



CERVIVA The Irish Cervical Screening Research Consortium

Three New Vacancies.

This is an exciting opportunity to join CERVIVA, The Irish Cervical Screening Research Consortium, which is dedicated to performing high quality research in the area of cervical screening and prevention.

This programme is funded for 3 years under the HRB Interdisciplinary Capacity Enhancement programme and includes a strong element of professional development for three appointees. The successful candidates will be key members of a dynamic, multidisciplinary team focused on developing improved cervical screening methods, and experiences, for Irish women. We are seeking highly motivated research investigators with PhDs in their respective areas, an excellent first author publication record in high impact journals, who are seeking to establish themselves as senior independent researchers in the cancer screening area.

Background to the posts:

CERVIVA, the Irish Cervical Screening Research Consortium, was established in 2005. It was initially funded by the Health Research Board health services research award scheme to perform high quality research in the area of cervical screening in Ireland, with an overarching aim to support CervicalCheck [the Irish Cervical Screening Programme]. CERVIVA is a multi-investigator collaboration encompassing researchers at across several Irish universities, hospitals and international commercial diagnostic/ biotechnology companies. CERVIVA aims to instigate and advance high quality research thus providing the best possible information and guidance in the delivery of cervical screening services to women living in Ireland.

CERVIVA has been a very successful health services based research consortium, which has effectively bridged the gap between academic research and health services and clinical research. Since its establishment, CERVIVA has grown in capacity and expanded its research portfolio, with additional funding through The Irish Cancer Society, Friends of the Coombe Hospital, and the European FP7 framework programme.



We are now, through the HRB interdisciplinary capacity enhancement funding scheme, seeking to build on our existing capacities and competencies to further develop emerging research topics of interest to cancer screening in Ireland.

We are seeking to employ 3 new post-doctoral researchers in the areas of

- health economics (post 1)
- molecular biology/ epidemiology (post 2)
- health psychology (post 3)

These new appointees will add value to the existing team and will work on areas of key interest to CervicalCheck.

The programme will explore the current and future optimal screening and disease management strategies for cervical screening in Ireland, including primary screening with and without HPV testing, and alternative biomarker tests for stratifying low and high risk women in colposcopy (post 2). We will use this information to model the cost effectiveness of different disease management approaches along with different screening modalities (post 1). We will develop a theory based psycho-educational intervention to alleviate the adverse psychological impact on women having an abnormal smear, undergoing colposcopy and related management procedures including biopsies, LLETZ and HPV or biomarker tests (post 3). This combined approach aims to stratify women at high risk of developing high grade cervical disease and those at no or minimum risk. This will allow clinicians to direct resources into following women at high risk while those women with no or very low risk can be followed by more conservative less costly methods. This approach will also have benefits for women involved by reducing the anxiety and worries women experience as a consequence of having abnormal smears.

A key element of this programme of funding involves training and professional development of the appointees, to give them the skill set to establish themselves as independent researchers in the health services research area. The appointees will work with the CERVIVA team to develop key competencies in their respective fields. Detailed training and development plans will be developed for each appointee, tailored to the individual's needs and existing experience.

Post 1: Health Economist

A strong background in health economics is required, preferably with an emphasis on the application of economic techniques in the area of cancer prevention or treatment. Experience in cost-effectiveness modelling would be a distinct advantage, and the ability to work in a multi-disciplinary team is essential. Candidates should preferably have completed a PhD in health economics and must have published papers in relevant peer reviewed



journals on health economics and economic evaluation. They should have good quantitative skills and have a good knowledge of the relevant literatures. Experience in applying for competitive research funding would be an advantage.

This appointment will be on a specified purpose contract with an estimated duration of 36 months at a point on Irish University Association (IUA) Researchers Salary Scale commensurate with qualifications and experience.

Post 2: Post Doctoral Scientist in Molecular biology

A strong molecular biology background is a requirement, preferably in the areas of cancer genetics, with an interest in molecular epidemiology. This position will be ideal for those candidates wishing to combine their interest in cancer biology with a strong desire to work in the health services research arena.

Candidates must hold a PhD in cancer genetics or biology and have at least 3-5 years post-doctoral experience, ideally in health services research or at least in a clinical setting. Candidates should be independent, self motivated and have an innovative personality. Candidates must have excellent written and oral communication skills and a demonstrated publication record and grant procurement record.

The successful candidate's role will be to lead the HPV and Biomarker screening workpackage, and to work in parallel with health economic and health psychology team investigators and principal investigators. In addition, you will be expected to participate in the overall CERVIVA multidisciplinary project teams, encourage partnerships and collaborations across disciplines and ultimately lead and direct the biomarker screening aspect of cervical screening research in CERVIVA. You will also be expected to work with CERVIVA to increase our capacity to attain research funding and improve the competitiveness of our group internationally. This is an excellent opportunity for the successful candidate to develop an independent research career in the area of cancer screening and health services research.

This post will be based at the Coombe Women and Infants University Hospital, Dublin, Ireland. The appointment will be on a specified purpose contract with an estimated duration of 36 months at a point on the Irish University Association (IUA) Researchers Salary Scale commensurate with qualifications and experience.

Post 3: Project co-ordinator (psychological aspects of screening)

This post-holder will lead the development of a psycho-educational intervention to reduce the adverse psychological impact of cervical screening on women.

The successful appointee must hold a PhD; either the primary or higher degree must be in a relevant subject (e.g. psychology, social sciences, health sciences, epidemiology, or a related discipline with a significant element of



psychology). S/he must have at least three years post-doctoral experience working in health-related research projects. Experience of applying qualitative and quantitative research methods is required. Knowledge of psychological theories of health behaviour, and/or experience in cancer screening research, would be a significant advantage. Excellent communication and interpersonal skills are essential.

This is a specified purpose contract with an estimated duration of 36 months. The post is based with the National Cancer Registry in Cork. Salary will be in accordance with Department of Health grade VI (€44,849).

A full job description can be downloaded from www.ncri.ie.

Informal enquiries for all post can be made through Professor John O'Leary (olearyji@tcd.ie).

Applications for all three posts should be made by emailing a PDF copy of a cover letter and CV including publications, and the names and contact information of 3 referees to jfreeman@tcd.ie no later than 12 noon on Friday the 6th January, 2012.