ICR The Institute of Cancer Research

Research Group Leader

The Institute of Cancer Research Clinical Trials and Statistics Unit (ICR-CTSU)

Feburary 2025

The Institute of Cancer Research

About our organisation

We are one of the world's most influential cancer research institutes with an outstanding record of achievement dating back more than 100 years. We are world leaders in identifying cancer genes, discovering cancer drugs and developing precision radiotherapy. Together with our hospital partner The Royal Marsden, we are rated in the top four centres for cancer research and treatment worldwide. As well as being a world-class institute, we are a college of the University of London.

We came second in the league table of university research quality compiled from the Research Excellence Framework (REF 2021). We have charitable status and rely on support from partner organisations, charities, donors and the general public.

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We have more than 1000 staff and postgraduate students across three sites – in Chelsea and Sutton.

Division of Clinical Studies

Clinical Trials and Statistics Unit (ICR-CTSU)

The ICR-CTSU is a Cancer Research UK-funded, internationally recognised methodologist led clinical trials unit, providing cancer-focused clinical trial research expertise. We lead pioneering, efficient, high-quality, and impactful trials across the phases.

Our expertise ranges from experimental medicine early phase studies exploring biological efficacy to trials which may deliver widespread change to routine practice, underpinned by applied methodology to drive forward clinical trial innovation.

See our clinical trials

Our 2023-2027 research strategy

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ROLE SUMMARY

The Group Leader will lead a component of ICR-CTSU's portfolio of clinical trials research. The post holder will further develop and grow the portfolio in line with ICR-CTSU's overall strategy and take responsibility for a number of ongoing trials as well as the development of new trials.

We seek an experienced biostatistician with a strong research interest in clinical trials methodology and a passion for direct involvement in the oversight and leadership of academic clinical trials. The successful candidate will work closely with the Director of ICR-CTSU to further enhance the Unit's internationally recognised strength in clinical trial design, conduct and analysis. The post holder will be expected to make a substantial independent intellectual contribution to clinical trials projects and be proactive in leading and contributing to broad initiatives that enhance the overall effectiveness of ICR-CTSU. The appointee will contribute to the overall scientific life of The ICR including the newly established ICR/Royal Marsden Hospital's Centre for Trials and Population Data Science, by providing mentorship to more junior colleagues and acting as an academic leader.

We seek an individual who will work closely and collaborate with other faculty at ICR and with international/national key opinion leaders to extend the breadth and depth of ICR-CTSU's biologically rich clinical trials portfolio. In partnership with clinical opinion leaders, s/he will generate research funds to conduct and deliver clinical trials research at the international forefront. Presentation at national and international conferences, production of top-quality research outputs and substantial professional contribution to wider clinical trial network bodies are expected. Enthusiasm for team-based science in a collaborative interdisciplinary environment is essential.

The appointment will be based on track record and the ability and willingness to engage in team science. The successful appointee will have access to ICR's successful PhD training programme and core facilities.

Our mission is to make the discoveries that defeat cancer.

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Our values

The ICR has a highly skilled and committed workforce, with a wide variety of roles, each requiring different skills. But whether you work as a researcher, or work as part of our corporate team, your work and behaviour is underpinned by these six values. They are what bring us together as one team - as 'One ICR'.

Pursuing excellence

We aspire to excellence in everything we do, and aim to be leaders in our field.

Acting with Integrity

We promote an open and honest environment that gives credit and acknowledges mistakes, so that our actions stand up to scrutiny.

Valuing all our people

We value the contribution of all our people, help them reach their full potential, and treat everyone with kindness and respect.

Working together

We collaborate with colleagues and partners to bring together different skills, resources and perspectives.

Leading innovation

We do things differently in ways that no one else has done before, and share the expertise and learning we gain.

Making a difference

We all play our part, doing a little bit more, a little bit better, to help improve the lives of people with cancer.

Our values set out how each of us at the ICR, works together to meet our mission – to make the discoveries that defeat cancer. *They summarise our desired behaviours, attitudes and culture – how we value one another and how we take pride in the work we do, to deliver impact for people with cancer and their loved ones."*

Professor Kristian Helin
Chief Executive

Research Group Leader

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Job description

Department / division:	Division of Clinical Studies, Clinical Trials and Statistics Unit (ICR-CTSU)
Pay grade / staff group:	Career Faculty/Career Development Faculty
Hours / duration:	Full time (35 hours per week), Monday to Friday.
Reports to:	Professor Emma Hall, Director of ICR-CTSU
Location:	Sutton

Duties and responsibilities:

Statistical Leadership

- Lead a research team in the design, conduct and analysis of clinical trials consistent with ICR-CTSU's research strategy.
    - As an ICR-CTSU Scientific/Methodology Lead, have a key role in defining the study question, overseeing development of statistically efficient trial designs, including novel considerations to trial design and endpoint evaluation as required;
    - Liaise with scientists collaborating on associated studies (e.g. predictive biomarker studies, imaging studies) contributing to development of associated protocols and grant proposals;
    - Have overall responsibility for interim and final statistical analyses.
- Actively participate in the scientific management of ICR-CTSU's trials portfolio.
- Prepare results for presentation and publication in learned journals and at national and international conferences.
- Obtain additional funding for appropriate research areas through writing proposals for clinical trial project grants, trials methodology project/programme grants, PhD studentships, or through the engagement of external commercial partners.
- Lead statistical / clinical trial methodology collaborations with academic and commercial partners.
- Motivate, supervise, train and mentor members of the team, including statisticians, and PhD students in support of their professional development as independent researchers.

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Scientific Innovation

- To work with statistical colleagues to develop novel or to modify existing statistical methodology as required for design and analysis challenges. This may include own research or collaboration with others with similar interests (e.g. through the Medical Research Council Hubs for Trials Methodology Research Network or the UKCRC Registered Clinical Trials Units) to develop professional specialism.
- Explore opportunities for secondary analyses using ICR-CTSU-held trial data-sets. This may include supervision of MSc, MD or PhD projects.
- Explore opportunities for appropriate analysis of data from similar studies to enable systematic overview or meta-analysis.
- Undertake and disseminate associated methodology research / development work within the framework of the wider research group and The Centre for Trials and Population Data Science Research.

Continued Professional Development

- Enhance professional development by contributing to relevant research meetings .
- Contribute to academic peer review process for journals and/or grant giving bodies and/or to the activities of professional societies.
- Keep abreast of developments in relevant statistical fields through literature review and conference/meeting attendance e.g. meetings of the Royal Statistical Society, International Society for Clinical Biostatistics, UKCRC Registered CTU Statisticians.

Duties within the wider institutional context

- Contribute to ICR clinical research governance committees and initiatives as required.
- Contribute to review and development of relevant standard operating procedures to ensure and promote best practice.
- Adhere to relevant standard operating procedures and work within the guidelines laid out by the ICR-CTSU Quality Management System.
- Occasionally, provide consulting advice to clinical and scientific colleagues and lecture on undergraduate, postgraduate medical and nursing courses.

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Organisational

• Assist the ICR-CTSU Director in the delivery of ICR-CTSU's strategy including that covered by the ICR-CTSU's CRUK programme grant.
• Enthusiastically advocate excellence in good statistical practice enabling compliance with ICR and national regulations on clinical trials.
• Undertake other such academic, administrative, and managerial duties that are reasonably expected of a Group Leader within ICR-CTSU and The Division of Clinical Studies.

General

All staff must ensure that they familiarise themselves with and adhere to any ICR policies that are relevant to their work and that all personal and sensitive personal data is treated with the utmost confidentiality and in line with the General Data Protection Regulations
Any other duties that are consistent with the nature and grade of the post that may be required.
To work in accordance with the ICR's Values.
To promote a safe, healthy and fair environment for people to work, where bullying and harassment will not be tolerated.
This job description is a reflection of the present position and is subject to review and alteration in detail and emphasis in the light of future changes or development.

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Person specification

Education

Higher Degree (MSc or PhD) in Medical Statistics or an allied subject	Essential

Key Requirments

- Significant experience as a biostatistician with a research interest in clinical trials methodology
- Broad understanding of cancer research
- Evidence of intellectual leadership (Career Faculty)
- Ability to generate research funds to support the group

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Benefits

We offer a fantastic working environment, great opportunities for career development and the chance to make a real difference to defeat cancer. We aim to recruit and develop the best – the most outstanding scientists and clinicians, and the most talented professional and administrative staff.

The annual leave entitlement for full time employees is 28 days per annum on joining. This will increase by a further day after 2 years' and 5 years' service. All staff receive an additional three days at Christmas.

Staff membership to the Universities Superannuation Scheme (USS) is available. The USS is a defined benefit scheme and provides a highly competitive pension scheme with robust benefits. The rate of contributions is determined by USS and details of the costs and benefits of this scheme can be found on their website. If staff are transferring from the NHS, they can opt to remain members of the NHS Pension Scheme.

We offer a range of family friendly benefits such as flexible working, a parents' group, and a maternity mentoring scheme. Other great benefits include interest free loans for discounted season tickets for travel and bicycle purchases, access to the NHS discounts website, a free and confidential Employee Assistance Programme which offers a range of well-being, financial and legal advice services, two staff restaurants, and access to a gym and sporting facilities at our Sutton site.

Further information

You may contact Professor Emma Hall for further information by emailing Emma.Hall@icr.ac.uk. This job description is a reflection of the current position and is subject to review and alteration in detail and emphasis in the light of future changes or developments.