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# Scientific Officer in Epidemiology

## Candidate Information

April 2026

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### 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.

#### About the Team and the Generations Study

The Integrative Epidemiology Team at The Institute of Cancer Research (ICR; <https://www.icr.ac.uk/research-and-discoveries/icr-divisions/genetics-and-epidemiology/integrative-cancer-epidemiology/>) led by Professor Garcia-Closas is located at the ICR Sutton Campus. The team forms part of the Cancer Epidemiology and Prevention Research Unit (CEPRU; <https://www.cepru.ac.uk/>), a joint initiative between the ICR and Imperial College London focused on advancing cancer epidemiology through interdisciplinary research and training.

The team uses large-scale population data to investigate the causes of cancer, understand carcinogenic processes, and improve risk prediction for precision prevention. A central resource for the team is the Breast Cancer Now Generations Study (<https://thegenerationsstudy.co.uk/>), a national cohort of over 110,000 women in the UK followed since 2004. This study includes detailed information on lifestyle and reproductive

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factors, blood samples for biomarker and genetic analyses, tumour pathology and mammography imaging data, and linkages to national health records. The programme also uses data from international consortia and complementary studies to advance understanding of cancer aetiology, risk and early detection.

Research in the team combines epidemiology and biostatistics with emerging approaches in data science, including analyses of mammography and pathology images and integration of multi-modal data. This work aims to improve our understanding of cancer causes, risk stratification and to inform prevention strategies at both population and individual levels.

This post offers an excellent opportunity for a recent graduate to gain broad, hands-on experience in epidemiological research within a multidisciplinary environment.

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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

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## Scientific Officer in Epidemiology

### Job description

**Department / division:** Integrative Cancer Epidemiology/Division of Genetics and Epidemiology, Sutton

**Pay grade / staff group:** Scientific Officer: Salary range: £31,445 - £37,415

**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 motivated and organised Scientific Officer to support a range of molecular epidemiology activities within the Generations Study and related projects.

The role is designed as an entry-point and is particularly suited to candidates considering postgraduate study or a career in epidemiology or population health. The post holder will gain experience across multiple components including laboratory-based activities (e.g. coordination of biobanking and pathology collections), data-driven research and contributions to scientific communications. There will be opportunities to contribute as co-author to manuscripts and, over time, develop skills in data analysis and interpretation.

The successful applicant will work closely with epidemiologists and laboratory teams, contributing to high-impact research on cancer risk and prevention.

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### Duties and responsibilities:

#### Key Duties and Responsibilities

##### **Research and scientific communication support**

- Contribute to research communications, including maintaining and updating study websites and preparing participant-facing and study materials
- Contribute to the preparation of presentations, reports, and manuscripts

##### **Biobanking and pathology coordination**

- Support biobanking activities, including sample tracking and documentation for genomic and biomarker studies
- Assist in the collection and organisation of pathology materials (e.g. tumour samples, pathology reports, slide scanning and image quality control)
- Liaise with laboratory and data teams to ensure coordination of activities

##### **Teamwork and development**

- Work collaboratively within a multidisciplinary team and with external collaborators
- Engage in training and development opportunities to build skills in epidemiology and data analysis
- Contribute to a positive and organised research environment

#### 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 subject to review and alteration in details and emphasis in the light of future changes or development.

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### Person specification

#### Education and Knowledge

Undergraduate degree in biomedical or biological sciences, population sciences, or a related field	Essential
General computer literacy (e.g. Word, Excel, databases)	Essential
Interest in cancer epidemiology or population health research	Essential
Some experience working with research or health-related data	Desirable
Familiarity with statistical or programming tools (e.g. R, Python)	Desirable

#### Skills

Excellent organisational skills and attention to detail	Essential
Ability to manage multiple tasks and meet deadlines	Essential
Strong written and verbal communication skills	Essential
Ability to work both independently and as part of a team	Essential
Proactive approach to problem-solving and willingness to learn	Essential
Experience working in a research, laboratory, or data environment	Desirable

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### Benefits

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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](mailto: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.