



Job title	Research Fellow (Title will be 'Research Associate' where an appointment is made before PhD is completed)	Job family and level	Research and Teaching Level 4 (Appointment will be Level 4 career training grade where an appointment is made before PhD has been completed)
School/ Department	School of Medicine, Injury Recovery and Inflammation Sciences	Location	Clinical Sciences Building, City Hospital, Nottingham

Purpose of role

The purpose of this role will be to have specific responsibility for fulfilling the research objectives of the Assessing Central Nervous System contributions to accelerate MusculoSkeletal Pain diagnosis and treatment (CNS MSK Pain) study, funded by Versus Arthritis. The research study aims to optimise diagnosing and measuring the central nervous system as a predominant contributor to chronic musculoskeletal pain by using the Central Aspects of Pain questionnaire and a simple pain sensitivity assessment. You will work as part of the CNS MSK Pain study team led Professor David Walsh within the Pain Centre Versus Arthritis and with partner institutions. You will be expected to plan and conduct work using approaches or methodologies and techniques appropriate to the type of research and will be responsible for writing up your work for publication.

You will have the opportunity to use your initiative and creativity to identify areas for research, develop research methods and extend your research portfolio. The CNS MSK Pain study is predominantly a University-based, longitudinal study of 250 people involving a data collection visit with clinical (cognitive ability, neuropathy) and pain (Quantitative Sensory Testing) assessments, with two questionnaire follow-ups. A subsample will also undergo qualitative interviews.

The School of Medicine recognises the importance of continuous professional development and therefore the importance of providing opportunities, structured support and encouragement to engage in professional development each year.

	Main responsibilities (Primary accountabilities and responsibilities expected to fulfil the role)	% time per year
1	<p>Research Responsibilities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To manage, plan and conduct research activity using recognised approaches, methodologies and techniques within the research area to develop and validate a clinical tool to diagnose and measure pain in people with various musculoskeletal conditions. You will be responsible for recruitment into the study and working with recruitment centres, performing study procedures and processes, documentation and reporting for the study, and undertaking qualitative interviews with participants. To plan and manage own research activity, resolve problems if required, in meeting own/team research objectives and deadlines in collaboration with others. 	80%

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ To co-ordinate the operational aspect of research networks, for example arranging meetings and updating web sites, and contribute to collaborative decision making with colleagues in area of research. ▪ To identify opportunities to develop research objectives and proposals for research grant applications for own and/or collaborative research area. Prepare proposals and applications to both external and/or internal bodies for funding, contractual or accreditation purposes. ▪ To analyse and illuminate data, interpret reports, evaluate and criticise texts and bring new insights to research area. 	
2	<p>Engagement, Communication and Continuation Responsibilities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ To write up research work for publication and/or contribute to the dissemination at national/international conferences, resulting in successful research outputs. ▪ To collaborate with academic colleagues on areas of shared interest for example, course development, collaborative or joint research projects. 	10%
3	<p>Teach, supervise, examine and personal tutoring:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ You are expected to make a contribution to teaching that is in balance with wider contributions to research and other activities. 	10%
4	<p>Other:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The School of Medicine recognise the importance of continuous professional development and therefore the importance of providing opportunities, structured support and encouragement to engage in professional development each year. 	N/A

Person specification

	Essential	Desirable
Skills	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Excellent oral and written communication skills, including the ability to communicate with clarity on complex information. ▪ Ability to build relationships and collaborate with others, both internally and externally. ▪ Ability to creatively apply relevant research approaches, models, techniques and methods. ▪ High analytical ability to analyse and illuminate data, use appropriate statistical analysis packages, interpret reports, 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Interpersonal skills that facilitate a positive participant experience in clinical research. ▪ Ability to undertake manual research techniques involving human research participants such as quantitative sensory testing to collect reliable data. ▪ Skills in psychometric validation of self-reported questionnaires.

	<p>evaluate and criticise texts and bring new insights.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Excellent organisational skills with a proven ability to prioritise tasks, work under pressure and multi-task; an ability to assess and organise resource requirements and deploy effectively. ▪ Understand health and safety, clinical risk and quality issues and good attention to detail. ▪ Competence in standard Microsoft Office software packages (Word, Excel and powerpoint) and IT skills. ▪ Skills in qualitative interviewing and qualitative analysis of interviews. 	
<p>Knowledge and experience</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Practical experience of applying qualitative interview and analysis skills and approaches and techniques required for the role. ▪ Experience in use of research methodologies and techniques to work within area. ▪ Knowledge/experience of clinical research study issues and legislation. ▪ Demonstratable understanding of clinical research ethical research frameworks, governance and regulatory requirements. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Previous experience of conducting clinical research and/or working with patients or study participants. ▪ Experience of developing new approaches, models, techniques or methods in research area. ▪ Experience of utilising Patient and Public Involvement and Engagement. ▪ Experience of using Nvivo or other qualitative analysis software. ▪ Knowledge of clinical study protocols and their application in practice. ▪ Demonstratable understanding of research and clinical governance and regulatory requirements.
<p>Qualifications, certification and training (relevant to role)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ PhD or equivalent in psychology, applied health research, social science or behavioural science OR near to completion of a PhD. 	

Statutory, legal or special requirements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Satisfactory enhanced disclosure obtained from the Disclosure and Barring Service. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ ICH-GCP certification. ▪ NIHR Informed consent certification. May require research passport(s).
Other	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Willingness to adopt the vision and values of the School of Medicine. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Ability and willingness to take some evening work (to ensure appointments take place outside of office hours).



Expectations and behaviours

The University has developed a clear set of core expectations and behaviours that our people should be demonstrating in their work, and as ambassadors of the University's strategy, vision and values. The following are essential to the role:

- Valuing people** Is always equitable and fair and works with integrity. Proactively looks for ways to develop the team and is comfortable providing clarity by explaining the rationale behind decisions.
- Taking ownership** Is highly self-aware, looking for ways to improve, both taking on board and offering constructive feedback. Inspires others to take accountability for their own areas.
- Forward thinking** Driven to question the status quo and explore new ideas, supporting the team to "lead the way" in terms of know-how and learning.
- Professional pride** Sets the bar high with quality systems and control measures in place. Demands high standards of others identifying and addressing any gaps to enhance the overall performance.
- Always inclusive** Ensures accessibility to the wider community, actively encouraging inclusion and seeking to involve others. Ensures others always consider the wider context when sharing information making full use of networks and connections.

Key relationships with others

