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**Job Description**

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| **Job title** | Research Associate |
| **Department/School** | Department of Psychology |
| **Job family** | Education and Research |
| **Grade** | 7 |
| **Reporting to** | Dr Ben Ainsworth Principal Investigator (PI) |
| **Responsible for** | No staff management responsibilities |
| **Location** | University of Bath premises |

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| **Background and context** |
| We are recruiting a Research Associate to work on an co-participatory intervention development project for patients with Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD).  The successful applicant will be situated within the Bath Centre for Mindfulness and Compassion in the Department of Psychology, at the University of Bath, and will work within a multidisciplinary team of scientists, healthcare professionals, and NHS and industry partners.  We have recently received funding from the Royal United Hospital Bath NHS Foundation Trust to work with digital developers ‘myMHealth’ to develop a mindfulness intervention for people with COPD that will improve their quality of life.  The specific role will use co-participatory approaches and work with clinicians in RUH, patient public involvement (PPI) members to understand key behavioural issues for people with COPD, and develop a prototype version of the intervention that is acceptable, engaging, and accessible to people from diverse ranges of backgrounds.  We then plan to apply for funding from NIHR Research for Patient Benefit (RfPB) to conduct a randomised controlled feasibility trial with the app for people with COPD.  The main objectives are to:   * Establish a patient and public involvement (PPI) service user group * To work with the PPI group and respiratory clinicians to understand the key behavioural issues that underly the intervention * To work with digital intervention developers to develop a prototype version of the app that can be used in a future trial. * To support the drafting of a future funding proposal |

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| **Job purpose** |
| The researchers’ primary role will be to support Dr Ainsworth and Dr Suntharalingam to establish, organise and run the patient and public involvement (PPI) service user group, to work with the PPI group and respiratory clinicians to understand the key behavioural issues that underly the intervention, and to work with digital intervention developers to develop a prototype version of the app that can be used in a future trial. |

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| **Main duties and responsibilities** | |
|  | Responsible to the PI/CI for (as appropriate to discipline): |
| **1** | Conduct individual and/or collaborative research projects. Contribute to the design and execution of the project e.g. timetabling and meeting project milestones; participating in regular discussions with collaborative partners. Generate, collect and analyse existing data related to the project using qualitative and/or quantitative techniques. |
| **2** | Writing up results of research and contributing to the publication of results in high-quality peer-reviewed academic literature. |
| **3** | Disseminating results of research project as appropriate to the discipline through activities such as   * overseas research visits * conference presentations * public engagement activities |
| **4** | Participate in departmental/group meetings and prepare and deliver presentations/seminars to project team, internal and external stakeholders or funders. |
| **5** | Assist with the supervision of postgraduate students and undergraduate project students and the assessment of student knowledge. |
| **6** | Continually update knowledge and understanding in field or specialism to inform research activity. |
| **7** | Identify sources of funding and provide assistance with preparing bids to funding bodies. Develop ability to secure own funding e.g. travel grants. |
| **8** | Contribute to the development of research objectives and proposals for own or joint research projects, with assistance of a mentor, if required. |
| **9** | Disseminate knowledge of research advances to inform departmental teaching. |
|  | You will from time to time be required to undertake other duties of a similar nature as reasonably required by your line manager. You are required to follow all University policies and procedures at all times and take account of University guidance. |

**Person Specification**

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| **Criteria** | **Essential** | **Desirable** |
| **Qualifications** |  |  |
| A PhD degree or equivalent in in psychology, behavioural science, mental health research or a related field | √ |  |
| **Experience/Knowledge** |  |  |
| Experience working with NHS patients and clinicians | √ |  |
| Experience of using qualitative methods | √ |  |
| Experience of using co-participatory approaches to develop interventions | √ |  |
| Demonstrated awareness of latest developments in the field of research | √ |  |
| Demonstrated potential to publish in high quality, peer reviewed journals | √ |  |
| **Skills** |  |  |
| Ability to prepare research proposals, to conduct individual research work and to disseminate results | √ |  |
| Ability to organise and prioritise own workload to meet required deadlines | √ |  |
| Ability to write research reports and to effectively disseminate outcomes | √ |  |
| Excellent oral, interpersonal and written communication skills | √ |  |
| Proficiency in appropriate techniques (as appropriate to discipline) | √ |  |
| Proficiency in IT skills (as appropriate to discipline) | √ |  |
| **Attributes** |  |  |
| Commitment to working within professional and ethical codes of conduct | √ |  |
| Innovation and developing creative solutions | √ |  |
| Self-confidence when communicating with a wide range of stakeholders | √ |  |
| Commitment to safe working practices | √ |  |
| Ability to work independently | √ |  |
| Commitment to excellence in research | √ |  |
| Ability to be an effective team worker | √ |  |