

Job Title:	Research Fellow in Breast Cancer Inequalities
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Responsible to:	Dr Afrodita Marcu
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Responsible for:	Not applicable
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Job Summary and Purpose:
To undertake research in accordance with the specified research project(s) under the supervision of the principal investigator.

Main Responsibilities/Activities
To undertake a range of research activities within a specified research area, assuming responsibility for specific areas of projects and making use of new research techniques and methods, in consultation with the research award holder or supervisor. This may include fieldwork, interviews, laboratory experimentation, critical evaluation and interpretation, computer-based data analysis and evaluation or library research. Using initiative and creativity to identify areas for research, develop new research methods and extend the research portfolio. Analysing and interpreting results of own research. Write up results and prepare papers for submission to appropriate journals and conferences, and other outputs as required and/or appropriate. Attend appropriate conferences for the purpose of disseminating research results of personal development. The post holder may also contribute to writing bids for research grants and will contribute to collaborative decision making with colleagues in areas of research. Continually update knowledge and develop skills and translate knowledge of advances in the area into research activity. To plan and manage own research activity in collaboration with others. To carry out administrative tasks associated with specified research funding, for example risk assessment of research activities, organisation of project meetings and documentation. Implementation of procedures required to ensure accurate and timely formal reporting and financial control. To contribute to teaching in the Faculty by carrying out student supervision and/or demonstrating within the post holder's area of expertise and under the direct guidance of a member of departmental academic staff, as appropriate. The post holder may occasionally be required to supervise more junior research staff.

Person Specification

The post holder must have:

A doctoral degree in a relevant discipline (although individuals who have almost completed a doctoral degree may be appointed). Consideration may also be given to individuals who do not hold a doctoral degree but have required skills based on a number of years' experience in specified / relevant fields.

The post holder will have authority over some aspects of project work and must be capable of providing academic judgement, offering original and creative thoughts and be able to interpret and analyse results.

Relationships and Contacts

Direct responsibility to the principal investigator or academic supervisor. The post holder may be asked to serve on a relevant Faculty committee. There may be additional reporting and liaison responsibilities to external funding bodies or sponsors. The post holder may work on original research tasks with colleagues in other institutions.

Special Requirements

To be available to participate in fieldwork as required by the specified research project. A DBS check will be required for the research element of the role.

All staff are expected to:

- Positively support equality of opportunity and equity of treatment to colleagues and students in accordance with the University of Surrey Equal Opportunities policy.
- Help maintain a safe working environment by:
 - Attending training in Health and Safety requirements as necessary, both on appointment and as changes in duties and techniques demand
 - Following local codes of safe working practices and the University of Surrey Health and Safety Policy
- Undertake such other duties within the scope of the post as may be requested by your Manager.

Addendum

This document provides additional information relating to both specific aspects of the post/faculty and any post specific person specification criteria. The information contained within this document should always be read in conjunction with the accompanying generic Job Purpose.

Job Title:

Research Fellow in breast cancer inequalities

Background Information/Relationships

There are inequalities in breast cancer outcomes experienced by women of Black African and Black Caribbean heritage in the UK. Black women tend to be diagnosed with breast cancer at a younger age than White women and with later stage and higher-grade disease. Patient factors such as lower breast cancer awareness than White women and lower frequency of breast self-checks contribute to late diagnoses. We want to test if it is feasible and acceptable to provide breast health awareness to pregnant Black women in ante-natal settings. We have chosen these settings because pregnancy is a “teachable moment” when new health behaviours can be taught, and a time when women are likely to discuss breast changes and receive breast health information. Addressing inequalities in breast cancer is important to improve early diagnosis and to prevent poor health outcomes.

The University of Surrey, in collaboration with King’s College London (KCL), Epsom & St Helier University Hospitals NHS Trust, and Medway NHS Foundation Trust have been awarded funding from the NIHR Research for Patient Benefit (RfPB) Programme to test the feasibility and acceptability of a breast cancer awareness intervention to be delivered to Black women in ante-natal settings.

The University of Surrey is seeking an experienced research fellow to join the project team. The post-holder will be based at Surrey (under the supervision of Dr Afrodita Marcu) and will join a wider team of academics and researchers at the University of Surrey working on this project (Professor Emma Ream, Professor Jo Armes, Dr Pippa Lally, and Professor Heather Gage). The post-holder will also work closely with colleagues at King’s College London and the two study sites to deliver the project. The post-holder will undertake quantitative analysis pertaining to the feasibility outcomes of the trial and qualitative research exploring the acceptability and feasibility of the intervention. They will work with the broader team to identify the mechanisms of change of the intervention, and the key outcome measures on which to power a future RCT.

This 0.80 FTE post is funded for a period of 18 months.

Special Requirements:

n/a

Person Specification

This section describes the sum total of knowledge, experience & competence required by the post holder that is necessary for standard acceptable performance in carrying out this role. This is in addition to the criteria contained within the accompanying generic Job Purpose.

Qualifications and Professional Memberships	Essential/ Desirable
PhD in a relevant social science or healthcare discipline, or be near to completion or equivalent experience	E
Excellent project management skills (IT, organisational and administrative skills)	E
Excellent verbal and written communication skills	E
Ability to work in a team with academics/professionals at all levels (including remote working)	E
Experience of collecting and analysing quantitative and qualitative data	E
Ability to work both independently and collaboratively	E
Highly self-motivated and hardworking	E
Commitment to continuous professional development	E
Fluency in written and spoken English	E
Hands-on team player with strong commitment to rigorous research and the ability to project manage multiple tasks and work to tight deadlines	E
Experience of writing research papers/reports	E
Proven research aptitude and experience	E
Evidence of research interest or expertise in midwifery research or in women's health	D
Evidence of research interest or expertise in feasibility studies	D
Evidence of research interest or expertise relevant to cancer	D
Experience of publishing in health, medical science related journals	D

Key Responsibilities

This document is not designed to be a list of all tasks undertaken but an outline record of any faculty/post specific responsibilities. This should be read in conjunction with those contained within the accompanying generic Job Purpose.

The post holder will be expected to:

- Collect and analyse quantitative and qualitative data.
- Project management and close liaison with all members of the team at the University of Surrey, KCL, Epsom & St Helier, Medway, and the PPI panel
- Carry out administrative tasks associated with the project (e.g. organisation of project meetings and producing/circulating associated documentation);
- Work closely with the study sites to train midwives in trial and intervention delivery and recruit participants for the trial.
- Organise meetings with the project team and trial steering committee.
- Work independently, as well as part of a team, throughout the research. They will be required to problem solve independently, and bring solutions to issues as and when they emerge.
- Work with research team colleagues on report-writing/disseminating findings (including oral/conference presentations) and producing resources to disseminate the work widely;
- Disseminate research findings at national conferences, midwifery research networks, and at events organized by grassroots Black African/Black Caribbean communities and professionals.
- Design and implement procedures required to ensure accurate and timely formal reporting against project milestones.
- Be committed to their own personal career development.
- Carry out any other reasonable duty commensurate with the grade and purpose of the post.
- Contribute to wider school activity by actively participating in group meetings relevant to the work undertaken (e.g. attend monthly meetings of the cancer care group).

N.B. The above list is not exhaustive.