



Staff Scientist (Epidemiology) Candidate Information

Date: November 2024

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

The Integrative Epidemiology Group and the Generations Study

The Integrative Epidemiology Group at The ICR uses integrative analyses of large-scale data in epidemiological studies to investigate the causes of cancer, understand carcinogenic processes and improve risk assessment for precision prevention. The Team is part of the newly formed Cancer Epidemiology and Prevention Research Unit (CEPRU) a research partnership between The ICR and Imperial College London to establish collaborations in research, training and knowledge dissemination in cancer epidemiology and prevention ([https://www.icr.ac.uk/our-research/centres-and-collaborations/strategic-collaborations/the-cancer-epidemiology-and-prevention-research-unit-\(cepru\)](https://www.icr.ac.uk/our-research/centres-and-collaborations/strategic-collaborations/the-cancer-epidemiology-and-prevention-research-unit-(cepru))).

Candidate Information

The Breast Cancer Now Generations Study is a national cohort of 113,000 women from the UK established in 2003 to investigate the causes of breast cancer and outcomes after a breast cancer diagnosis. Women in the study have provided blood samples and detailed questionnaire information at recruitment, and in repeat follow-up questionnaires. We also access their medical records to collect information on cancer screening and treatments, collect mammograms and tissue samples. Together this provides a rich resource for research into the aetiology of breast and other cancers in women.

About the Staff Scientist position

We are seeking a motivated Staff Scientist (Epidemiologist) to manage a large prospective cohort study of 110,000 women in the UK, focused on cancer causes, early detection, and survivorship. The role involves overseeing data collection, coordinating study operations, and ensuring compliance with regulatory standards and best practices. The candidate will also lead research efforts, manage external collaborations, contribute to publications and grant writing, and supervise junior staff and research assistants.

The post provides an exciting opportunity for an experienced epidemiologist to apply their study management and research skills to a leading UK cohort study. The successful applicant will enjoy working as part of a multidisciplinary team interacting with internal and external epidemiologists, geneticists, biologists, clinicians, statisticians and data scientists. The job will provide opportunities for career development and international collaborations.

Applicants should hold a PhD degree in Epidemiology, have experience in research management, study design, data analyses and scientific writing. The post will be situated with the Division of Genetics and Epidemiology on the ICRs Sutton campus. This position, funded by Breast Cancer Now, is available immediately and is funded for 24 months in the first instance.

Our mission
is to make the
discoveries that
defeat cancer.

Candidate Information

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

Candidate Information

Job description

Department / division: Integrative Cancer Epidemiology/Division of Genetics and Epidemiology

Pay grade / staff group: Staff Scientist

Hours / duration: Full time (35 hours per week), Monday to Friday. Fixed term contract for 2 years in the first instance.

Reports to: Professor Montserrat Garcia-Closas

Accountable to: Professor Montserrat Garcia-Closas

Main purpose of the job: We are seeking a Staff Scientist with research management experience to support the PIs in the management of the Breast Cancer Now Generations Study.

The successful applicant will enjoy working as part of a multidisciplinary team and interacting with internal and external epidemiologists, geneticists, biologists, clinicians, statisticians and data scientists.

Duties and responsibilities:

Key Duties and Responsibilities

Study Management:

- Support the study PIs in managing a large prospective cohort study of 110,000 women in the UK, focusing on cancer.
- Coordinate study operations, including overseeing data collection, monitoring milestones and budgets, and managing communications.
- Ensure high-quality data collection (questionnaires, biospecimens), maintaining data integrity and facilitating data use for internal and external researchers.
- Ensure ethical and regulatory compliance (e.g., GDPR), managing ethics approvals and protocols.

Research leadership and collaboration:

- Lead research projects on cancer epidemiology, employing advanced analytical methods.
- Produce high-impact scientific publications and present findings at national/international conferences.
- Serve as a liaison for external collaborations with other institutions and consortia.

Supervision & Mentorship:

- Supervise staff (clerical research assistants, database managers) and mentor junior scientific staff (analysts, PhD students, post-docs).
- Foster collaboration and professional development within the team.

Candidate Information

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 reflects the present position and is subject to review and alteration in detail and emphasis in the light of future changes or development.

Workforce Agreement

The ICR has a workforce agreement stating that Postdoctoral Training Fellows can only be employed for up to 7 years as PDTF at the ICR, providing total postdoctoral experience (including previous employment at this level elsewhere) does not exceed 10 years.

Candidate Information

Person specification

Education and Knowledge

PhD degree in Epidemiology or Public Health	Essential
Strong knowledge of study design and other epidemiological methods	Essential
Knowledge of biostatistics and programming	Essential
Knowledge of cancer epidemiology	Desirable

Experience

Proven experience managing epidemiological studies and coordinating study operations	Essential
Proven track record of significant contributions to epidemiology research	Essential
Evidence of effective contributions to collaborative science	Essential
Demonstrated experience writing scientific manuscripts and contributing to grant applications	Essential
Experience of mentoring junior scientists	Desirable
Experience managing budgets	Desirable
Experience liaising with external institutions and consortia to foster collaborations.	Desirable
Experience in database management (SQL, non-SQL)	Desirable
Experience in programming languages, e.g., Python, JavaScript	Desirable

Skills

Excellent project management/organisational skills and attention to detail	Essential
Ability to work independently and problem solve	Essential
Excellent written and verbal communication skills	Essential
Strong analytical skills, including proficiency in statistical software/languages (preferably open source such R, Python) for epidemiological data analysis.	Essential
Ability to work professionally and collaboratively within a team	Essential
General computer literacy (word processing, spreadsheet and database packages)	Essential

Candidate Information

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.

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 Montserrat Garcia-Closas for further information by emailing montse.garcia-closas01@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 development.