

JOB DESCRIPTION

Clinical Research Fellowship in Rapid Diagnostic Clinics – Diagnosticians or General Practice Physicians

Available to start by April 2021, or earlier.

(Hospital Trust to be determined agreed by applicant and supervisor) & University College London

Closing date for applications is **15 January 2021**

Job Description

This is a funded clinical research fellowship post available to medical trainee with an interest in cancer diagnostics, or general practice (GP) trainee, initially for 12 months that aims to give the successful applicant unique research opportunities within the London Rapid Diagnostic Centres (RDCs) combined with opportunities for clinical specialist training with close affiliation to the major London teaching hospitals, including working alongside the Royal Marsden Early Diagnosis team. Please see [here](#) for more details.

This is a collaborative appointment made by the four cancer alliances based in London:

- RM Partners, West London Cancer Alliance
- North Central London Cancer Alliance
- North East London Cancer Alliance
- South East London Cancer Alliance

Along with the remaining 17 cancer alliances established across England, cancer alliances will be driving the change needed to achieve the NHS Long Term Plan, with a focus on the earlier and faster detection of cancer via the national roll out of RDCs. Each cancer alliance aim to improve cancer patients' experience, outcomes and quality of life through the delivery of excellence in clinical care, research, innovation and education; ensure equitable access to integrated pathways across primary, secondary, tertiary, community and third sectors; and promote prevention and early detection of cancer.

The nationally-funded set up and roll out of RDCs across each alliance provide a unique opportunity to bring together a programme of research, focusing on markers of early diagnosis and techniques for faster diagnosis of cancer in people experience non site specific (NSS) symptoms of cancer. This offers an opportunity to utilise the NSS RDCs as test beds to assess and validate biomarkers of disease, and better define cancer risk in this population.

The RDC is proposed to serve as:

- A single point of access to a diagnostic pathway for all patients with symptoms that could indicate cancer (e.g. weight loss, fatigue, GP suspicion);
- A personalised, accurate and rapid diagnosis of patients' symptoms by integrating existing diagnostic provision and utilising networked clinical expertise and information locally.

Since approximately 90% of RDC patients will not have cancer, accurate and rapid triage will be essential and depend upon improved methods of stratification and cancer detection. There is therefore a significant opportunity to integrate quantitative research into the new RDCs to develop and validate new and existing risk scores, based on routinely collected demographics factors.

This post has been created to enable a research opportunity in collaboration with the [Epidemiology of Cancer Healthcare and Outcomes group at University College London](#). The funding is initially available for 12 months (full time), with a view to gain additional funds through competitive awarding if the post holder wishes to pursue a higher degree. The specific areas of research and clinical training are to be determined based on mutual agreement between the applicant and supervisor, but research training could include questionnaire development via qualitative and quantitative methods and epidemiological approaches to analysis of a novel dataset of cancer symptoms.

Eligibility

To be eligible for registration, candidates must have either:

- obtained the MB BS degree or some other registerable primary qualification in medicine, and be eligible for full registration or hold limited registration with the General Medical Council; or
- hold MRCP or FRCR qualification
- clinical experience relevant to the post.

In addition, it is desirable for candidates to have both:

- research experience in population sciences, including but not limited to epidemiology or social science.
- a national training number or be eligible for one

Interested applicants should contact Dr Richard Lee, consultant chest physician, for further details (Richard.lee@rmh.nhs.uk)