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| Host department: OxfordChoose an item. |
| Project Title: |
| Health outcomes in chronic kidney disease in an older primary care population |
| Proposed supervisory team\*:  |
| James Sheppard, Clare Taylor, Jenny Hirst, Jose Ordonez-Mena |
| Potential for cross consortium networking and educational opportunities: |
| The student will have the opportunity to work with people from SPCR at the University of Southampton who are involvement in the NewKI steering committee. The student would be encouraged to present work at SAPC primary care conferences in the UK where there will be ample networking opportunities including good representation from SPCR members. |
| Project description: |
| Chronic Kidney Disease (CKD) is a common disorder, present in 10% of the total population and more than 30% in those aged over 65 years. It is associated with accelerated decline of renal function in conditions such as hypertension, diabetes, and primary renal disease. CKD is a major cause of increased mortality, especially cardiovascular disease, and has high morbidity, due to increased vascular events and progression to end-stage renal failure. The high prevalence of co-morbidities in CKD patients results in high healthcare costs, with end-stage renal replacement therapy set at the maximum limit for cost effective intervention in Europe. However, the natural history of CKD, its prognostic indicators and predictors of decline are not well elucidated. The NewKI (New Onset Kidney Impairment) study is a longitudinal observational study of 3000 older participants recruited from primary care established between 2013 and 2017. The aim of the study focusses upon improving early detection of CKD, understanding the natural progression of the disease and identifying predictors of adverse health outcomes. Participants receive screening or monitoring for CKD, providing important data on CKD progression and potential biomarkers or risk factors for determining associations with health outcomes. Recently, linkages have been established between study participant data and routinely collected health records, including primary care records, hospital episode statistics and the Office for National Statistics mortality data. These provide a wide range of opportunities for analyses of health outcomes and the potential for developing prediction models for adverse health outcomes in people with CKD. This DPhil would suit someone with a strong interest in methodologies which could include, statistical, epidemiological or health economics. The student would be expected to manage independent research projects or specific areas of research within the broad programme, to include: developing research questions within a specific context; conducting original research; analysing quantitative data from a variety of sources, and developing appropriate analytical protocols and techniques to support research. There are opportunities for the student to generate new hypotheses, compare with published data, make comparisons with other routinely collected datasets or combine the dataset with other primary care cohorts held within the University of Oxford or in other institutions.  |

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| Training and development provision by host: |
| *Formal training:* The candidate will be given the opportunity to attend short courses in medical research methods such as medical statistics, epidemiology, or health economics as necessary. University of Oxford provides free training workshops to staff and students covering a wide range of topics including academic writing, project management and public speaking.  |
| *I****nformal training:* Mentorship can be provided in clinical research and project management** |
| *PPIE:* The NDPCHS works closely with patient groups to guide research, ensure relevance to patients and disseminate findings to the wider community. The NewKI study is guided by a steering committee consisting of two patient representatives who may be willing to be directly involved in further research ideas. |