

## JOB DESCRIPTION:

### ARC Dementia Fellow, Clinical Position

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|-----------------------------|--|
| <b>Ref Number:</b>          | LSSJ-244-23  |
| <b>Salary Scale:</b>        | Grade 8: £44,737 - £50,300 per annum depending on clinical and research experience   |
| <b>Contract:</b>            | Full-time – applicants will be expected to spend a minimum of 0.6FTE on research with up 0.4FTE clinical time at Kent and Medway Health and Social Care Partnership NHS Trust.<br><br>Flexible working and part-time options at a minimum of 0.8FTE will be considered.<br><br>For a fixed term period of 2 years from commencement<br><br>This positions is open to those from any academic, health and/or social care practice background. |
| <b>School/Department:</b>   | Centre for Health Services Studies (CHSS)  |
| <b>Location:</b>            | University of Kent, Canterbury Campus  |
| <b>Responsible to:</b>      | Dr Sukhi Shergill (KMMS/KMPT)<br>Dr Jo Rodda (KMPT/KMMS)   |
| <b>Expected start date:</b> | 01 June 2023 or as soon as possible  |

#### The Role

This position represents an exciting opportunity for the successful applicant to join the National Institute for Health Research (NIHR) Applied Research Collaboration (ARC) for Kent Surrey and Sussex. The post-holder will work on dementia research working closely with Professor Sukhi Shergill based at the Kent and Medway Medical School (KMMS), Dr Jo Rodda (Senior Lecturer at KMMS) and Professor Stephen Peckham at the Centre for Health Services Studies (CHSS), University of Kent. The post holder will also be expected to work closely with Professor Naji Tabet within the Living Well with Dementia Theme of ARC KSS. The role is focused on clinical research, allowing clinical post-holders to continue clinical care and research in combination.

Applications are welcome from those with a range of academic backgrounds, you must have experience of, or interest in, delivering services for people living with dementia including as (but not limited to) a clinician, psychologist, nurse, allied health professional, social care professional and those with experience in the third sector. The post holder will be expected to have experience of research and a post-doctoral qualification equivalent to a PhD.

The post holder will provide direct research support and conduct research relevant to the ARC KSS Living Well with Dementia portfolio of research and in particular in the following area of interest:

- **Integration of services for a seamless ‘patient journey’** – the post holder will be expected to develop a research project(s) together with a team of researchers based across KMMS, CHSS at the University of Kent, and BSMS. The project(s) developed are expected to focus on models of care for a seamless patient journey. People with dementia do not differentiate between health care providers/services, social care and

even the voluntary sector and should be supported with integrated care pathways that meet their needs.

The post holder must be highly self-motivated, organised and have considerable interpersonal skills. You need to manage your own time and performance, and that of others, while monitoring the work of the complex network of researchers. You must be strongly proactive, knowledgeable and able to solve complex problems while knowing when to refer a problem up.

The appointed candidate will work in a vibrant dementia research environment within Kent, including the Kent and Medway Medical School, Centre for Health Services Studies and across the regional joining three other Postdoctoral Dementia Research Fellows and several dementia PhD students across sites within ARC KSS. The appointed candidate will be supported to develop appropriate research interest and projects and will be encouraged to publish widely and apply for grants both offered by NIHR or other funders.

The posts offers an excellent opportunity in several aspects of academic life including conducting research in a range of relevant dementia topics, developing collaborations and enhancing projects' management skills. The post holder will also benefit from support across the ARC KSS themes and a national peer cohort of dementia researchers across the 15 ARC's nationally to build a research career and leadership skills.

### **About KMMS, University of Kent**

KMMS, launched in September 2020, is home to a growing multidisciplinary research group, including psychiatrists, public health specialists, anthropologists and health service researchers. Senior KMMS researchers are currently leading programmes of research across the translational pathway, from pre-clinical and biomedical research to research in the community around health care service delivery. Specific areas of expertise include: mental health, health inequalities and global health research. KMMS is developing strong links with the local NHS trusts and specifically with the Kent and Medway Partnerships NHS Trust (KMPT), that provides mental health services across Kent.

### **About CHSS, University of Kent**

The ARC KSS is hosted within the Centre for Health Services Studies (CHSS), a centre of research excellence within the Division of Law, Society and Social Justice at the University of Kent.

Professor Stephen Peckham is Director of CHSS and also of the ARC KSS, working closely with partners to deliver high quality, generalisable, applied health and care research that addresses the specific health or care issues across Kent, Surrey and Sussex.

### **About NIHR**

The [National Institute for Health Research \(NIHR\)](#) is the nation's largest funder of health and care research and provides the people, facilities and technology that enables research to thrive. [NIHR Applied Research Collaborations \(ARCs\)](#) support applied health and care research that responds to, and meets, the needs of local populations and local health and care systems. The NIHR ARC Kent, Surrey and Sussex is one of 15 ARCs across England, part of a £135 million investment by the NIHR to improve the health and care of patients and the public.

### **About ARCs**

Each NIHR ARC is made up of local providers of NHS services, local providers of care services, NHS commissioners, local authorities, universities, private companies and charities.

These collaborations work together to conduct high quality, generalisable, applied health and care research that addresses the specific health or care issues in their region. NIHR ARCs also act to close the second translational gap and increase the rate at which research findings are implemented into practice. The 15 ARCs work collaboratively to address national research priorities, with individual ARCs providing national leadership in their areas of expertise.

- [Find out more about ARCs](#)

NIHR Applied Research Collaborations are offering career development awards for dementia research in collaboration with Alzheimer's society, as part of a national £11.8 million NIHR initiative to support promising early career researchers to pursue dementia research and to build up their number and skills across the NIHR family. The cohort of post-doctoral health and care researchers will be supported toward independence, developing their skills to establish their own research projects, programmes and ultimately groups.

### **Key Accountabilities / Primary Responsibilities**

- To develop, delivery and disseminate high-quality research in dementia in the area specified above and promote its implementation to influence practice
- Ensuring the delivery of the priority objectives, to deliver research that:
  - addresses the needs of service user populations;
  - embodies the principles of co-production of knowledge;
  - uses high-quality methodologies;
  - and is deployed through relevant knowledge transfer
- To engage in individual and/or collaborative research activity resulting in high-quality publications;
- Along with colleagues, to produce and publish high-quality academic outputs.
- To make substantive contributions to the wider operation of both the ARC and associated research centres, including supporting colleagues, helping to ensure high levels of health and wellbeing, publicise our work, cultivate a rewarding and engaging working environment and so on.
- To work collaboratively with ARC KSS personnel and with other national Dementia post docs across the national NIHR ARC network.
- To contribute and lead the development of new research opportunities and funding.

### **Key Duties**

- To undertake the main activities of research and evaluation, from development, data collection, analysis/interpretation, and reporting and knowledge exchange. Specific duties in this regard will include:
  - Manage the project delivery across partners
  - To collect relevant data to answer defined research questions
  - To undertake quantitative analysis of collected or existing data
  - To apply qualitative research methods, e.g. data collection by interviews
  - To assist in the knowledge exchange and innovation of results, including, in particular, support for implementation of care interventions, and also the production of high-quality academic articles and reports
  - To support research preparation activities, such ethics application and research governance
- Contribute to a national peer network of dementia researchers from across the 15 NIHR ARCs nationally, including attending at least 2 in person meetings per year.
- Working with the Implementation manager for the ARC KSS Living Well with Dementia theme to support the implementation of research across the region and nationally
- To support the involvement of public and patients in the research and associated activities including co-production of research where relevant.
- To help colleagues with associated research funding proposals

- To provide other research activities as they become necessary
- Suitable candidates have the option to continue to practice clinical care for Dementia in Kent up to 0.4FTE at Kent and Medway NHS and Social Care Partnership Trust, being accountable to the appropriate clinical team decided on appointment.

Such other duties, commensurate with the grading of the post that may be assigned by the Head of Department or their nominee.

### Health, Safety & Wellbeing Considerations

This role involves undertaking duties which include the Health, Safety and wellbeing issues outlined below. Please be aware of these, when considering your suitability for the role.

- Regular use of Screen Display Equipment
- Vocational driving on & off campus (travel to/from research interviews)
- Lone interviewing for fieldwork

### Internal & External Relationships

**Internal:** CHSS and KMMS team members; academic and administrative colleagues; internal University of Kent departments (e.g. research services).

**External:** Other ARCs nationally, other NIHR infrastructure organisations, School for Social Care Research and other research organisations. Key stakeholders including Local authorities; local and national health and social care agencies; research participants; research funders; service user/care research advisors; international academics and stakeholders' organisations involved in the research advisory groups; publishers and journals' editors.

### Person Specification

The Person Specification details the necessary skills, qualifications, experience or other attributes needed to carry out the job. Please be aware that your application will be measured against the criteria published below.

Selection panels will be looking for clear evidence and examples in your application, or in your cover letter where applicable, which back-up any assertions you make in relation to each criterion.

| Qualifications / Training  | Essential | Desirable | Assessed via* |
|--|-----------|-----------|---------------|
| A PhD, or equivalent (e.g. MD, DClin etc) in Dementia research or a relevant subject                 | ✓         |           | A             |
| Appropriate clinical registration and training – providing care in Dementia                          |           | ✓         | A             |
| Experience / Knowledge   | Essential | Desirable | Assessed via* |
| Quantitative and/or qualitative research methods and their application                               | ✓         |           | A, I          |
| Experience in dementia research or relevant field as a postdoctoral researcher or equivalent         |           | ✓         |               |
| Experience in conducting evaluations and analysis of care and/or health or social care interventions |           | ✓         | A, I          |
| Understanding of dementia and regional care provision for those living with dementia                 | ✓         |           | A, I          |
| Undertaking high-quality research in this or a related field   |           | ✓         | A, I          |

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|--|------------------|------------------|----------------------|
| Implementation methods, including roll-out and scaling-up of trial/pilot interventions                   |                  | ✓                | A, I                 |
| Involvement and engagement of public/patients in research  |                  | ✓                | A, I                 |
| <b>Skills / Abilities</b>  | <b>Essential</b> | <b>Desirable</b> | <b>Assessed via*</b> |
| Excellent interpersonal, presentation and communication skills   | ✓                |                  | I                    |
| Statistical and data analytic skills (e.g. use of statistical analysis software or qualitative analysis) | ✓                |                  | A, I                 |
| Evidence of ability to write research reports, journal articles, and other written outputs (e.g. blogs)  | ✓                |                  | A, I                 |
| <b>Additional Attributes</b>   | <b>Essential</b> | <b>Desirable</b> | <b>Assessed via*</b> |
| Willingness to contributing fully and flexibly as part of the ARC programme                              | ✓                |                  | I                    |
| Willingness to learn new research methods and skills with support and training                           | ✓                |                  | I                    |
| Ability to work independently and as part of a team  | ✓                |                  | I                    |
| Willingness to travel at least twice a year to national peer meetings hosted at other ARCs               | ✓                |                  |                      |

\*Criterion to be assessed via:

A = application form or CV/cover letter

I = interview questions

T = test or presentation at interview