

Cardiovascular Disease Non-Topic 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.

NRS Topics and Specialty Groups cover 24 specialties including 7 Topic Research Networks and 14 Specialty Groups and provide the coordinated support and advice required to deliver clinical research in Scotland. Each specialty also works within the broader UK Clinical Research network, including the NIHR CRN, and equivalent structures in Wales (NISCHR) and Northern Ireland (NICRN).

The current post arises as a result of the 2013 CSO consultation on the way in which NHS research infrastructure is configured across Scotland. The specialty areas of Cardiovascular Disease, Musculoskeletal Disorders and Reproductive Health & Childbirth were identified in the consultation as having significant levels of research activity. This merits a twofold role: Firstly to provide oversight of delivery of projects at a national level, identifying and resolving recruitment issues in collaboration with the NHS R&D offices within each node: Secondly to provide a strategic focus for driving development and developing collaborations between researchers across Scotland

Appointment of Clinical leads through open competition is a key recommendation arising from the consultation, and the successful applicant will form part of a group of research active personnel with a crucial remit to provide leadership on the delivery of clinical research within their specialty for NHS Scotland.

Role outline

Accountability: The post is accountable to CSO

Hours: 0.2FTE/ 2 PAs per week

Length : 3 years, 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 the specialty in Scotland.
- Increase the number of clinical studies, and the number of patients recruited into them, in the specialty area.
- Engage with CSO and Scottish Government, providing advice relevant to the clinical area.

- Work with established groups, individual clinicians and NHS Research & Development Directors across NHS Research Scotland to promote research in the specialty area, and to encourage clinicians to participate in clinical research.
- Provide clinical perspectives for the delivery of the studies lying within the specialty.
- Contribute to the development of infrastructure, national strategies and initiatives across the specialty and NRS.

Key Duties and Responsibilities

- Ensure that the continued development of the specialty portfolio maximises patient focussed research opportunities for patients across all sectors of the Scottish population.
- Provide specialist insight into the delivery of clinical research
- Responsible for leading the development, implementation and on-going review of activity within the specialty in Scotland.
- Promote NRS to the pharmaceutical industry and other research funders.
- Proactively promote local clinical engagement and awareness of research within the specialty, 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 clinical specialty
- Provide a strategic overview of the infrastructure required to support clinical research within the specialty
- Work with NHS R&D at Board and NRS Node level to ensure provision of the infrastructure required to support research in the specialty across Scotland.
- Represent Scotland at UK meetings of the research specialty 2-3 times per year.

Skills, Knowledge and Experience Required

- The post holder will play a key leadership role in the on-going development and performance of research activity within the specialty in Scotland.
- The post holder will be a medical Consultant resident and working in Scotland, and must be able to demonstrate a proven track record in clinical research activity within the specialty area.
- 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
- Strongly committed to bringing benefits to patients through the delivery of excellent patient focussed clinical research within the NHS.
- Willingness to travel frequently and spend nights away from home.

Application details and closing date

Please contact Dr Alan McNair alan.mcnaire@scotland.gsi.gov.uk, tel. 0131 244 2255 if you would like to discuss further prior to application.

Interested applicants should submit a CV and covering letter in support of their application by email to CSOnetworks@scotland.gsi.gov.uk before the closing date of 5 December 2014.