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The National Cancer Registry of Ireland (NCRI) is undertaking a competition for the purpose of identifying a suitable candidate for the appointment to the position of:

**Medical Statistician**

The National Cancer Registry of Ireland,

Building 6800

Cork Airport Business Park,

Kinsale Road,

Cork

T12 CDF7

Closing date for receipt of completed applications is 12.00pm on the 30th June.

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| **NCRI Logo** | **Statistician**  **Permanent full-time**  ***Job Description and Person Specification*** |  |
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**About the National Cancer Registry**

The National Cancer Registry (NCRI) was established by the Minister for Health in 1991. It operates in association with University College Cork and is funded by the Department of Health.

The functions of the NCRI are:

* to identify, collect, classify, record, store, and analyse information relating to the incidence, prevalence, treatment and outcomes of cancer and related tumours in Ireland.
* to promote and facilitate the use of the data collected, through approved research, and in the planning and management of services.
* to publish an Annual Report based on the activities of the Registry.
* to furnish advice, information and assistance in relation to any aspect of such service to the Minister.

Website of the National Cancer Registry: [www.ncri.ie](http://www.ncri.ie)

**Terms and Conditions**

**Job Title:** Statistician

**Reporting To:**  Dr Paul Walsh, Cancer Intelligence Manager.

**Hours:** 37 hours per week.

**Salary:** Salary will be in accordance with Department of Health grade V (€43,628 - €52,402).

**Contract:** This is a permanent position.

**Probation**: A probationary period of 12 months will apply.

**Notice:** One month’s notice in writing is required.

**Annual Leave:** Annual leave for this post will be confirmed at job offer stage.

**Confidentiality:** Staff are bound by the provisions of the Data Protection Acts and must preserve strict confidentiality concerning all identifiable information of which they become aware of during the course of their work. The confidentiality guidelines of the Registry must be read and signed by all officers, and breach of these guidelines will be sufficient grounds for dismissal.

**Location**: The post is based in Cork, Ireland.

**Grievance &** These will be as agreed between management and staff.

**Disciplinary Procedures.**

The terms of any relevant agreements concerning this grade between the Department of Health and the Unions representing staff at the Registry will apply.

**Cancer data analysis and research at the National Cancer Registry**

The post-holder will join and support the Cancer Intelligence and Research groups at the National Cancer Registry. These groups currently comprise 6 staff members, including epidemiologists, statisticians, and other information / data analysts and project co-ordinators.

The cancer intelligence / surveillance and research activities of the Group encompass four main areas:

(a) descriptive epidemiology/cancer surveillance;

(b) aetiological and prevention research;

(c) survivorship research; and

(d) more general health services research.

The main activities in relation to the first area involve:

1. using cancer registration data to describe, and interpret, patterns in cancer incidence, treatment, survival and mortality in Ireland, including variations by age, sex, social class, area, etc
2. (ii) comparing the trends in Ireland with those in other countries.

The other research activities of the Registry are funded by project grants from a variety of sources.

The Cancer Intelligence group also provides a Data Request and Analysis Service which provides information and data on cancer to interested individuals and organizations. Requests involving personal data, or substantial analytical or other collaborative input from NCRI, are formally reviewed by NCRI’s Data Request Approvals Committee, which typically convenes every six weeks.

**Purpose of Job**

* To offer input into the experimental design of research projects and of the Registry’s core cancer surveillance functions, particularly in regard to the hypotheses driving the research or analysis, and the data required to answer the research or analysis questions.
* To identify and use the most appropriate, validated techniques, to turn raw data into publication-standard statistics thereby answering the underlying research questions.
* To communicate (on both ongoing and project-specific bases) the results of cancer intelligence analyses and research projects through different media (scientific papers, reports, presentations at conferences or discussions with colleagues) to audiences of differing statistical knowledge.

**Job Description**

The post-holder will provide statistical support and undertake statistical analysis for a range of cancer-related analysis and research activities undertaken by the National Cancer Registry, and collaborate on the analysis and writing of reports and, where appropriate, scientific papers.

S/he will be able to work on a variety of different projects on a diverse range of cancer-related topics. There will potentially be opportunities to work with different types of data and study designs - though primarily descriptive analyses of routinely collected Registry data, or Registry data linked to other data - and to apply a range of different statistical techniques. If desired, there may also be opportunities to (a) propose and develop (or contribute to the development of) new projects; (b) learn and apply new statistical methods; (c) take part in (or establish) collaborations with colleagues from other cancer registries; and (d) write papers for publication.

The responsibilities of the post are:

* Analytical input to and drafting NCRI reports on specific topics or cancers, including where appropriate contributing to the annual statistical report.
* Undertaking specific projects investigating patterns in incidence, treatment, survival and mortality of cancer patients in Ireland.
* Developing/contributing to the development of new projects and reports.
* Where appropriate, contributing to drafting scientific papers for publication.
* Providing general statistical advice and support to registry staff.
* Keeping abreast of new methods in data analysis.
* Contributing to the development and adoption of new statistical methods within the registry.
* Contributing to the work of NCRI’s Data Request Approvals Committee (DRAC), including reviewing requests and data-preparation or analytical duties for approved requests.
* Assisting, where necessary, with responding to general queries to the Data Request and Analysis Service (in addition to more substantial requests reviewed by DRAC).
* Supervising students or work-placement staff on occasion.
* Undertaking other statistical and data-related tasks as required.
* Any other reasonable duties that may be assigned by management from time to time.

**Person Specification**

**Essential qualifications and experience**

The successful appointee will be:

* Educated to degree level, with a degree (or equivalent) in statistics, mathematics or another subject with a major statistical component.
* A higher degree in medical statistics, applied statistics or epidemiology would be advantageous, but is not essential.
* The post-holder must have at least two years relevant post-graduate work experience, involving a significant amount of data analysis.
* Well-developed IT skills are essential, including significant experience in the use of statistical packages.
* Familiarity with a broad range of statistical methods and techniques is required.

**Desirable experience:**

* analysis of medical/clinical, epidemiological or health service research data is desirable.
* analyzing routinely-collected data (such as cancer registrations or hospital episode data);
* familiarity with medical terminology;
* some knowledge of cancer;
* experience of handling large datasets;
* experience of providing statistical support to research studies;
* experience of providing statistical advice to non-statisticians;
* experience in using Stata;
* training in research methods and principles;
* experience in setting up data checking procedures;
* experience of writing reports, papers, or other publications.

**Personal qualities**

The post holder must be able to demonstrate the following personal qualities:

* good interpersonal and communication skills;
* the ability to organise and prioritise his/her own workload;
* a willingness - and ability - to work on several projects simultaneously;
* excellent attention to detail, and scrupulous concern for accuracy;
* ability to use own initiative.