

# RCPCH and Newlife Clinical Research Fellowship Award

September 2019

## Research Focus

The field of childhood disability is an area of increasing research focus and this award supports research in childhood disability. It can be in any area of translational or applied research such as clinical studies, epidemiology or health services delivery, affecting disabled children.

Newlife, the Charity for Disabled Children has a specific focus on improving the lives of disabled children, both through direct support of affected individuals and their families, and through research. Newlife's focus on care services, includes a national helpline run by experienced nurses providing information to families and professionals caring for disabled and terminally ill children, coupled with the provision of specialist equipment which often is required in an emergency. Many thousands of children with disabilities caused by a huge range of medical conditions have benefitted from Newlife and that information is available for research analysis. The genetic causes of many birth defects have been elucidated through its research programme supported by more than £18M of grant awards. The Charity is now seeking to move towards applied research through its collaboration with the RCPCH.

The RCPCH is committed to strengthening basic science and clinical research and the development of devices, medicines and technologies that address the needs of children; as well as supporting our members and growing and promoting opportunities for research within the career of a paediatrician. The RCPCH identified disability as a priority area for research through a series of stakeholder engagement events. The Fellowship award will thus reflect the priorities of both organisations.

## Purpose of the Post

The joint RCPCH and Newlife Postdoctoral Fellowship is a three-year award for a talented researcher to make a real impact in the field of childhood disabilities. The award will support the researcher in their skills and career development as they develop independence.

## Funding available

The Fellowship provides a salary, commensurate with the stage of training, up to but not including NHS Consultant level, research expenses and travel costs at an appropriate level for the research.

The award is limited to a total of £263,000 over a three-year period.

## Person, project, place

As with all Fellowships, applications will be subject to an external review process with the final decision being taken after interviews of short-listed candidates. Person, project and place will all be assessed during the process (refer to the section 'Application process'). Applicants will need to demonstrate that they have the relevant experience and expertise to undertake the research proposed, meeting the criteria specified below under "Requirements". Individual development is a strong element of any Fellowship; applicants will show how the training they receive will equip them to develop their skills and understanding in the field of paediatric disability research. Successful applicants will be based in a UK Higher Education Institution with a strong track record of research in the project's field. It is expected that the Host Institution will offer appropriate supervision and mentoring to the successful applicant, as well as administrative support, and not unduly burden the applicant with either teaching or administrative duties.

# Key Responsibilities

To lead and undertake research of the highest quality in one of the identified areas of childhood disability.

## Research Duties

- To lead the planning and manage the research, including risk management and quality assurance, with support from the Fellow's supervisor
- To be responsible for ensuring that data is accurate, up-to-date and complete
- To continue to develop a personal programme of research (where applicable; develop research proposals, funding bids, supervising a research team)
- To develop contacts and research collaborations within the RCPCH and the wider community
- To present and publish findings in peer-reviewed journals and to colleagues at conferences
- To attend relevant workshops and present at international conferences as appropriate.
- To undertake public and patient engagement with RCPCH and Newlife to disseminate the work as broadly as possible

## Management

- To appropriately manage the resources allocated to the Fellowship award with the support of the Host Institution
- Submit regular progress reports to the RCPCH as per contract stipulations.

## Teaching and/or clinical responsibilities

- As part of a full-time award, Fellows may spend up to six hours a week on other commitments (e.g. teaching, demonstrating, other funded projects)
- Clinical sessions may be undertaken when they contribute to research activity; routine clinical work is not supported as part of this Fellowship.

## Other Duties

- To undertake appropriate administrative tasks
- To attend relevant meetings
- To undertake any necessary training and/or development.

<b>Requirements</b>	<b>Essential (E)/ Desirable (D)</b>
Candidates/post holders will be expected to demonstrate the following:	

<b>Education</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>MD/PhD in a related field of study (must be conferred by the start date of the Fellowship)</li> </ul>	E
<b>Experience</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Demonstrate knowledge of your proposed area of research with practical experience within a research environment</li> </ul>	E
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Demonstrate knowledge of research methods and statistical procedures</li> </ul>	E
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A record of high-quality publications in international peer-reviewed journals commensurate with experience</li> </ul>	E
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Presentation of work at significant conferences commensurate with experience</li> </ul>	E
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Demonstrate appropriate technical skills to perform research in their field</li> </ul>	E
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Evidence of having made a contribution to writing research proposals</li> </ul>	D
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Evidence of teaching support</li> </ul>	D
<b>Skills &amp; Abilities</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ability to produce an original and innovative research proposal which addresses the strategic themes of the Fellowship scheme</li> </ul>	E
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ability to work independently and manage own workload</li> </ul>	E
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ability to conduct a detailed review of recent literature</li> </ul>	E
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Excellent verbal communication skills and the ability to deal with a wide range of people</li> </ul>	E
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Excellent written communication skills and the ability to write clearly and succinctly for publication</li> </ul>	E
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Advanced computer skills, including word-processing, spreadsheets and the Internet</li> </ul>	E
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ability to work with stakeholders (including children and young people) in the development and delivery of research</li> </ul>	E
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ability to direct and motivate others to produce a high standard of work</li> </ul>	D

Personal Attributes	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Willingness to work as part of a team and to be open-minded and cooperative</li> </ul>	E
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Excellent understanding of data confidentiality and security</li> </ul>	E
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Willingness to undertake any necessary training for the role</li> </ul>	E
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Willingness to travel both within the United Kingdom and abroad to conduct research and attend conferences</li> </ul>	E

# Application process

Please apply by completing the application form which can be found on the RCPCH website. All applications will be assessed against the following criteria:

## Suitability of individual/Person

- relevant experience and expertise

## Quality of application/Project

- clear indication of the engagement of patients and public in defining the scope of the proposal and any aspects that relate to clinical activity
- research merit and contribution to knowledge
- robust and appropriate methodology
- potential to build upon, and add value to, the existing evidence base and stimulate research

## Project delivery/Place

- appropriate project management, including risk management and quality assurance
- clear work plan with realistic milestones, clear deliverables
- track record of Group/Institution in which the Fellow will be based
- access to relevant equipment and facilities
- clear statements of access to training opportunities relevant to project

## Impact and dissemination

- strong evidence of engagement with relevant stakeholders (including children and young people) at the project planning and inception stages through to completion of the project
- evidence of considered and realistic engagement and dissemination plans to maximise clinical, academic, societal or economic impact, and the potential benefits to Child Health
- the likely impact of the project on Child Health

## Value for money

- reasonable and fully justified costs for the specified project