Job Description

Job title	Research Associate
Department/School	Department of Psychology; Bath Centre for Pain Research
Job family	Education & Research
Grade	7 (1 x Part Time 0.6 FTE)
Reporting to	Professor Edmund Keogh
Responsible for	Supporting research project into psychosocial factors in pain
Location	University of Bath

Background and context

The Bath Centre for Pain Research (BCPR) at the University of Bath is the home to a team of interdisciplinary researchers that investigate the effect that pain has on people's lives. It has a focus on exploring the way psychological and social factors impact on pain, and how this understanding might translate into better ways to manage painful conditions. The core areas of work are in: cognitive processes in pain, social factors, child and family, evidence-based medicine and digital development.

The Centre is leading a newly establshed multi-institutional consortium that seeks to better understand how psychosocial mechanisms impact on chronic pain. It will also explore how these factors might work alongside biology, in order to provide a better understanding of pain and how it is managed. The consortium is funded under the Advanced Pain Discovery Platform programme, which is part of a new joint and equal investment of £14 million by UKRI and Versus Arthritis. For UKRI, the initiative is led by the Medical Research Council, with support from the Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council (BBSRC) and Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC). This research programme seeks to scale up research into chronic pain to improve outcomes for the many people living with painful and debilitating conditions.

Post holder
We are seeking to recruit a part time (0.6) research associate post to support the programme of work that we are leading on from Bath. The role will involve conducting literature reviews, participant involvement and work to identify the best psychosocial measures and constructs to include for future collection of pain-related data. It will involve supporting the recruitment, testing and monitoring of people with clinical pain in new studies. At Bath there is a focus on cognitive, emotional and behavoural factors in pain, and studies may include both laboratory-based, as well as clinical pain investigations. There is the possibility of including digital data capture methods, such as online experiments or sensors, to measure pain outcomes.

A key part of this post will be to take a key role in developing methods to bring together the different types of data generated across the whole consortium, including develping a semantic database. This post would therefore involve some software development and coding, and so relevant HCI skills would be an advantage. The post will involve working different datasets, requiring skills in quantatitive data analysis. It will also involve working across the wider consortium to harmonise inclusion of pain related measures and analysis. The post holder will need to take an active part in the work of the whole consortium including through participation at events and workshops, providing support and advice in keeping with their role and level of appointment, as well as engaging with patient and public focus groups and other stakeholders.

Job purpose

To provide subject-specific research expertise and undertake specific research work to the Principal Investigator (PI) and Co-Investigators (CI) at Bath for a specified grant / project.

Main duties and responsibilities

	Responsible to Professor Keogh:
1	Take a key role in developing methods to bring together the different types of data generated across the consortium, in the form of a semantic database
2	Support the development of health-related pain studies, including human experimental laboratory and/or online protocols, as required.
3	Collect and undertake analysis of data related to the project using quantitative techniques, including large datasets.
4	Support systematic/scoping reviews and narrative synthesis of related research, database design for data extraction, selection of studies for review, data manipulation and extraction.
5	Support the recruitment of participants into the studies; identify generic strategies to support recruitment as well as areas of low recruitment and liaise with line managers to overcome difficulties.
6	Manage data collection and storage data for pain studies, in accordance with research governance and data protection requirements, as directed by line managers.
7	Contribute to the dissemination of findings by preparing presentation materials for dissemination at scientific meetings and manscuript submissions to peer-reviewed journals.
8	Liaise, and attend meetings, with relevant key stakeholders e.g. consortium members, paitent groups, volunteers, funders.
10	Being responsible for own work-load, ensuring that deadlines set by funders and line managers are met.
11	Help in the management of the project, including adherence to budget plan, as per protocol, and in conjunction with line managers.
12	Maintain a relevant knowledge of the relevant research practice and regulatory aspects. Ensure a high standard of research is met, improving the quality of those that come into contact with BCPR.

13	Ensure that all work adheres to Open Science principles, meeting the requirements of funders and the Advanced Pain Discovery Platform, and adheres to research governance, data protection and confidentiality protocols.
14	Undertake other duties as required.
15	This job may involve some local and national travel

This job description sets out the main duties and responsibilities. The specific duties may vary according to the needs to the service.

Special conditions
Compliance with all relevant Codes of Practice and regulations for the University and relevant discipline.

Career and Professional Development Activities:
From time to time you may be asked to assist in the facilitation of CPD activities. This will form part of your substantive role and you will not receive additional payment for these activities.

Person Specification

Criteria	Essential	Desirable
Qualifications		
A PhD degree in a subject area of direct relevance for the project e.g., Psychology, Computer Science	√	
Experience/Knowledge		
Demonstrated significant depth and breadth of specialist knowledge of relevant subject matter to contribute to the research programme.	√	
Experience working in relevant research settings e.g., applied clinica/health; cognitive-experimental	√	
Demonstrated potential to publish in high quality, peer reviewed journals	√	
Experience of working in cross disciplinary research settings		√
Knowledge of relevant governance issues in health/clinical psychology research		√
Post doctoral experience		√
Skills		
Proficiency in relevant research techniques (as appropriate to discipline)	√	
Excellent oral, interpersonal and written communication skills	√	
Ability to organise and prioritise own workload	√	
Quantatitive methods and analysis	√	
Software development and coding skills, and/or relevant HCI skills	√	
Interest in machine learning, and applied use of AI		√
Proficiency in IT skills including Office, statistical (e.g., SPSS, R), and expriemental software development (e.g., PsychoPy, e-prime)		√
Experimental and/or clinical health research design and methods		√
Attributes		
Commitment to working within professional and ethical codes of conduct	√	

Organised – able to plan and deliver work to meet required deadlines	√	
Ability to be an effective team worker	√	
Self-motivated and show initiative	√	
Flexible attitude and ability to respond to changing circumstances	√	
Tenacity – working to achieve own and team objectives and to overcome obstacles		√