ICR The Institute of Cancer Research

Maternity leave cover Clinical Research Fellow In Urological Cancer (STAMPEDE trial Arm P)

Candidate Information

May 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.

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

Prostate and Bladder Cancer Research Team

The Prostate and Bladder Cancer Research Team seek to improve patient outcomes by improving and designing large scale clinical trials for prostate and bladder cancer.

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Division of Radiotherapy and Imaging

The Division of Radiotherapy and Imaging brings together research groups that work on how to use radiation therapy, guided by state-of-the-art imaging techniques, in the most effective way to cure cancer. Our work is based on the central idea that the best outcomes will be achieved by delivering curative radiation doses to tumours, while limiting radiation damage of neighbouring normal tissues. Our therapy often includes adding drug treatments alongside radiation therapy as a means of killing cancer cells more effectively and, at the same time, activating anti-tumour immune responses. Preclinical work includes research that combines radiation therapy with radiation sensitisers and biological response modifiers (oncolytic viruses, innate immune activators, immune checkpoint inhibitors) to maximise anti-tumour efficacy and give protection against tumour recurrence. Multiple translational clinical studies seek to address these themes through our collaborators in the RM. Overall, our mission is to cure more patients with fewer immediate and long-term side effects of treatment.

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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Job description

Department / division:	Radiotherapy and Imaging
Pay grade / staff group:	Clinical Research Fellows
Hours / duration:	Full time, Monday to Friday. Fixed term contract for 1 year.
Reports to:	Professors of Prostate and Bladder Cancer
Main purpose of the job:	To support the clinical aspects of the STAMPEDE2 Arm P implementation and the trial more broadly.

Overview of the post:

The primary post-holder will register for an MD(Res) (2 years out of programme) or PhD degree (3 years out of programme) at the ICR and awarded by the University of London. They will receive academic support from the ICR and associated academic fees will be provided. The post could also be suitable for an overseas post-doctoral candidate seeking to broaden their clinical and research experience but without needing to submit for a research degree. Overseas candidates would need to be eligible for clinical work within the UK.

The maternity leave cover post will provide experience and training for a candidate wishing to try clinical research or embarking on training in oncology, or for more senior oncology trainees seeking post-training research exposure. The role of the post-holder will primarily be ensuring the smooth clinical operation of the research project and will also provide experience in the relevant analytical techniques. The post would suit a trainee wishing to enter oncology and will include attendance at one oncology clinic per week. Clinical supervision will be tailored to the prior experience of the successful candidate.

The project is focussed on clinical and translational research relevant to the application of PSMA-Lutetium in the context of de novo metastatic disease and requires close collaboration with the academic and clinical physics and nuclear medicine teams at the ICR/The Royal Marsden NHS Foundation Trust (RM) and at University College London (UCL). The exact remit of the project will be developed by the successful student in collaboration with their Primary Supervisor (Prof Nick James) and supervisory team. You will join a team of uro-oncology research fellows who pursue a wide range of radiotherapy and laboratory research. You will also be one of the team of fellows working on various projects within STAMPEDE based at a range of locations (currently: Christie Hospital, MRCCTU at UCL, Medical Oncology at UCL) as well as part of the team of clinical fellows working across a number of trials at the MRC CTU. The MRC CTU at UCL is a centre for excellence in the design and management of clinical trials and the Cancer Theme is jointly led by Professor Max Parmar and Professor Ruth Langley.

The post holder will primarily be based in the ICR/RM in Chelsea. The STAMPEDE group (encompassing STAMPEDE and STAMPEDE2) is managed via the MRC CTU at UCL and the postholder will work flexibly / equivalent to 2 days per week to support trial activities and receive training in clinical trials. The maternity cover post will suit an oncology trainee who envisages a future career as a clinical researcher heavily involved in academic clinical trial development and translational research and wishes to build the knowledge and skills to support this path. It would also be suitable for candidates nearing completion of general medical training wishing to enter oncology. The uro-oncology unit has a strong track record of supervising successful MD(res) and PhD theses. Many former fellows are now national or international leaders in their own right. It is expected that a research fellow in this team will achieve several high impact publications and will have the opportunity to present their work at national and international meetings. Depending on duration of appointment, there may be opportunities for the cover post to also be part of publications.

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Duties and responsibilities:

STAMPEDE2 Arm P implementation and broader trial support:

- Design and implementation of the protocol technical details for radio-ligand therapy
- Integration of imaging sub-study data (PSMA PET or whole body MRI) with main study imaging (in collaboration with the STAMPEDE Imaging Group led by Prof Noel Clarke at Christie Hospital)
- Broader advice and research around the trial therapies and integration between Arm P and the other current STAMPEDE2 arm (M – metastasis directed therapy in low burden disease).
- The STAMPEDE2 eligibility overlap with the CRUK-funded PEARLS trial (CI Julia Murray, Royal Marsden Hospital Sutton) and we envisage joint linked translational studies. The postholder will be a key part of this process.
- Linking with related translational projects within STAMPEDE and STAMPEDE2 such as the DNA, RNA and immunohistochemistry work led by Prof Gert Attard at UCL (2 current STAMPEDE fellows).
- There is also a programme of imaging related research linked to STAMPEDE and led by Prof Noel Clarke at the Christie Hospital in Manchester and it is anticipated that the post holder will also interact with this part of the STAMPEDE team extensively.
- We are planning a network of international collaborators and the post-holder will be a key part of the liaison process with these other teams.
- Supporting the trial team based at the MRC CTU particularly for all safety reporting and other aspects of trial conduct and management that are the responsibility of the Chief Investigator.

Implementation of the trial protocol across participating sites:

- Training in trial processes at MRC CTU, SAE assessment, clinical and technical queries from site, education for site implementation visits
- Participate in relevant clinics for recruitment and monitoring of patients involved in STAMPEDE2 and other relevant urological cancer projects

Clinical responsibilities:

- Support the clinical activities of the unit, including responsibilities related to clinical trials but no more than one regular clinic per week within the Urological Cancer team in the Royal Marsden Hospital in Chelsea.
- The fellow will gain experience in both radio-ligand therapy and stereo-tactic radiotherapy techniques both for metastatic disease and for treatment of the prostate gland. There is a large programme of related trials in the use of radiotherapy for prostate cancer and it is expected that the fellow will become involved in the day to day running of these in addition.

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General clinical activities:

- Develop grant writing skills for peer reviewed funding and/or endorsement of academic clinical and translational studies. This includes understanding how to appropriately cost a study and attribute the costs of healthcare research as required by major research funders.
- Develop skills to design translational research protocols in collaboration with clinician scientists and statisticians
- Learn how to work collaboratively with Industry
- Understand how to engage and involve patients and the public in clinical research
- Learn how to gain relevant regulatory approvals for clinical and translational studies to be conducted in the NHS
- Develop an excellent knowledge around the legal framework for conducting clinical research within the UK
- Work with trial managers, biological specimen coordinators, clinician scientists, the principal investigators and statistics department to produce and analyse results of clinical and translational research. Attend statistical workshops and courses to develop analytical skills
- Prepare and present abstracts, posters and oral presentations of clinical trial and research data at local, regional and international meetings
- Prepare manuscripts for publication of completed research projects in peer-reviewed journals
- Conduct literature search and preparation of systematic review, meta-analyses and traditional review
- Learn how to peer review submitted manuscripts for journals in conjunction with the consultants and how to critique scientific literature

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 and Knowledge

Full GMC Registration, and MRCP or equivalent.	Essential
FRCR (Clinical Oncology) or equivalent in radiology, medical oncology or nuclear medicine	Desirable
For overseas graduates, demonstration of equivalent training within country of origin	Essential

Skills

Ability and willingness to work within a multi-disciplinary team	Essential
Previous experience of clinical trials and management of patients on clinical trials.	Desirable
Enthusiasm for the project and willingness to go “above and beyond”	Essential
Familiarity with analytical techniques.	Desirable
Ability to design and write clinical trial protocols.	Desirable
Experience in data collection and statistics.	Desirable
Resilience	Essential
Good communication skills, written and oral.	Essential

Experience

At least three years of oncology training in a recognised UK or overseas centre.	Essential
Good understanding of the principles of clinical management of malignancy.	Essential
Candidates from a nuclear medicine or radiology background should contact Prof James for advice regarding suitability	Essential
Previous research experience.	Desirable
Experience in radio-ligand therapy	Desirable

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Benefits

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 Prof Nick James for further information by emailing nick.james@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.