



Research Facilitator

College of Medicine, Biological Sciences & Psychology

Department of Infection, Immunity and Inflammation

Salary Grade 5 - £19,972 to £23,811 per annum

Fixed term contract from 1 September 2012 to 31 August 2013 (** see below for contract information)

Ref: MBP00598

At Leicester we're going places. Ranked in the top 20 universities in Britain our aim is to climb further. A commitment to high quality fused with an inclusive academic culture is our hallmark and led the Times Higher Education to describe us as "elite without being elitist".

You will complete a 12-month study designed to investigate patients' attitudes, both positive and negative, to increasing physical activity and exercise in the context of kidney disease. The work will be within clear guidelines but will require a level of expertise to complete the study.

The study is part of a larger collaborative research theme combining health and research environments and combines mixed methods (quantitative and qualitative) and will involve capturing data from a large and diverse patient group

The University

There's never been a more exciting time to join us. At the University of Leicester we are enjoying research success on a world stage and gathering the awards and plaudits to match.

We are described as "elite without being elitist". We are proud to be elite. But we are at least as proud to be an inclusive and progressive university. This commitment to high quality, an inclusive academic culture and belief in the synergy of teaching and research are our hallmarks. We believe that teaching is inspirational when delivered by passionate scholars engaged in world-changing research that is delivered in an academic community that includes postgraduate as well as undergraduate students.

Our approach to research yields great rewards. Our research impact, measured by citations per academic, is the sixth highest in the UK. Our success in the 2008 Research Assessment Exercise saw Quality Related research income rise by 18% placing us firmly amongst Britain's top 20 research universities by this measure. The RAE also revealed that Leicester is home to Britain's top-rated research department – Museum Studies – which has the highest concentration of world class research of any department of any discipline in the UK.

We believe that teaching and research are synergistic, and the National Student Survey demonstrates that the quality of our teaching is amongst the highest in the country. Since the launch of the survey in 2006, Leicester has consistently featured amongst the top-10 universities in England

for student satisfaction. The Sunday Times described Leicester as "top... amongst mainstream multi-faculty universities for student satisfaction".

Currently a University of 23,000 students, with a turnover of £260m and 3,800 colleagues, our future is bright. Our Strategic Vision describes our plans to invest a billion pounds in our estate as we transform our campus. Already consistently ranked in the top-20 universities in Britain, by 2015 we aim to rise further to become top-10.

Leicester is the most inclusive of Britain's top-20 universities with the greatest proportions of students from under-represented groups.

As a group of talented individuals we are more diverse than ever and stronger for it. At Leicester we are proud of our distinct approach, our achievements and our ambitious plans. If you share our approach join us.

We are proud holders of the Athena Swan Bronze Award which recognises and celebrates good practice for employment in science, engineering and technology (SET) in higher education and research. The award reflects our commitment to the advancement and promotion of diversity and equality. We are actively seeking Silver and Gold awards.

<http://www.athenaswan.org.uk/html/athena-swan/>

College of Medicine, Biological Sciences and Psychology

Pro-Vice-Chancellor & Head of College: Professor David Wynford-Thomas FMedSci

The College's mission is to pursue the highest standards of research, education and training in biomedical and related subjects, and to apply this knowledge and expertise to enhance the quality of life and economic prosperity of populations, both locally and in the wider world.

Its considerable academic resources mean that it is already widely recognised for the international impact of its research and the quality of its undergraduate and postgraduate teaching. This is reflected in the high proportion of academic staff regarded as international in the 2008 Research Assessment Exercise, and the consistently high ratings achieved in the National Student Survey.

This is an exciting time to join a dynamic new academic enterprise and contribute to its development. The new College is creating the academic and physical environment to enable scientists and clinicians to work together across traditional boundaries to address some of the key outstanding questions in biomedical research and to engage with increasing effectiveness with commercial and public bodies.

The College brings together 10 departments: Biochemistry, Biology, Cancer Studies and Molecular Medicine, Cardiovascular Sciences, Cell Physiology and Pharmacology, Genetics, Health Sciences, Infection, Immunity and Inflammation, Medical and Social Care Education and Psychology. In addition the University hosts the MRC Toxicology Unit, with which there is close collaboration. Building on existing strengths, multi-disciplinary research themes have been developed to exploit synergies between basic science, clinical medicine and psychology in the College. These themes are in the fields of genome science; molecular & cellular bioscience; cancer; cardiovascular sciences; respiratory science; microbial science; neuroscience and behaviour; and population science. A further theme is exploring the research which underpins teaching & learning.

(<http://www2.le.ac.uk/colleges/medbiopsych/research>)

The College has approximately 295 academic staff and 718 research, administrative and other staff, with a total of approximately 2,350 full time undergraduate students and 850 postgraduates. It has an annual turnover of £64M.

Department of Infection, Immunity & Inflammation

Head: Professor P W Andrew

Deputy Head: Professor N Brunskill

The Department of Infection, Immunity and Inflammation is one of the largest in the College with over 200 staff, including 38 academics (21 clinical and 17 non-clinical). It brings together basic and clinical scientists from various disciplines, including microbiology, immunology, infectious diseases, child health, respiratory medicine, nephrology and transplant surgery. Research in the department can be divided into four overlapping areas: adult and paediatric respiratory diseases, renal diseases, microbiology and innate immunity. In the 2008 Research Assessment Exercise (RAE), 95% of publications were deemed to be internationally competitive. Our current research grants total over £20million.

The department is located on several sites: the main site and administrative centre is located at the Maurice Shock Medical Sciences Building on the main university campus. Respiratory Medicine is based at the Clinical Sciences wing of Glenfield General Hospital, Child Health is based at Robert Kilpatrick Clinical Sciences Building and Leicester Royal Infirmary, the Infectious Diseases Unit at Leicester Royal Infirmary and the Transplant Surgery group is based at Leicester General Hospital.

The Department has modern, recently refurbished, well-equipped laboratories and enjoys close links with other University departments, research Institutes and industry, both in the UK and overseas. The College supports several Core Biotechnology Services, including Genomics, Microscopy and Imaging, Transgenics, Protein Expression and Structural Biology. We have excellent facilities for doing *in vitro* and *in vivo* infectious disease work at category 2 and category 3 levels.

Your Role

You will complete a 12-month study designed to investigate patients' attitudes, both positive and negative, to increasing physical activity and exercise in the context of kidney disease. The work will be within clear guidelines but will require a level of expertise to complete the study. The study is part of a larger collaborative research theme combining health and research environments and combines mixed methods (quantitative and qualitative) and will involve capturing data from a large and diverse patient group

Principal Accountabilities

- Carry out a research project under minimal supervision by the team leader involving 500-600 kidney patients within agreed protocols and parameters which they will have to understand. This will include attending regular outpatient clinics and liaising with the multidisciplinary team to agree the approach of suitable subjects, explaining the survey and obtaining consent from patients prior to their participation, arranging completion and collection of survey forms, collating returned questionnaires, carrying out analysis of information inputted into the relevant systems using various statistical software packages. To act as point of contact for all enquiries relating to the questionnaire.
- The post-holder will prioritise their work to ensure that work is completed to an agreed timetable, in discussion with supervisor. They will use an agreed methodology and techniques appropriate to this type of research maintaining administration of study documentation adhering to strict ethical regulations. A good level of understanding of NHS research ethics and Good Clinical Practice guidelines will be required for this. The study will be subject to the Sponsor UHL's audit process and the post holder will be required to liaise

with the regulatory authorities and demonstrate adherence to the required high standards as and when requested. The planning and organisation timescales involved will be over a number of weeks.

- Design questions for focus groups based on finding from initial surveys, making recommendations to the multi disciplinary team
- To arrange and carry out pre-protocol meetings with kidney patient and clinic staff volunteers to inform topic guide development, and to lead the preparation of focus group and interview topic guides in consultation with the rest of the study team.
- Identify and contact patients to take part in the qualitative part of the study, including explaining the study to potential recruits and answering their questions about participation.
- Arrange and facilitate focus groups (~10) of patients with kidney disease and healthcare staff to explore attitudes to exercise. Facilitating the Patient Participation Involvement meetings and focus groups will require a high level of professional and ethical competency.
- To co-ordinate and carry out individual patient interviews to explore individual perspectives and experiences of exercise and physical health based on the prepared topic guide. This will include agreeing mutually convenient dates with the participants and arranging room and equipment availability, and participant travel, which will require excellent organisational skills and initiative . Carrying out the interviews will require a high level of professional and ethical competency.
- Extract and analyse information from the data gathered and other recorded information as required by the project highlighting trends and presenting the findings in a accurate and readily understandable way. This information will be presented to the multi disciplinary team and the project co-ordinators. To arrange feedback to study participants.

Qualifications, Knowledge and Experience

Essential

- A background in exercise physiology, social sciences or behavioural psychology
- Knowledge of qualitative and quantitative research methods*
- Knowledge of statistical methods applied to research
- Sound knowledge of medical research ethics*

Desirable

- Experience of interviewing patients for research purposes
- Experience of working in a health care environment*
- Experience of qualitative and / or quantitative research methods*
- Experience of statistical methods applied to research

Skills, Abilities and Competencies

Essential

- Able to work well as part of a team
- Good inter-personal and organisation skills

- Excellent verbal and written* communication skills
- A high level of accuracy and attention to detail*
- Excellent IT skills including MS powerpoint, word, excel ability to build and manage databases efficiently and effectively

Desirable

- Current driving licence

(* Criteria to be used in shortlisting candidates for interview)

**** Contract Information**

The appointment will be from 1 September 2012 to 31 August 2013 on a fixed term basis as the purpose of the post is to accomplish a particular task or defined project for this time.

Informal Enquiries

Informal enquiries are welcome and should be made to Dr James Burton on jb343@le.ac.uk or 0116 252 3061.

Applications

For further information and to apply on-line, please visit our website: www.le.ac.uk/joinus

The closing date for this post is midnight on 9 July 2012

We anticipate that interviews will take place on 30 July 2012.

Candidates short-listed for interview will be contacted by the University. If you do not receive a communication from the University within 4 weeks of the closing date, please assume that your application has been unsuccessful.