

Neuroprogressive and Dementia Research Network Clinical Lead 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.

Key elements of the NRS Infrastructure are the Topic Specific Research Networks. These act as the interface between the research community, the NHS and patients themselves, facilitating the development, set up and completion of clinical research studies across Scotland, improving the quantity and quality of research within their specific clinical area.

Dementia is one of the foremost public health challenges worldwide. As a consequence of improved healthcare and better standards of living more people are living for longer. This means in Scotland that the number of people with dementia is expected to double between 2011 and 2031.

At the same time, neuroprogressive diseases including Motor Neurone Disease, Parkinson's Disease, Huntington's Disease, and Multiple Sclerosis are increasingly understood to have commonality in underlying causes, patient experience, symptoms and their management.

The NRS Neuroprogressive and Dementia Network is funded by the Chief Scientist Office to promote a culture of clinical research in neuroprogressive conditions and dementia across Scotland and improve recruitment to high-quality studies from both urban and rural areas.

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: Pro-rata within the post holder's pay scale

Role and remit

- Provide national leadership in the development of clinical research activity within Dementia and wider Neuroprogressive Disease in Scotland.
- Increase the number of clinical studies, and the number of patients recruited into them
- Work with established groups, individual clinicians, NRS Research & Development Directors and lay representatives, to promote Neuroprogressive and Dementia research, development and innovation (R, D&I)
- 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 Dementia / Neuroprogressive research portfolio.
- Contribute to the development of infrastructure, national strategies and initiatives across Dementia / Neuroprogressive clinical research and NRS.

Key Duties and Responsibilities

- Ensure that the continued development of the Dementia / Neuroprogressive research portfolio maximises patient focussed research opportunities for patients across all sectors of the Scottish population.
- Responsible for leading the development, implementation and on-going review of the NRS Neuroprogressive and Dementia Research strategy.
- Promote the NRS Neuroprogressive and Dementia Research Network to both commercial and non-commercial research funders.
- Proactively promote local clinical engagement and awareness of the Dementia / Neuroprogressive research, providing advice, support, encouragement and mentorship to clinicians who express an interest in becoming involved in a research project.
- Ensure the timely and effective delivery of all the studies within the Scottish Dementia / Neuroprogressive portfolio.
- Provide a strategic overview of the infrastructure required to support Dementia / Neuroprogressive 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 Dementia and wider Neuroprogressive Disease research community.
- Plans, monitors and reports on NRS Neuroprogressive and Dementia Research Network expenditure in conjunction with the R&D offices of host Boards to the Chief Scientist Office.

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 an established clinician resident and working in Scotland, and must be able to demonstrate a proven track record in clinical research activity within Dementia and wider Neuroprogressive Disease.
- 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

Application details and closing date

Please contact Dr Alan McNair, alan.mcnair@gov.scot, 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 to david.hood@gov.scot by the closing date of Fri, 29th January 2021. Interviews will be held remotely in mid-February 2021.