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***School for Primary Care Research***

*Increasing the evidence base for primary care practice*

**DETAILS OF OPPORTUNITIES AT EACH UNIVERSITY**

**UNIVERSITY OF BRISTOL**

The Centre for Academic Primary Care, at the University of Bristol, is one of the leading centres in England for academic primary care which form the NIHR School for Primary Care Research. The Centre is based within the School of Social and Community Medicine, which has an international reputation for research and teaching in population health sciences, with centres of excellence in genetic and life-course epidemiology, public health, health services research, medical ethics, medical statistics, and health economics. There are excellent training opportunities via an internationally recognised programme of short courses, and we have an outstanding track record of helping academic trainees to obtain prestigious externally funded research fellowships to progress their careers. The Centre for Academic Primary Care currently numbers around 60 people, consisting of academic health professionals, (GPs and nurses), statisticians, social scientists, health economists, and support staff. Our multidisciplinary profile is reflected in our research.

We conduct research within two broad themes:

***Management of disease:*** Studies of the diagnosis and clinical management of diseases mainly treated in primary care. Currently we have a particular focus on:

* childhood infection
* domestic violence
* depression and anxiety
* cardiovascular disease
* childhood obesity
* complementary therapies

***Organisation and delivery of care***

This includes studies on the role of primary care within the health care system, with a focus on:

* improving equitable access to health care
* evaluation of new forms of care (for example the role of telehealth)
* predicting and preventing avoidable hospital admissions
* improving care for people with long term conditions and multimorbidity
* defining principles of primary care, such as generalism, continuity of care and the doctor-patient relationship, co-ordination of care

We are currently inviting applications for the following role role:

**‘Launching’ fellowship**

This is a 9 month post intended to provide a period of time for a primary care scientist to prepare an application for an externally funded research fellowship or a research grant with them as a principal or co-principal investigator. This is intended to provide a bridge between doctoral studies and beginning to establish a career as an independent researcher. Applicants must be within 6 months of completing their doctorate or up to 2 years after completing their doctorate on 1 March 2014. Their proposed research should be within the areas of interest of the Bristol Centre for Academic Primary Care.

**For further information please contact:**

Professor Chris Salisbury (c.salisbury@ bristol.ac.uk)

**Or visit our website:**

 [www.bris.ac.uk/primaryhealthcare](http://www.bris.ac.uk/primaryhealthcare)

**KEELE UNIVERSITY**

The Institute of Primary Care and Health Sciences hosts the Arthritis Research UK Primary Care Centre at Keele University. The department 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.

Current NIHR, MRC, Wellcome and Arthritis Research UK grants to the Centre amount to over £34 million.The Research Institute 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 research institute conducts research that:**

1. Highlights the importance of musculoskeletal conditions (particularly chronic pain, inflammatory arthritis and osteoarthritis) demonstrating the extent, frequency and impact of pain and disability on individuals, associated co-morbidities, such as depression, and their increasing health and social care burden and costs on society;
2. evaluates new ways of providing effective assessment, self-management and treatment of these conditions and their co-morbidities, in the community and in primary care;
3. shifts the perception that musculoskeletal conditions are an inevitable consequence of growing old, and take a more positive approach where the symptoms of pain, disability and co-morbid depression can be addressed directly.

Within the research institute, there are a number of areas of research expertise in epidemiological research, trials and mixed methods involving qualitative methods.

The institute 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.

**For further information please contact:**

Professor Christian Mallen, Professor of General Practice Research

c.d.mallen@keele.ac.uk

or Professor Carolyn Chew-Graham, Professor of General Practice Research

c.a.chew-graham@keele.ac.uk

**Or visit our website:**

<http://www.keele.ac.uk/research/pchs/pcmrc/>

**UNIVERSITY OF NOTTINGHAM**

We are one of the foremost primary care centres in the UK, with 70% of our research judged as world-leading or internationally excellent in the 2008 Research Assessment Exercise. We are a multi-disciplinary unit of over 130 people, including practising GPs, other health professionals, psychologists, statisticians, research and support staff.

<http://www.nottingham.ac.uk/medicine/about/primarycare/index.aspx>

We are offering 1-2 part-time bridging post-doctoral fellowships to enable individuals to publish their doctorate research and apply for post-doctorate funding. The fellowships will be based in one of our research groups and available from October 2014 for 6 months.

Applicants from any health related scientific discipline will be considered if they have achieved a Masters degree from a leading University, and submitted for examination, or been awarded their PhD by the date of appointment to the post.

Our main research groups are in the following fields:

**Medicines Management**

We conduct research on the safe and effective use of medicines and our research is at the forefront of patient safety research in the UK and internationally.

Our research focuses on investigating the prevalence, nature and causes of medication errors in general practice; evaluating patient safety initiatives, including interventions aimed at reducing the prevalence of medication errors; undertaking epidemiological work to assess the benefits and harms of medicines used in primary care; and assessing the safety of primary care organisations.

We aim to influence policy and practice so that effective interventions to improve patient safety are rolled out across the health service.

**Tobacco Control**

We aim to reduce tobacco-related harm by addressing prevention of uptake, promotion of cessation, development of harm reduction strategies for smokers, and scientific and public engagement to promote findings to users and policymakers.

Our four major research themes are:

* + Smoking in pregnancy
	+ Incident smoking
	+ Smoking cessation
	+ Harm reduction

**Applied Genetics and Ethnicity**

We aim to improve translation of traditional genetics and new genomic advances into primary care practice, whilst ensuring equitable access for underserved populations.

Prevention and care of major health problems, such as cancer and cardiovascular disease, and common inherited disorders, could be radically enhanced by better application of genetics in routine health care and understanding of ethnic and social variation. . Our previous and current research includes qualitative, observational, database and intervention studies

**Bio-behavioural approaches to optimising health and healthcare**

Our research examines how treating both the patient and their disease can improve health and healthcare.

Medicine and healthcare have traditionally been ‘disease focussed’, i.e. they look at the biological processes that give rise to and maintain disease, and focus on these when considering treatment. The work of this group examines how the biobehavioural characteristics of the patient can be harnessed to improve healthcare’.

We have two main approaches:

1. Observational studies, where we identify the bio-behavioural factors associated with disease outcomes and treatment success
2. Intervention studies, where we develop and evaluate interventions which target bio-behavioural factors with the aim of improving disease outcomes and treatment success.

**Primary Care Epidemiology**

Our research focusses on the epidemiology of diseases (e.g. heart disease, diabetes, cancer and infectious disease) and drug safety of commonly prescribed drugs (including antidepressants, statins, steroids, NSAIDs and Cox-2 inhibitors).

We make extensive use of a number of databases including QRESEARCH, the largest database of its kind worldwide, containing a wealth of longitudinal data from patients in over 600 UK practices linked to secondary care data.

**Injury Prevention**

The Injury Epidemiology and Prevention Research Group specialises in the epidemiology and prevention of injuries in all age groups, including:

* + preventing falls in older people,
	+ preventing injuries in childhood,
	+ measuring the long term impact of injuries and
	+ evaluating interventions in primary care and community settings.

**Medical Education**

The research topics include undergraduate and postgraduate medical curriculum development and evaluation, the use of virtual learning environments, and online assessment in medical education and problem based learning.

For further information please contact:

Ms Christina Brindley christina.brindley @nottingham.ac.uk

Or visit our website:

<http://www.nottingham.ac.uk/medicine/about/primarycare/index.aspx>

**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.

We are particularly interested in expanding our growing programme of work investigating internet-based self-management interventions in primary care. We currently have work streams developing and testing internet interventions for emotional distress, cancer-related distress, low back pain, and chronic dizziness among others (including IBS, eczema, hypertension, and weight management).

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.

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.

**Senior Research Fellow / Research Fellow**

Applicants are invited for a Postdoctoral Fellowship which will be awarded at the level of Research Fellow (ERE4) or Senior Research Fellow (ERE5) dependent on experience. Please indicate in your application for which post/level you are applying.

Applicants from a behavioural science discipline with a doctoral degree and research experience in primary care (or a related research area) who wish to develop their career by spending 2 years working in our internet-based self-management group will be considered. We would be particularly keen to see postdoctoral applicants with experience leading grants. This level of applicant would be supported to use their time with us as a bridging fellowship towards longer-term mid-level NIHR fellowships (e.g. a 5 year NIHR Career Development Fellowship).

For further information please contact:

**Professor George Lewith** g.lewith@soton.ac.uk

**Or visit our website:** <http://www.southampton.ac.uk/medicine/academic_units/academic_units/primary_care_population.page>

**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 a clinical fellowship 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 i.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

**For further information contact :**

Professor Elizabeth Murray elizabeth.murray@ucl.ac.uk

**Or visit our website:** <https://atsv7.wcn.co.uk/search_engine/jobs.cgi?amNvZGU9MTM5NjUzOCZ2dF90ZW1wbGF0ZT05NjUmb3duZXI9NTA0MTE3OCZvd25lcnR5cGU9ZmFpciZicmFuZF9pZD0wJnBvc3RpbmdfY29kZT0yMjQmcmVxc2lnPTEzOTAzOTcyMjItMTljY2FhYjk4YzZhMmIzNDY3NmQ5NWE1MjExZDdlYjhjYzMyNGY2MA&jcode=1396538&vt_template=965&owner=5041178&ownertype=fair&brand_id=0&posting_code=224&reqsig=1390397222-19ccaab98c6a2b34676d95a5211d7eb8cc324f60>