ICR The Institute of Cancer Research

Statistical Assistant (industry placement)

Candidate Information

February 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. 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 are consistently in the top performing universities in the league table of university research quality compiled from the Research Excellence Framework (REF 2014 & 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 Clinical Trials and Statistics Unit (ICR-CTSU)

Under the directorship of Professor Emma Hall, the ICR-CTSU is an internationally recognised, methodologist-led academic clinical trials unit (CTU), with over 30 years' experience in the design, conduct and analysis of cancer clinical trials. ICR-CTSU receives programmatic core funding from Cancer Research UK and is UK Clinical Research Collaborative registered.

ICR-CTSU translates cutting-edge science into quality clinical trials that can transform cancer care, by:

- Leading patient-centred trials of smarter, kinder therapies that treat cancer more precisely
- Transforming the way we design and conduct trials with innovations in trial methodology
- Learning as much as we can with integrated translational research and data science
- Championing purposeful and inclusive patient and public involvement
- Embedding research to improve the sustainability of our trials
- Supporting interdisciplinary training to empower the next generation of trialists

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ICR-CTSU's portfolio of national and international phase II and III trials covers a wide range of disease sites from common cancers (e.g. breast, prostate, lung) through to rarer malignancies (e.g. myeloma, ovarian, testicular, penile). Our cross-cutting Integrative Genomic Analysis team facilitates interrogation of the wealth of emerging trial data to further understand mechanisms of action and markers of treatment sensitivity or resistance and to translate novel diagnostic, prognostic and therapeutic strategies into clinically relevant biomarker driven trial designs. Our Early Phase and Adaptive Trials team, led by Professor Christina Yap, provide methodology leadership to an expanding number of early phase trials, many run in collaboration with the Drug Development Unit, a globally leading joint unit of ICR and The Royal Marsden NHS Foundation Trust.

Recent publications highlighting the breadth and impact of our portfolio include:

- PACE: radiotherapy in five larger daily doses is as good as the standard 4-week therapy for patients with low/favourable intermediate risk prostate cancer (New Engl J Med 2024); the most recent of our long-standing portfolio of phase III radiotherapy trials to report practice changing results.
- plasmaMATCH: pioneering evidence to support the use of liquid biopsy ctDNA mutation detection to inform targeted treatment selection for breast cancer patients thus avoiding the need for invasive tumour biopsies (Lancet Oncol 2020).
- POUT: adjuvant chemotherapy improves outcomes for patients with upper tract urothelial cancer (J Clin Oncol 2024)
- NICAM: a phase II study demonstrating activity of nilotinib in a rare form of melanoma with a mutation in the *KIT* gene (Cell Rep Med 2024).

Our methodology work includes the DEFINE study - SPIRIT and CONSORT extensions for early phase dose-finding trials – to enhance transparency and reproducibility for trial protocols and reports (BMJ 2023; BMJ 2023), a review of clinical trial designs for evaluating and exploiting cancer evolution (Canc Treat Rev 2023) and use of routine collected data as an alternative to hospital based follow-up (preprint).

We are a multi-disciplinary CTU, with more than 90 staff including statisticians/methodologists, clinical trial programme managers, trial managers, data managers, research IT programmers and administrative support staff.

We have over 75 multi-centre trials in set up, open to recruitment, or in active or long-term follow-up. Our senior management team hold leadership roles shaping clinical research at the local, national and international level.

Further information is available at:

ICR www.icr.ac.uk | | **Facebook** www.facebook.com/theinstituteofcancerresearch

ICR-CTSU https://www.icr.ac.uk/our-research/centres-and-collaborations/centres-at-the-icr/clinical-trials-and-statistics-unit

Bluesky @icr-ctsu.bsky.social

Our mission is to make the discoveries that defeat cancer.

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Job description

Department / division:	ICR-CTSU, Division of Clinical Studies
Pay grade / staff group:	Industry undergraduate placement, salary £23,999 per annum
Hours / duration:	Full time (35 hours per week), Monday to Friday. Fixed term contract for 9 - 12 months
Reports to:	Senior Statistician/Principal Statistician/Lead Statistician

Main purpose of the job:

To support the ICR-CTSU in the delivery of their portfolio of investigator-initiated clinical trials by providing statistical support for a number of multicentre randomised controlled trials of cancer treatments. The post holder will work closely with members of the ICR-CTSU trial team including trial & data managers, trial statisticians, principal/senior statisticians and trial administrators.

The post holder will get a taste of the work of a medical/bio-statistician in an academic clinical trials (university) research setting. There will be opportunities to develop coding and related statistical/data analysis skills and gain valuable experience to boost graduate career or post-graduate research prospects.

Duties and responsibilities:

Design and initiation of clinical trials

Assist with the design of data collection tools including clinical trial databases
Assist trial teams to set-up, test and maintain trial databases and randomisation systems
Perform/replicate sample size calculations
Assist in the drafting/updating of statistical analysis plans

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Analysis and management of clinical trials

Perform cleaning of trial data, working with trial teams to manage data queries, to help ensure accuracy of the data
Assist trial teams in the preparation of reports for oversight committee meetings
Conduct statistical analyses and produce analysis reports
Assist with the drafting of scientific posters and publications

General

Attend and contribute to team meetings (Unit and Trial level) and Statistician meetings
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

Educated to GCSE level or equivalent including English and Maths	Essential
Educated to 'A' level or equivalent	Essential
Studying for 1st degree in mathematics, statistics or a related field with a strong statistical component, currently in 2nd year and on track to achieve at least a 2:2	Essential

Skills and Experience

Proven ability to work accurately with attention to detail	Essential
Good written and oral communication skills	Essential
High level of computer literacy	Essential
Proven ability to use Microsoft Office packages (Word, Excel)	Essential
Assertive and articulate with the ability to communicate effectively	Essential
Problem-solving skills	Essential
Ability to work to agreed deadlines	Essential
Ability to work as part of a team	Essential
Ability to adhere to written procedures and policies including in relation to appropriate handling of confidential information	Essential
Right to work in the UK	Essential
An interest in cancer research and keen to pursue a career in medical statistics	Essential
Experience of using electronic systems for recording and managing information	Desirable
Experience of the use of statistical programming languages such as R or Stata	Desirable
Experience of applying statistical methods to data	Desirable

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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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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.

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 ICR-CTSU for further information by emailing ctsu@icr.ac.uk.

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