1. Advertisement

Post title: Research Fellow in HIV and Neurology  
School/department: Brighton and Sussex Medical School, Department of Global Health & Infection (GHI)  
Hours: Full time. Requests for flexible working options will be considered (subject to business need).  
Contract: One year fixed term  
Reference: 4004  
Salary: starting at £33,797 to £40,322 per annum  
Closing date: 16 September 2020. Applications must be received by midnight of the closing date.  
Expected start date: January 2021

The HIV group of the Brighton and Sussex Centre for Global Health Research is looking for a highly motivated post-doctoral research fellow to provide high quality neurosciences expertise into conducting and analysing brain imaging (MRI) data from clinical studies of people living with HIV.

The successful applicant will have:

- An established record of technical skills applicable to human neuroscience and experience in the analysis and presentation of experimental research.
- Applicants must have a PhD in a relevant neuroscientific discipline.
- Experience in human neuroimaging, including MRI data acquisition and fMRI analytic platforms (e.g. SPM, FSL, AFNI) is desirable.
- Similarly, experience in conducting clinical investigations, particularly if relevant to people accessing neurological or mental health services, is highly desirable.

Informal enquiries about the projects should be directed to Dr Jaime Vera Rojas (j.vera@bsms.ac.uk) +441273 523087. Candidates are encouraged to familiarize themselves with the range of research activity undertaken from the HIV group and collaborators within BSMS.

For full details and how to apply see:

www.sussex.ac.uk/jobs www.brighton.ac.uk/jobs www.bsms.ac.uk

HIV Research Fellow BSMS

V1.0, 2020
The Universities of Brighton and Sussex are committed to equality and valuing diversity, and applications are particularly welcomed from women and black and minority ethnic candidates, who are under-represented in academic posts in science, mathematics, medicine and engineering at the universities.

HIV Clinical Research Group

Brighton has a high HIV sero-prevalence (13.7% in men who have sex with men) and has one of the largest cohorts of HIV positive individuals in the UK with over 2350 patients currently under follow up. Outpatient services are located at the Lawson Unit and inpatients are currently cared for in a 6-bedded ward – Howard 2. There are strong links with neighbouring clinics via the Sussex HIV Network, including those in Hastings, Eastbourne, Crawley, Worthing and Chichester. The department has a large clinical research unit based in the Elton John Centre in Sussex House on the RSCH site. The Unit is nationally and internationally recognized for its contribution to HIV research and participates in a large number of HIV studies, both commercially sponsored and funded by external bodies supporting both local and collaborative studies, PhD students from both GUM/HIV and other disciplines which overlap, another clinical academic posts. The unit strives to collaborate further and proactively engage a Sussex research network. The department is managed by Celia Richardson. The pharmaceutical clinical trial portfolio is led operationally by Dr Amanda Clarke, and the academic lead for HIV is Dr Jaime Vera Rojas.

HIV is one of the strongest research areas within the Kent, Surrey and Sussex. The current research portfolio centers around the following areas:

- HIV and ageing
- HIV and the Brain
- Global Health and HIV
- Phase 2/3/4 development of antiretroviral agents
- HIV prevention strategies

The Global Health and Infection Department
The department works in close partnership with our parent universities (the Universities of Brighton and Sussex) to develop novel opportunities for research in order to help improve health and health equity globally.

We collaborate with the Centre for Global Health Policy at the University of Sussex and with the prestigious Institute of Development Studies (IDS), on the University campus. Sussex, with IDS, was recently ranked the top University in Europe for Development Studies by the QS University World Rankings, second only to Harvard globally. Opportunities to collaborate with colleagues at these institutions are facilitated through a Global Health Network that meets regularly and organises a seminar series and an annual conference.

We also work in partnership with community organisations, universities and non-governmental organisations based locally and internationally. For instance, we have a Health Link with the Medical School and University Teaching Hospital in Lusaka, Zambia, which supports educational activities such as staff and student exchanges, and we are now developing a similar link with the Universidad del Valle de Guatemala.

As part of the Brighton and Sussex Centre for Global Health Research we have research partnerships with academic institutions in seven countries that you can read about here and here.

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We are responsive to the needs identified by our partners and strive to grow alongside our partners' in our capacity for research and research management.

2. Senior leadership and management

The Vice-Chancellor (Professor Adam Tickell) is the senior academic officer and, as Chief Executive, is responsible to the University Council for management of the University. He is supported by an executive group, which includes the Deputy Vice-Chancellor, the three Pro-Vice-Chancellors, the Chief Operating Officer, the Director of Finance and the Director of Human Resources. The Heads of the Schools of Studies at Sussex report to the Deputy Vice-Chancellor.

The Chief Operating Officer heads the Professional Services of the University. In addition, under the University Statutes, the Chief Operating Officer is Secretary to the University
3. Brighton and Sussex Medical School and partners

Brighton and Sussex Medical School is an equal partnership between the Universities of Sussex and Brighton together with NHS organisations throughout the South East region. Find out more at: bsms.ac.uk/about

The University of Sussex is a leading research-intensive university near Brighton, currently ranked top 20 in all major league tables. Find out more: http://www.sussex.ac.uk/about/

The University of Brighton is a complex and diverse institution with a long and distinguished history of applied research. Find out more: brighton.ac.uk/about-us/

Brighton and Sussex University Hospitals Trust is the regional teaching hospital working across two sites: the Royal Sussex County Hospital in Brighton and the Princess Royal Hospital in Haywards Heath. Find out more: bsuh.nhs.uk/about-us/

Sussex Partnership NHS Foundation Trust specialises in working with people who are experiencing mental health difficulties and those with learning disabilities, across Sussex, Kent and Hampshire. Find out more: sussexpartnership.nhs.uk/about-us
4. **Job Description**

**Job Title:** Research Fellow in HIV and Brain Imaging  
**Grade:** Research Fellow I, Grade 7  
**School:** Brighton and Sussex Medical School  
**Location:** University of Sussex campus  
**Responsible to:** Principal Investigator through to Head of School  
**Direct reports:** Dr Jaime Vera Rojas, Senior Lecturer in HIV  
**Key contacts:** Members of research group, members of faculty within the Department, School and University.

**Role description:** Research Fellow I is an early career-grade research position. Post-holders will be expected to contribute to the work of the research team, and also to develop their research skills with support from more experienced members of staff.

**Purpose of the post:**

Research Fellow I is an early career-grade research position. Post-holders will be expected to contribute to the work of the HIV research team, and also to develop their research skills with support from more experienced members of staff. Specifically, the post-holder will work on clinically-oriented research studies that examines the impact of combination antiretroviral therapy on brain function using brain imaging (MRI) approaches as well as cognitive function and blood markers of neuroinflammation.

The work is funded by Gilead Sciences and will be undertaken within BSMS under the direction of Dr Jaime Vera (Clinical Senior Lecturer in HIV Medicine), Professor Mara Cercignani (Professor of Imaging Neuroscience and Academic Director of Clinical Imaging Sciences Centre (CISC)) and Dr Charlotte Rae (Lecturer in Psychology). The research will capitalise on the technical facilities and expertise offered via CISC and on opportunities to access to clinical populations via the HIV clinical research unit in Brighton.
PRINCIPAL ACCOUNTABILITIES:

1. To contribute to the research activity of brain imaging (MRI) studies in people with HIV from study set up, recruitment, data collection and management through to analysis

2. To engage in individual and/or collaborative research activity and contribute to the production of research outputs for publications.

3. To develop research funding and knowledge exchange income if possible, individually or in collaboration with others, as appropriate, depending on the size and scope of the bid.

KEY RESPONSIBILITIES

1. Research, Scholarship & Enterprise

1.1 Develop research objectives and proposals for own or joint research, at acceptable levels, with assistance if required.

1.2 Conduct research projects individually and in collaboration with others

1.3 Analyse and interpret research findings and draw conclusions on the outcomes.

1.4 Contribute to the writing of reports and other dissemination activities

1.5 Contribute to the preparation of proposals and applications to external bodies, for example for funding purposes.

1.6 Build internal contacts and participate in internal networks and relevant external networks in order to form relationships and collaborations.

1.7 Continually update knowledge and understanding in field or specialism, and engage in continuous professional development.

2. Teaching & Student Support

2.1 Assist in the supervision of student projects and provide guidance to those assisting in the research.

3. Contribution to School & University

3.1 Attend and contribute to relevant School and project meetings.

3.2 Undertake additional duties, as required by the Principal Investigator and/or Head of School.
4. Role-specific duties

The post provides an outstanding opportunity for a neuroscientist to apply research skills and techniques including neuroimaging to understanding the impact of HIV in the brain and the effects of combination antiretroviral therapy on brain function and cognition. The post-holder will join a rich research environment within The Brighton and Sussex Centre for Global Health and the HIV clinical Research Unit, Elton John Centre located at the Royal Sussex County Hospital. She/he will be located at the Research Building of Brighton and Sussex Medical School, University of Sussex Campus at Falmer.

The successful applicant will be expected to have an emerging record of quality research publications, technical skills applicable to human neuroscience and experience in the analysis and presentation of experimental research. Applicants must have a PhD in a relevant neuroscientific discipline. Experience in human neuroimaging, including MRI data acquisition and fMRI analytic platforms (e.g. SPM, FSL, AFNI) is desirable.

The main priorities for the appointment are:

Research

The applicant will undertake research relevant to the specified goals of the HIV group

1. Contribute to, and undertake, neuroscientific studies in humans requiring clinical participant recruitment, selection, experimental design, data acquisition and analysis and writing, presentation and publication of findings.

2. Collaborate with other clinical, health services and biomedical researchers within the Medical School and relevant NHS trusts (Sussex Partnership NHS Foundation Trust and Brighton and Sussex University Hospital Trust). The postholder should be able to work closely and co-operatively with other researchers and clinicians, involving them as appropriate in the research projects.

3. To initiate and assist technically in the running and overseeing of specific research studies within The Brighton and Sussex Centre for Global Health

In addition to undertaking clinical brain imaging (MRI) studies in people living with HIV, the postdoctoral scientist will be expected to assist with aspects of research administration including application for ethical approval of new studies and ensuring compliance with data protection legislation. This will involve the ability to act as an independent agent in setting up
appointments and telephone calls and in the general co-ordination of arrangements for research subjects and patients/carers involved in clinical studies.

General

Ensure the highest standard of record keeping, maintaining accurate and appropriate research patient records, including strict confidentiality.

Attend departmental and other meetings as appropriate.

As duties and responsibilities change, the job description may be reviewed and amended in consultation with the post-holder.

The postholder will carry out any other duties as are within the scope, spirit and purpose of the job as requested by the line manager (Dr Jaime Vera Rojas).

The postholder will actively follow BSMS policies of the Universities of Sussex and Brighton, including Equal Opportunities policies.

This Job Description sets out current duties of the post that may vary from time to time without changing the general character of the post or level of responsibility entailed.

INDICATIVE PERFORMANCE CRITERIA

- Pursuing a line of independent research within a research group.
- Publishing research (either from a recently completed PhD or new original research).
- Initiating, developing or participating in links between the University and external bodies such as business and industry, the professions, community organisations and policy-makers.
- Undertake research by preparing, setting up, conducting and recording the outcomes.
- Manage and analyse data and prepare written reports and summaries.
- Maintain and store project files and equipment as per health and safety and data regulations.
PERSON SPECIFICATION

ESSENTIAL CRITERIA

1. Educated to doctoral level, or other equivalent qualification, or appropriate level of experience, as appropriate to the discipline (see role-specific criteria below).
2. Evidence of engagement in high-quality research activity in neuroscience
3. Excellent presentation skills, with the ability to communicate effectively, both orally and in writing, with students, colleagues and external audiences.
4. Ability to work individually on own initiative and without close supervision, and as part of a team.
5. Ability to exercise a degree of innovation and creative problem-solving.
6. Excellent organisational and administrative skills.
7. Ability to prioritise and meet deadlines.
8. Excellent IT skills.
9. A DBS check

ESSENTIAL ROLE-SPECIFIC CRITERIA

1. Evidence of technical expertise in human neuroimaging and/or related human neuroscientific methods
2. Computer skills are essential, ideally familiarity with Matlab and/or similar platforms
3. Programming skills necessary for task design and data analysis.
4. Familiarity with neuropsychological testing.
5. Excellent working knowledge of statistical methods.

DESERABLE CRITERIA

1. Emerging track record of high-quality publications in reputable journals and other appropriate media of similar standing.
2. Experience of generating research or knowledge exchange income.
3. Experience of working with clinical populations in a research setting.