SPCR internship projects 2026

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Length and dates of internship: June-July 2026 (4 weeks full-time)
Host department: Department of Primary Care Health Sciences, University of Oxford
How will the internship be conducted: ☐ In person at the university ☐ Virtual/ from home ☒ Both are possible, depending on preference of student
Title internship project: An evidence synthesis of publicly available risk prediction tools to complement cancer screening
Summary of the internship project: *(max 250 words, can include hyperlinks to further information)* Cancer screening programmes aim to identify cases of cancer or pre-cancer in the general population in order to prevent future disease or to improve treatment outcomes by detecting disease at an earlier stage. Recent advances in digital health innovations have resulted in a growing number of digital tools, including smartphone and web apps, which have the potential to benefit cancer screening by providing information about cancer risks directly to patients and the public. The aim of the project will be to synthesise existing evidence on digital tools designed to complement cancer screening programmes, focusing on tools that can be used by patients and the public and which incorporate a risk prediction component. The review will aim to summarise: 1) methods used to develop the risk prediction tools, 2) predictive performance of the models, and 3) impact of the digital tools on the effectiveness of cancer screening. Depending on the number of articles identified in preliminary literature searches the project scope may be modified by restricting to selected cancer types, settings (e.g. country), or measures of impact. It is intended that the completed review will be submitted for publication. The intern will be involved in all stages of the review including designing and performing literature searches, article screening, data extraction, and writing. The project will provide practical experience of evidence synthesis methodology and enable the intern to learn about digital health and risk prediction in the context of cancer prevention.

Learning objectives:

- Use structured systematic review techniques to identify and summarise existing research
- Gain experience in critical appraisal of existing research
- Gain understanding of what makes a "good" statistical model for predicting health risks
- Develop an understanding of why "good" models are important in the context of cancer prevention, and how this relates to digital health interventions
- Contribute to dissemination of research and academic writing (via presentations, written reports and/or publications) for a range of audiences
- Learn about health research by meeting researchers in the wider department and attending relevant events such as seminars

Any further information:

This project would be equally suitable for either clinical or non-clinical applicants.

Please contact the project supervisors for further information.