

Developing child health research and paediatric research capacity is a priority area for the RCPCH.

Research in child health and services lags behind that of other medical specialties, despite the potential for substantial impact on life-long health. This reflects lack of critical mass and falling capacity across the NHS for activities that are not delivering direct clinical care.

Research into child health and services is vital to ensure that children and young people are receiving the best care. Research has long been supported and recognised by clinicians for its importance in healthcare, and a growing body of evidence is now demonstrating that research-active hospitals have better patient outcomes.

In 2019, the RCPCH developed a child health research strategy which aims to:

- ensure child health research is given the same priority as adult research
- ensure a strong child health evidence base which can lead to improved healthcare outcomes and provision to children
- advocate for child health research and work with RCPCH members, research funders and organisations to develop funding and research opportunities
- support a research skilled workforce, and skilled child health research leaders, to drive forward research and improve patient outcomes

Role details

- The post-holder is accountable to the Vice President for Science and Research
- Term of Office: 3 years (with possibility to extend for a further 2 years)

Eligibility

Applicants must be Fellows or Ordinary Members who have a CCT normally resident in the UK or Republic of Ireland.

The RCPCH wants to represent all the communities we serve. Appointment will be made solely on merit. However, the College is particularly keen to receive

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applications from black, Asian and minority ethnic candidates, who are currently under-represented at this level of the organisation.

Role purpose and responsibility

The primary focus of the role is to support the Vice President for Science and Research to operationalise the RCPCH's research strategy to strengthen promote, expand and develop child health and paediatric research across the UK. This will include supporting the collaboration and engagement with a range of stakeholders who have a role in delivering this.

This post is an opportunity for an individual with experience of carrying out research in a range of disciplines and methodologies and wants to play an active role in implementing and operationalising the RCPCH's research strategy.

The Officer for Research will support the Vice President for Science and Research to ensure the RCPCH is represented on external groups, working parties, and other groups dealing with child health research and will work with College teams who support the delivery of this work.

The Officer for Research will also provide support and guidance to co-ordinate responses to consultation documents which relate to the child health research agenda.

Specific responsibilities include:

- Working closely with the Vice President for Science and Research, operationalise a range of activities including trainee network events and academic training days.
- Supporting the development of and providing input into a range of research projects at the RCPCH to ensure a robust methodology and to manage associated risks.
- Providing advice on the dissemination of findings of research projects in relevant publications and journals to widen the impact and reach of the RCPCH's research projects.
- Supporting the development and implementation of the RCPCH's research strategy and priorities and advocating for the development of child health research.
- Supporting the Vice President for Science and Research to build on relationships in place to influence key decision makers such as drafting consultation responses and position statements, representing the RCPCH at external meetings and building collaborations with external partners.
- Developing ideas to increase members' engagement on research activities and collaborations through bespoke internal and external communications.
- Providing advice on and input into collaborative research projects which the RCPCH is asked to participate in.

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- Supporting the development of College-wide/National projects and reports.
- Working with Children and Young People's Engagement Team to embed the patient voice in all stages of research projects.
- A member of the Research Consultation Committee, Academic Training Committee, and UK Child Health Research Collaboration.

It is estimated that on average one day per week will be required to carry out these duties, some of which may be professional leave. Much of the work can be undertaken out of working hours by email and teleconferencing.

Working relationships

The Officer for Research will report into the Vice President for Science and Research. The Officer for Research will work with other Officers such as the Officer for Clinical Standards and Quality Improvement, Officer for Genomics, Officer for Workforce and a number of clinical leads in the delivery of this portfolio. The Officer for Research will liaise with other senior officers but particularly with the Vice President for Health Policy who has responsibility for health policy development and service reconfiguration.

Time commitment

Committee members will be required to attend 13 half-day meetings per year and devote sufficient time to the role to meet the demands of the role. You may be asked to represent the Committees at other internal or external meetings of the College. Meetings will normally be held online or in London.

Support provided from the College

Executive Director of Research and Quality Improvement and relevant team managers including the Head of Research and Evidence and other relevant managers in the Research and Evidence team.

Members will be reimbursed for the cost of travelling expenses (in line with the College's expenses policy) and subsistence to attend College meetings. Remote attendance options may also be offered for some meetings.

Knowledge, skills and experience required

The post calls for significant experience, understanding and knowledge of child health research across a range of disciplines and methodologies, interest and knowledge of the government agenda and of the quality of clinical practice, care and standards required to deliver the best and safest care for children and young people.

Experience of RCPCH activities and committee business would also be advantageous.

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Essential:

- [Member of the College in Good Standing with RCPCH](#) (Ordinary member or Fellow)
- Has attended [Equality, Diversity and Inclusion](#) training within the last 3 years.
- Registered for and up to date with CPD.
- Active in Clinical Practice, i.e. neither retired nor suspended from practice
Commitment to the RCPCH and willingness to take an interest in all areas of the organisation.
- Experience and a track record of undertaking high quality research in child health.
- Track record in leading and being awarded research grants.
- Evidence of publishing in peer-reviewed journals and of dissemination of research.
- Excellent communicator and experience of high-level engagement with key decision makers, senior people and other influential organisations involved in developing child health research.
- Well-organised and able to work with officers and staff across the College to embed an research and evidence-based approach.
- Advanced IT literacy.

Desirable:

- Working knowledge and understanding of RCPCH structure and function.

Process

Applications for roles should be submitted electronically at [volunteering opportunities](#) no later than the closing date. Your CV should also be uploaded, and we will ask you to include a statement of up to 250 words outlining the relevant experience and reasons for applying to the post.

When undertaking a role at RCPCH all role holders must agree to respect and uphold the charitable objects, vision, and values of the RCPCH and uphold the [code of conduct](#) which embodies of the values that the RCPCH holds the breaking of which could lead to sanction. Core to RCPCH's values is the exemplary behaviour of its members, both as professionals and also as individuals.

Appointed candidates will be asked to [register their interests](#). This is to ensure that personal circumstances that might compromise a volunteer's ability to be seen as acting correctly are properly disclosed.

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The role holder must be committed to following the College's safer working practices guidelines when working with children, young people and adults at risk.

Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility, with the role holder required to comply with the College's Safeguarding policy. Appointed candidates must also have attended Equality, Diversity and Inclusion training within the last 3 years.

The College may – at its discretion and with the agreement of the candidates – choose to offer this role as a job-share between more than one candidate once the appointment process is complete. Details will be discussed with candidates at the time should this arise.

The RCPCH wants to represent all the communities we serve and are dedicated to creating an inclusive working environment. The College is particularly keen to receive applications from those who belong to an underrepresented group as defined in the equality act 2010, including age, disability, sex, race, religion or belief, gender reassignment, married or in a civil partnership, pregnancy/parental leave, or sexual orientation.

The College is a disability confident leader, please let us know if you require any reasonable adjustments or accommodations as a result of a disability, impairment or health condition.

Members can also receive support to cover the costs of caring responsibilities, where these responsibilities would otherwise prevent them from undertaking voluntary work for the College, as per the [removing barriers](#) fund. Claims must be submitted using the appropriate form and the College should be made aware of these requests at least a month in advance. For further information please contact edi@rcpch.ac.uk.

Eligible candidates who have the required knowledge, skills and experience may be invited to attend an interview either at the College's Offices or via tele-conferencing.

Personal information about unsuccessful candidates will be held for 6 months after the position has been filled, it will then be securely destroyed. Personal information about successful candidates will be retained on their membership file. The information contained in this will be kept secure and will only be used for purposes directly relevant to that person's responsibilities as a committee member. Please also refer to the [membership privacy notice](#) which explains how we will use the data we collect from you.

Dr Jan Dudley
Registrar
2025

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