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Research Associate

Faculty of Medicine, Dentistry
and Health,
Department of Neuroscience

THE SUNDAY TIMES
100
BEST NOT-FOR-PROFIT
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TO WORK FOR
2018

Overview

We are seeking a Research Associate (or researcher with equivalent research experience) to work on a Motor Neuron Disease Association funded project, to develop a Patient Decision Aid (PDA) to support genetic testing in families affected by Motor Neuron Disease (MND). This is a collaboration between the University of Sheffield and the University of Leeds (Professor Hilary Bekker).

You will undertake a mixed methods study to support the development of the PDA. This will involve qualitative interviews with MND families, analysis of recorded clinic consultations and an online survey. The project will develop a PDA which will improve access to information on genetic testing for families affected by MND, and enable them to make informed choices around having a genetic test to identify a cause of MND.

Person Specification

You should provide evidence in your application that you meet the following criteria. We will use a range of selection methods to measure your abilities in these areas including reviewing your online application, seeking references, inviting shortlisted candidates to interview and other forms of assessment action relevant to the post.

Criteria		Essential	Desirable
1.	A good Undergraduate degree in a relevant subject.	X	
2.	A PhD or significant relevant research experience.	X	
3.	Effective communication skills, both written and verbal, report writing skills, experience of delivering presentations.	X	
4.	Excellent interpersonal skills, with experience of responding efficiently and effectively to phone and email enquiries.	X	
5.	Experience of mixed methods research methodologies such as qualitative interviewing, analysis methods (for example, thematic) and survey design and administration.	X	
6.	Good IT skills (MS Word, Excel, Powerpoint) with experience of transcript analysis software (for example, NVivo).	X	
7.	Ability to work collaboratively across teams from different scientific and clinical disciplines.		X
8.	The ability to manage your own time and be self-motivating.		X
9.	Experience of preparing data for publication as a scientific paper.		X

About the Team

The Sheffield Institute of Translational Neuroscience (SITraN) undertakes interdisciplinary research to investigate the causes of neurodegenerative diseases and find new treatments. In 2019 SITraN was awarded a Queens Anniversary Prize in recognition of the new and innovative research approaches used by research teams at SITraN. The SITraN project team includes an MND Neurologist (Professor Christopher McDermott), Clinical Geneticist (Dr Alisdair McNeill) and a Professor of Medical Decision making (Professor Hilary Bekker, Leeds University). The post-holder will also have to liaise with clinical staff within the Sheffield Teaching Hospitals MND Care centre when recruiting study participants and undertaking certain aspects of data collection. The Sheffield MND care centre hosts a multi-disciplinary team (Consultant Neurologists, specialist nurses and supporting staff (physiotherapy, psychology)) and several MND clinics through which research participants can be invited.

Job Description

Main Duties and Responsibilities

- Undertake the research activities required to deliver the Sheffield arm of a Motor Neuron Disease (MND) Association funded project to develop a patient decision aid for genetic testing in MND.
- Identify and recruit potential participants via NHS clinics in Sheffield.
- Undertake and analyse qualitative interviews, recorded clinic consultations and online survey.
- Prepare reports and materials, for internal progress meetings, external conferences/meetings and publication.
- Ensure all study documents are filed and stored in line with research ethics approvals and Good Clinical Practice guidelines.
- Attend regular research progress meetings with the principle investigators (Dr Alisdair McNeill, Professor Christopher McDermott, Professor Hilary Bekker [Leeds].)
- As a member of staff you will be encouraged to make ethical decisions in your role, embedding the University sustainability strategy into your working activities wherever possible.
- Any other duties, commensurate with the grade of the post.

Reward Package

Terms and conditions of employment: Will be those for Grade 7 staff.

Salary for this grade: £32,344 - £40,927 per annum pro rata.

This post is fixed-term for 24 months with an intended start date in April 2022.

This post is full time.

If you join the University you will have access to a Total Reward Package that includes a competitive salary, a generous Pension Scheme and annual leave entitlement, as well as access to a range of learning and development courses to support your personal and professional development. You will have access to your own personalised portal where you can also access a comprehensive selection of benefits and offers to suit your changing lifestyle needs, for example financial wellbeing, travel options, shopping and cinema discounts.



The University is committed to tackling the global climate emergency. Our sustainability strategy forms an integral part of all we do. We strive to embed this in all areas of university life, from our students' education, the globally impacting international research we contribute, to campus life.

We aim to empower staff to work sustainably by giving them the knowledge to make ethical decisions at work and home. Staff have the opportunity to be involved in impactful sustainability projects through the nationally recognised



Green Impact scheme.

Staff have access to excellent green benefits including the cycle to work scheme with discounts and free secure bike storage, as well as many greener choices across campus.

If you have an interest in this area, the university will strive to passionately support you in these commitments. Check out www.sheffield.ac.uk/sustainability for more information.

The University of Sheffield recognises the importance of creating a positive environment, whereby all staff feel able to talk openly and with trust about wellbeing and mental health.

Our Staff Wellbeing offer, encourages and supports staff to maintain their own positive health and wellbeing through a range of accessible, inclusive and supportive services and activities.

Our leadership development has been designed to ensure that our leaders have the knowledge, skills and behaviours needed by the University.

Inclusion at Sheffield is everyone's responsibility. Our vision is to build a University community that actively attracts, engages and develops talented individuals from many different backgrounds.



We are proud of our award-winning equality, diversity and inclusion action, and 90% of staff tell us they are treated with fairness and respect (staff survey 2018). We continue working to create a fully inclusive environment where everyone can flourish.

We are the only university to feature in the Sunday Times 100 Best Not-for-Profit organisations to work for 2018. In our staff survey (2018) 92% of staff said they were proud to work for the University and 83% of our staff would recommend the University as an excellent place to work.

To find out more about the benefits of working at the University, visit www.sheffield.ac.uk/jobs/benefits

Selection – Next Steps

Closing date: For details of the closing date please view this post on our web pages at www.sheffield.ac.uk/jobs

Following the closing date, we will contact you by email to let you know whether or not you have been shortlisted to participate in the next stage of the selection process. Please note that due to the large number of applications that we receive, it may take up to two working weeks following the closing date before the recruiting department will be able to contact you.

For more information on our application and recruitment processes visit www.sheffield.ac.uk/jobs/application-tips

Informal enquiries

For informal enquiries about this job and the recruiting department, contact: Dr Alisdair McNeill (a.mcneill@sheffield.ac.uk) or Professor Christopher McDermott (c.j.mcdermott@sheffield.ac.uk).

For administration queries and details on the application process, contact the lead recruiter: Rebecca Brown on rebecca.brown@sheffield.ac.uk or on 0114 222 2261.

For all online application system queries and support, visit: www.sheffield.ac.uk/jobs/faqs

Criminal records check

Please note that as this post is exempt from the Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974, a satisfactory Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) check will be required for the appointee. We encourage applicants to provide details of any criminal offences at an early stage in the application process. As such, if you have any unspent or spent convictions or cautions and are invited to interview for this post, you are required to provide details of your convictions in confidence in advance of the interview. Applicants should provide details via email to the Associate Director of HR, Mr Robert Gower, at r.c.gower@sheffield.ac.uk. Along with details of the conviction, please also include the job reference number, job title and the name of the department in which the role is based. This information will be treated as strictly confidential and will only be considered if you are invited to interview for the post.

If you fail to accurately disclose information about your criminal record status, this may lead to an offer of employment being withdrawn. Any offer of appointment will be subject to the University being satisfied with the outcome of the check, in accordance with our Policy on the Recruitment and Employment of Ex-Offenders.

Creating a remarkable place to work

We build teams of people from different heritages and lifestyles from across the world, whose talent and contributions complement each other to greatest effect. We believe diversity in all its forms delivers greater impact through research, teaching and student experience.

We are consistently ranked in the top 100 of the world's universities, but there's so much more to us than that. By joining the University, you will be joining award-winning teams and departments who are all working together to make the University of Sheffield a remarkable place to work.