facilitates the timely, appropriate and effective recruitment and follow-up of patients to studies across the primary care research portfolio.

The current post will form part of a group of senior personnel with a crucial remit to provide strategic leadership on the delivery and development of clinical research within their clinical areas for NHS Scotland.

Role outline

Accountability: The post is accountable to CSO Hours: 0.2FTE/ 2 PAs per week
Length: 3 years initially, with possibility to extend
Salary: To be discussed at interview

Role and remit

- Provide national leadership in the development of clinical research activity within primary care in Scotland.

- Increase the number of clinical studies, and the number of patients recruited into them, in the primary care research portfolio.

- Ensure that the network effectively supports recruitment of patients to studies in other speciality research portfolios where primary care recruitment is required or optimal.

- Work with established groups, individual clinicians, NRS Research & Development Directors and lay representatives, to promote primary care research.

- Facilitate the development and delivery of high-quality clinical research projects, encouraging clinicians to participate in clinical research.

- Provide clinical perspectives for the delivery of the studies lying within the primary care research portfolio.

- Contribute to the development of infrastructure, national strategies and initiatives across primary care clinical research and NRS.

Key Duties and Responsibilities

- Ensure that the continued development of the NRS Primary Care Network portfolio maximises patient focussed research opportunities for patients across all sectors of the Scottish population, and that the network effectively supports recruitment of patients to studies in other speciality portfolios.

- Responsible for leading the development, implementation and on-going review of NRS Primary Care Network strategy.

- Promote NRS Primary Care Network to the public and commercial research funders.

- Provide a central point of contact for study feasibility requests.

- Proactively promote local clinical engagement and awareness of primary care research, providing advice, support, encouragement and mentorship to clinicians who express an interest in becoming involved in a research project.

- Support the development of primary care research capacity-building.

- Ensure the timely and effective delivery of all the studies within the Scottish primary care portfolio.

- Provide a strategic overview of the infrastructure required to support primary care research in Scotland.

- Management of senior network staff in collaboration with local NHS / University employers.

- Facilitate and encourage the development of a network of local contacts within the primary care research community.

- Plan, monitor and report on NRS Primary Care Network expenditure in conjunction with the R&D offices of host Boards to the Chief Scientist Office.

- Manage and report on primary care Service Support Costs and Excess Treatment Costs.

Skills, Knowledge and Experience Required

- The post holder will play a key leadership role in the on-going development and performance of the Network.

- The post holder will be a clinically active general practitioner resident and working in Scotland and must be able to demonstrate a proven track record in clinical research activity within primary care.

- A motivational leader with well-developed interpersonal skills and the ability to work with stakeholders at all levels.

- Excellent communication and presentational skills with the enthusiasm to act as an opinion leader.

- Experience in managing people and budgets would be desirable.
- Strongly committed to bringing benefits to patients through the delivery of excellent patient focussed clinical research within the NHS.
- Active involvement in studies supported by the Network or other equivalent bodies would be desirable.
- Willingness to travel frequently and spend nights away from home.

Application details and closing date

Please contact Dr Alan McNair, alan.mcnair@scotland.gsi.gov.uk, tel. 0131 244 8494 if you would like to discuss further prior to application.

Interested applicants should submit a CV and covering letter in support of your application by email toCSOnetworks@scotland.gsi.gov.uk by the closing date of April 3, 2020