

Clinical Genetics / Rare Diseases Specialty Group 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. 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 Specialty Groups cover 14 specialties which, together with the 7 Topic Research Networks and 3 Research Champions, provide the coordinated support and advice required to deliver clinical research in Scotland. Each Specialty Group is responsible for overseeing research activity at a national level within the clinical area, and identifying and resolving recruitment issues in collaboration with the NHS R&D offices within each node. Specialty Groups are also instrumental in developing links between researchers across Scotland, in order to ensure that studies are supported as widely and effectively as possible. Each Specialty Group 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. Appointment of Specialty Group leads through open competition is a key recommendation from this process, 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: 0.1FTE/ 1 PAs per week

Length : 3 years, with possibility to extend

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

Role and remit

- Ensure the effective delivery of research projects within the specialty
- Increase the number of patients enrolled into trials in the specialty portfolio.
- Work with established groups, individual clinicians, NRS Research & Development Directors and lay representatives, to promote research activity in the area.
- Facilitate the delivery of high quality clinical research projects, encouraging clinicians to participate in clinical research.

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.
- 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 studies within the Scottish specialty portfolio.
- 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 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.
- Occasional travel.

Application details and closing date

Please contact Dr Alan McNair, alan.mcnair@gov.scot
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 to karen.ford@gov.scot by the closing date of 6th May 2016.