



National Institute for Health Research

School for Primary Care Research

Increasing the evidence base for primary care practice

LAUNCHING FELLOWSHIPS IN PRIMARY HEALTH CARE 2013

Applications are invited for 18 month launching fellowships from individuals with a strong academic record who wish to develop a career in primary care research. The goal of these fellowships is for the appointee to publish papers from their PhD and write a big grant application to secure future funding (e.g. an NIHR fellowship). These fellowships can be taken up any time between October 2013 and April 2014.

Awards are offered at all eight Universities within the NIHR School for Primary Care Research: Birmingham, Bristol, Nottingham, Keele, Manchester, Oxford, Southampton and University College London. Details of the specific research training opportunities available at each University are available below.

Applicants must have experience of research in primary care or a closely related field of medicine. A doctoral degree is desirable but applicants who have not had the opportunity to undertake doctoral training will be considered if they have substantial relevant experience.

Remuneration for Fellowships will depend on previous experience but most appointees will receive a salary of £25000-£35000 per annum.

Fellowship awards will not in general be based around a specified single project but will involve attachment to a research group involved in a programme of research. The ongoing research programmes in the participating Universities are listed below. The awards are open to all disciplines relevant to primary care research, clinical non-medical and non-clinical, although the individual Universities vary in the disciplinary opportunities they offer.

As the eight Universities do not always offer mentorship in every discipline relevant to primary care, it is possible to apply for a "linked" award so that applicants can benefit from training within the School but maintain a link with or be primarily based within a University outside the School that can provide discipline-specific mentoring. In these cases, the linked NSPCR partners must be agreed and specified in the application.

HOW TO MAKE AN APPLICATION

Potential applicants are strongly encouraged to contact the University at which they would like to hold the award to discuss their application. Contact details for each University (and in some cases for each subject area offered) are given below.

The application process consists of two stages.

Stage 1

Interested individuals should submit a 2 page CV and a covering letter of not more than 2 pages. This letter must:

- 1) Explain why you want to train in primary care research;
- 2) If more than one University offers the training you would like, list your preference for attachment to individual Universities.

Your application should be sent by email to the contact below at the University of your choice:

Birmingham: h.j.stokeslampard@bham.ac.uk
Bristol: Nancy.Horlick@bristol.ac.uk
Keele: c.ashmore@keele.ac.uk
Manchester: chloe.mcevoy-4@manchester.ac.uk
Nottingham: steve.barrett@nottingham.ac.uk
Oxford: **Please do not email documents; please use the Oxford University's on line e-recruit system to upload your CV and covering letter**
<http://www.phc.ox.ac.uk/about/job-opportunities>.
Southampton: l.sturdy@soton.ac.uk
UCL: m.ogbogbo@ucl.ac.uk

and copied to georgina.fletcher@phc.ox.ac.uk.

Please put **NSPCR Fellowship 2013** as the subject of the email.

Applications must be received by **12 noon** on Friday 22nd March 2013.

Your documents should be saved with the following file name format:

Famlyname_Firstname_CV_2013 and Famlyname_Firstname_covering letter_2013

Stage 2

Candidates selected for interview will be asked to complete a standard application form (SAF).

Competition Launch	Monday 11 th February 2013	
Applicants to submit CV and covering letter	Friday 22 nd March 2013	12 noon
Department to carry out short listing and return short list to Senior Scientific Manager (SSM) by:	Friday 19 th April 2013	12 noon
SSM sends standard application form to short listed candidates	w/c Monday 22 nd April 2013	
Shortlisted candidates return completed SAFs	Wednesday 15 th May 2013	12 noon
Interview with SPCR Training Leads panel	Thursday 30 th May 2013	Venue to be confirmed
Recommendations taken to SPCR Board meeting	Tuesday 18 th June 2013	
Announcement of Awards	By the end of June 2013	
Start of fellowships	Normally October 2013	

Dr Georgina Fletcher
Senior Scientific Manager

DETAILS OF OPPORTUNITIES AT EACH UNIVERSITY

UNIVERSITY OF BIRMINGHAM

Primary Care Clinical Sciences (PCCS) in Birmingham is one of Europe's premier centres for primary care research, with 5* in RAE 2001 and 95% world leading /internationally significant research in RAE 2008. We are also the largest UK centre producing 13% of the national primary care papers in RAE 2008 and host very successful clinical and non-clinical career development programmes. The successful applicants will be based within one of ten research teams: Respirator, Anticoagulation, Chronic Disease Prevention, Ethnicity, CEMS (Cancer, Endocrine and Metabolic Disease), Lifestyle, Qualitative Methodology, Health Outcomes, Quality Outcomes and Statistics. There is also a flourishing, CLRN funded, NIHR accredited clinical trials unit which supports the work of all our research teams.

To take up a Fellowship, applicants need to either have a relevant PhD (preferable) or be eligible to register for a PhD at the University of Birmingham, and have a strong publication record. PCCS encourages applications for Fellowships in a number of clinical areas (e.g. doctor, nurse, physiotherapy, dietician) or non clinical areas (e.g. statistics, health economics, medical ethics, epidemiology, health research):

Fellowship in Medical Statistics - applicants will usually hold at least a Master's degree in medical statistics or applied statistics. Contact: r.l.holder@bham.ac.uk

Fellowships in applied health research - applicants from any health related scientific discipline will be considered if they achieved at least a Masters degree from a leading University, though a PhD would normally be expected. The Fellowship will be based in one of our research groups.

Contact leads for the following areas of interest:

Respiratory: Prof D Fitzmaurice, d.a.fitzmaurice@bham.ac.uk

Anticoagulation: Dr Ellen Murray, e.t.murray@bham.ac.uk

Chronic Disease Prevention: Prof Tom Marshall, t.p.marshall@bham.ac.uk

Ethnicity: Dr Paramjit Gill, p.s.gill@bham.ac.uk (also Clinical Deputy Director Trial Unit)

CEMS: Prof Jim Parle, j.v.parle@bham.ac.uk

Lifestyle: Dr A Daley, a.daley@bham.ac.uk

Health Outcomes: Dr Mel Calvert, m.calvert@bham.ac.uk

Quality Outcomes: Prof Helen Lester h.e.lester@bham.ac.uk

Qualitative Methodology: Dr Sheila Greenfield. s.m.greenfield@bham.ac.uk

Statistics: Dr Roger Holder, r.l.holder@bham.ac.uk

Trials Unit: Director Prof Richard Lilford, r.j.lilford@bham.ac.uk

If you are thinking of applying, please do get in touch with the various leads to discuss your application in advance. Applicants will need to demonstrate outstanding potential in their chosen field of research. Applicants with good peer-reviewed publications and/or grant income will be favoured. The successful applicant could either join one of our existing research areas or bring a new research project/area.

UNIVERSITY OF BRISTOL

The Academic Unit of Primary Health Care conducts high quality research addressing questions of priority to the NHS. We are a large, friendly and thriving unit within the School of Social and Community Medicine, which includes many world class academics conducting research in different aspects of health services research and epidemiology. We offer the expertise of a wide range of academic staff from clinical and non-clinical backgrounds including statisticians, social scientists and economists. These staff cover a range of methodological approaches, including RCTs, observational epidemiological studies, qualitative research and economic evaluations. Formal research methods training is available in all these areas through a highly popular programme of short courses. In the 2008 RAE, the Unit had 70% of its submission rated as either of world class or international standard.

Our particular areas of interest in primary care, with details of who to contact for an initial discussion, include:

- Design and analysis of randomised controlled trials in primary care, development and validation of questionnaires (Alan.A.Montgomery@bristol.ac.uk, Sara.T.Brookes@bristol.ac.uk)
- Domestic violence, management of coronary artery disease in primary care (Gene.Feder@bristol.ac.uk)
- Diagnosis and treatment infections in primary care (Alastair.Hay@bristol.ac.uk)
- Qualitative research methods, patient-practitioner relationships and interaction, patient experiences of illness and healthcare (Ali.Heawood@bristol.ac.uk, Katrina.Turner@bristol.ac.uk)
- Economics of primary health care, methodological issues around economic evaluation in a primary care setting (S.P.Hollinghurst@bristol.ac.uk)
- Primary care mental health, CBT, use of technology to deliver mental health interventions (David.Kessler@bristol.ac.uk)
- Health inequality, substance use, sexual health, data linkage (John.MacLeod@bristol.ac.uk)
- Emergency and urgent care, unplanned hospital admissions, end of life care, primary care dermatology (Sarah.Purdy@bristol.ac.uk)
- Improving access to and delivery of primary care (C.Salisbury@bristol.ac.uk)
- Management of childhood obesity in primary care (Katrina.Turner@bristol.ac.uk)

Please see our website (www.bris.ac.uk/primaryhealthcare) for more information about the range of our interests, current projects, and who best to contact to discuss possible ideas for studentship or fellowships. We have a very strong track record in developing research capacity and obtaining externally funded research training awards at all levels, so a post in this Unit provides a superb foundation for a successful academic career.

Applicants will need to demonstrate outstanding potential in their chosen field of research with a good postdoctoral publication record and preferably evidence of successful grant applications. Opportunities include either joining one of our major research themes or bringing your own research project(s) which are a good fit with our interests. Applicants for fellowships should contact C.Salisbury@bristol.ac.uk

KEELE UNIVERSITY

The Arthritis Research UK Primary Care Centre at Keele University has an internationally renowned research programme in chronic pain and musculoskeletal disorders in primary care underpinned by several existing and ongoing high-quality observational cohorts and randomised clinical trials, with linkage to medical records (for further information please see

<http://www.keele.ac.uk/research/pchs/pcmrc/>). Current NIHR, MRC, Wellcome and Arthritis Research UK grants to the Centre amount to over £34 million.

The Arthritis Research UK Primary Care Centre forms a strong collaboration between academics from primary care, clinical rheumatology, epidemiology, physiotherapy, psychology, pharmacy, ageing research and health services research, and its clinical partner the North Staffordshire Primary Care Research Consortium.

The main areas of research interest are:

- musculoskeletal conditions and chronic pain, focused on joint pain and osteoarthritis, back pain and widespread, inflammatory arthritis and regional pain
- primary care and public health research in these areas, embracing allied health care professions and general practice, and focused on prevention, early identification and effective management of these conditions
- epidemiological research, trials and mixed methods involving qualitative research

The Centre has a strong commitment to ensuring that research findings contribute to evidence-based practice, health policy and guidelines, and development of enhanced scope practitioners and related training.

Applicants from any non-medical discipline with a doctoral degree and research experience in primary care (or a related medical research area) who wish to develop their career by spending 3 years working in any of our main research groups will be considered. The main requirement is that they can demonstrate high academic potential, evidenced by high quality publications, and a commitment to developing their research within the area of musculoskeletal pain. We would be particularly keen to see applicants with an interest in clinical trials, quantitative or qualitative research.

For further information please contact: Professor Christian Mallen c.d.mallen@keele.ac.uk
Professor of General Practice

UNIVERSITY OF MANCHESTER

The University of Manchester is the largest, single-site University in the UK, which, was rated third in the UK in the 2008 Research Assessment Exercise (RAE). The Manchester programme of the National School for Primary Care Research sits within the School of Community Based Medicine, <http://www.medicine.manchester.ac.uk/research/groups/primarycare>. In the 2008 RAE, 80% of the Research Group's research was rated to be in the two top international categories with 40% rated 4* (world leading) and 40% 3* (internationally excellent). The Faculty of Medicine has undergone a major reorganisation recently and primary care research in the new Centre for Primary Care now forms a major part of the new Institute for Population Health.

PhD studies and post-doc Fellowships are central to the Centre for Primary Care's culture and research capacity building. The Centre has an extensive academic presence and multidisciplinary team which provide outstanding facilities for PhD students. We are interested equally in candidates with relevant qualitative or quantitative skills who are interested in qualitative research methodologies or willing to work on primary care datasets respectively. The Centre has strong collaborative links nationally and internationally. Students will be assigned to work with one of our Research Themes which will enable the Fellows to develop their own project within the theme and benefit from the support of other researchers working in the same area. Our aim is to train future research leaders by providing multidisciplinary training and career development opportunities within primary care research.

Applicants from any non-medical discipline with a doctoral degree and research experience in primary care (or a related medical research area) who wish to develop their career by spending 3 years in the Centre for Primary Care will be considered. The main requirement is that they can demonstrate high academic potential, evidenced by high quality publications and presentations at national and international conferences. For further information, please contact stephen.campbell@manchester.ac.uk

For specific enquiries about individual research areas:

Quality of Care /Patient Safety	stephen.campbell@manchester.ac.uk
Health Organisation /Health policy	Katherine.h.checkland@manchester.ac.uk
Co-morbidity/Long term conditions	Peter.Bower@manchester.ac.uk
Patient Experience	Caroline.Sanders@manchester.ac.uk
Mental Health	peter.a.coventry@manchester.ac.uk

UNIVERSITY OF NOTTINGHAM

The Division of Primary Health Care in Nottingham has particular expertise in the analysis of large primary care databases and in the development and evaluation of complex interventions in primary care. We have methodological expertise in statistics, health economics, health psychology and qualitative research. Areas of research interest include applied genetics; clinical epidemiology; ethnicity, disadvantage and health; injury epidemiology and prevention; safe and effective use of medicines, smoking cessation and behavioural approaches to optimising existing health care services and technologies. Further information about our research is available at:

<http://www.nottingham.ac.uk/CHS/Divisions/primarycare/research/index.aspx>

Applied genetics

Applications are invited from non-medical candidates (with a doctoral degree and research experience in primary care databases or mixed methods health service research) who wish to develop their career by spending 3 years working with Professor Nadeem Qureshi and Professor Joe Kai in the field of applied genetics. This will build on the Division's expanding Primary Care Applied Genetics theme comprising two core areas of R&D: Primary Care-based Genetic health service research and Genetic epidemiological studies using GP databases. The current portfolio of health service research includes evaluating the implementation of genetic guidelines and screening policies relevant to primary care. We have just completed a study assessing the clinical utility of family history in cardiovascular risk assessment and a programme of work evaluating the National Antenatal and Neonatal screening programme for Haemoglobin disorders. We have recently started a project on implementing familial hypercholesterolaemia guidelines. The epidemiological work is focused around exploring the potential of GP databases to identify phenotypes, assess the value of proxy genetic markers in risk assessment for common chronic diseases, and develop innovative methodology to incorporate genotype and phenotype data in risk assessment tools. This will build on the Division's strength in searching and interrogating GP databases. Informal enquiries are welcome to Professor Nadeem Qureshi (Nadeem.qureshi@nottingham.ac.uk). Please note that applications sent directly to this email address will not be accepted.

Behavioural approaches to optimising health care – joint fellowship opportunity between the Universities of Nottingham and Bristol

Most health services and health care technologies focus on treating the disease or the underlying pathogenic process. We know, however, that patients' thoughts, feelings and behaviours can impact on disease processes. Thus, health care which aims to treat both the patient and their disease should be associated with better health care outcomes. The present fellowship opportunity is concerned with this issue i.e., the development of behavioural interventions to optimise existing health care. It brings together two programmes of work being led by Professor Kavita Vedhara (Nottingham) and Dr David Kessler (Bristol). The aim of this joint programme is to develop behavioural approaches to optimising the success of vaccinations (KV) and to explore the use of technology to deliver such interventions (DK).

The Centres for Disease Control describe vaccinations as among the 10 most significant health achievements ever documented and across many diseases they have been an unmitigated success. However, the success of vaccines is dependent on the ability of the immune system to respond to antigens contained in them. Thus, they work less well in populations with compromised immune systems, such as the elderly, and so can fail to be effective in those whom they most seek to benefit. This has led to an interest in methods to enhance the success of vaccines and there has been considerable interest in the use of pharmacological adjuvants to optimise vaccine success. However, psychological and behavioural factors (e.g., mood, diet, physical activity) have also been shown to modulate the immune response to vaccination and so could provide a non-pharmacological method for optimising vaccinations.

Professor Vedhara's existing work has shown that behavioural interventions appear able to enhance the effectiveness of vaccinations. Dr Kessler's existing work has shown that behavioural interventions can be delivered effectively in primary care through new technologies such as the internet etc. The successful candidate would play a pivotal role in bringing these two multidisciplinary programmes of research together (e.g., by piloting potential interventions; preparing grant applications for future funding, etc.). We would expect candidates to have completed their PhD; have an interest in the development of behavioural and complex interventions; the use of new technologies; expertise in quantitative and qualitative methods and in trial methodologies. Preference will be given to candidates with a strong publication record and evidence of preparing/contributing to successful grant applications. For further information please contact Kavita Vedhara (kavita.vedhara@nottingham.ac.uk) or David Kessler (David.Kessler@bristol.ac.uk).

UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD

The Department of Primary Care Health Sciences was established in October 1998 (as the Department of Primary Health Care) with the appointment of a foundation chair in general practice and was awarded world-leading 4* status in the RAE 2008. It provides a strong multi-disciplinary training environment and a full programme of academic support and good IT facilities. It has strong links with other epidemiological and community based research groupings in the University and also with local general practices that participate in both teaching and research.

The Department's primary research focus is on the prevention, early diagnosis and management of common illness in general practice - particularly childhood infection, cancer, heart disease and stroke. It has recently developed a new stream of clinical research which seeks to improve the conceptual understanding and use of monitoring in a number of chronic diseases. The Department has an international reputation for developing innovative methods of research synthesis and research use to ensure that research findings change clinical practice. It is host to the Oxford Centre for Evidence Based Medicine. We are also home to the international Cochrane Tobacco Addiction Group which collates and summarises research evidence from across the world to underpin

governmental health policies on smoking. The department includes the qualitative social science focussed Health Experiences Research Group (HERG), which has a close working relationship with the DIPEX charity which publishes video and audio extracts from the research on www.healthtalkonline.org. The Department is a founding member of the National School of Primary Care Research.

Applicants from any nonmedical discipline with substantial research experience in primary care (or a related medical research area) who wish to develop their career by spending 3 years working in any of our main research groups will be considered. The main requirement is that they can demonstrate high academic potential, evidenced by high quality publications. Please see our website for details of our research groups (<http://www.phc.ox.ac.uk/>). For research related queries contact Carl.heneghan@phc.ox.ac.uk.

All applications must be made on line using University of Oxford e-recruitment system.

A link to this is available via our website at <http://www.phc.ox.ac.uk/about/job-opportunities>

UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHAMPTON

The Southampton Primary Medical Care group was ranked third highest primary care group for research quality in the 2008 Research Assessment Exercise, when 85% of its research was rated as 'internationally excellent' or 'world-leading'. We are a thriving department that offers a broad spectrum of expertise in both methodologies and topic areas.

The following shows some of the areas of interest within the department:

- Empowering patients in better self management of both acute and long term illnesses particularly using the internet to support behaviour change (currently interventions being developed and trialled in respiratory and urinary infections, hypertension, weight management, dizziness and distress, eczema, irritable bowel syndrome, back pain, asthma, chronic fatigue syndrome)
- Complementary and alternative medicines, including mindfulness meditation and herbal medicine
- Communication with patients in the consultation and in telephone support lines (e.g. for cancer patients)
- Developing decision rules for the diagnosis of cancers

The Primary Care Department is part of the Primary Care & Population Science Unit in the Faculty of Medicine leading to very close links with the Public Health Department and interests such as kidney disease, alcohol misuse and offender health. The following link will provide more information about the department:

http://www.southampton.ac.uk/medicine/academic_units/academic_units/primary_care_population.page

We also have strong links with health psychology, social statistics, health sciences, and computing sciences within the University and Students and Fellows may be co-supervised by clinical academics in primary medical care and basic scientists in these disciplines. They will also be supported to develop national and international links, through existing collaborations, where appropriate.

Applicants from any non medical discipline with a doctoral degree and research experience in primary care (or a related research area) who wish to develop their career by spending 3 years working in any of our research groups will be considered. The main requirement is that they can

demonstrate high academic potential, evidenced by high quality publications. We would be particularly keen to see applicants with an interest in the development of internet based interventions, clinical trials, qualitative studies, analysis of large databases, or analysis of the consultation, working on a range of studies and developing high-level methodological skills. Contact Professor George Lewith g.lewith@soton.ac.uk

UNIVERSITY COLLEGE LONDON

The Research Department of Primary Care and Population Health at University College London undertake a programme of internationally competitive multi-disciplinary research addressing the management of disease in individuals and populations in areas of priority to the health of the public. We have a multidisciplinary approach to both research and teaching with expertise within the department in clinical primary care, epidemiology, medical statistics, medical sociology and health psychology. We have particular methodological strengths in quantitative and qualitative research and analysis of large clinical databases (i.e. GPRD and THIN) and trial methodology.

The department works closely with the MRC Clinical Trials unit and together with the Department of Mental Health Sciences at UCL we run PRIMENT, a fully registered Clinical Trials Unit with expertise in the design, conduct and analysis of trials and other large, well designed studies in primary care and mental health research. At the 2008 RAE UCL made the largest submission in the UK under UoA 8 (Primary Care and other community subjects). Its submission was ranked second in the UK on the basis of the simple medal table.

The department is able to offer fellowships based in one or more of the following research units. Interested candidates are strongly urged to contact proposed supervisors to discuss their proposed programme of research before submitting an application.

British Regional Heart Study - The Cardiovascular Epidemiology Group includes major longitudinal research on risk factors for cardiovascular disease, in particular the British Regional Heart Study (BRHS) of over 7000 men recruited through general practice. The successful candidate will work within a team principally of statisticians and epidemiologists, with strong links to collaborators who are applied methodologists and experts in primary care. The projects will suit a candidate with a background in medical statistics or epidemiology and experience in analysing large datasets. Contact Richard Morris richard.morris@ucl.ac.uk

Centre for Ageing Population Studies - Aging Population Health includes health services research on effective primary care for older people, and includes work on the integration between health and social care. Particular areas of interest are dementia, depression, physical activity promotion in later life, comprehensive needs assessment and palliative care. The group has particular strengths in health service research methodology and primary care nursing. Contact: Steve Iliffe (s.iliffe@ucl.ac.uk)

E-Health Unit - The e-Health Unit focuses on the use of new technologies, such as the internet, to improve health and health care. Areas of interest include using the internet to deliver self-management programmes for patients with long term conditions (e.g. diabetes, heart disease) and for health promotion (e.g. alcohol, sexual health). The unit also undertakes research on implementation of new technologies in the NHS. Contact Elizabeth.murray@ucl.ac.uk

Electronic Health Records Research – Areas of interest include epidemiological research on mental health of mother, father and child, prescribed medicine in pregnancy, development of new methods for analysis of longitudinal records, missing data. For further details of our work please see our website <http://www.ucl.ac.uk/pcph/research-groups-themes/thin-pub/> Projects with this group would suit applicants with epidemiological/statistical background and some experience in handling large datasets. Contact j.petersen@ucl.ac.uk

Mental Health - The Primary Care Mental Health Research group is a multi-disciplinary research group with experienced researchers in primary care, epidemiology, psychiatry, medical statistics and health psychology. We can offer fellowship opportunities on a range of topics in mental health (including severe mental illness / psychosis, common mental disorders such as anxiety and depression, medically unexplained symptoms and somatisation and health psychology interventions around smoking and obesity) and using a variety of methodologies including both quantitative research (e.g. Randomised Controlled Trials, primary epidemiological research, secondary analysis of large clinical datasets), and qualitative research. Contact m.buszewicz@ucl.ac.uk

Full details of the application process are available on our website at: <http://www.ucl.ac.uk/pcph/postgrad>