

Job Specification

Surgical Trials Advisor

The role

The successful applicant will lead the Surgical Trials Initiative, linking surgeons, trainees and consultants across widespread disciplines.

The Surgical Trials Advisor reports to the independent Clinical Research Initiative Steering Committee (CRISC) and establishes the strategic direction and assesses progress of the programme routinely (currently twice a year) through face-to-face meetings with the Surgical Specialty Leads (SSLs), Surgical Trials Centre (STC) Directors and the RCS England Chairs in Surgical Trials. It will be the post-holder's responsibility to ensure the strategy is aligned with key stakeholders such as the NIHR, CRN, CRUK, and where possible develop joint funding initiatives.

The successful candidate will also be expected to support fundraising efforts of the department and work closely with current funders to ensure optimal relationships are maintained. The post-holder will strategically plan future objectives for the Initiative and help ensure additional funds are raised to support this activity.

The post-holder will continue to make every effort to engage with academic departments and institutions across the surgical spectrum, to explore potential collaborations and bids for support towards resolving some key questions in surgical practice through initiating networks to undertake trials. It is expected that the Surgical Trials Advisor will spend some time at the College headquarters in Lincoln's Inn Fields, as required (maximum one day per month) and depending on other meetings and commitments.

Responsibilities

Programme delivery and development

- Work as part of a team with the staff members of the Research Department, and other RCS England colleagues, reporting to the RCS England Research Committee and CRISC.
- Ensure continuity (both in strategy and delivery) in the work of the Initiative.
- Provide clinical expertise and strategic guidance of Trials to the Research Department, as well as wider research advice, in collaboration with Surgical Research Advisor.
- Engage with academic departments and institutions across the surgical spectrum, to explore potential collaborations and joint funding opportunities.
- Work closely with stakeholders and RCS England departments to maximise exposure of its clinical research outputs and promote the work of the network.

Development of clinical research

- Ensure continuity of the work of the Initiative with regards to supporting Surgical Trials Centres, Surgical Specialty Leads, Research Collaboratives and RCS England Chairs, working closely with HEI and funders to deliver these projects.
- Hold at least 2 meetings per year with Chairs, SSLs and STCs to update developments, share experience and develop joint initiatives.
- Provide annual report for funders (with research and fundraising teams), with specific and tailored reports where required.
- Carry out annual appraisals for SSLs and set annual targets.
- Maintain profile of STCs through review of outputs and use of websites/social media.

Technology

- Develop relationships with partners and advance projects in the evaluation, development and assessment of new surgical technology and devices, to ensure patients have access to the best care available.
- Support the work of RCS England committees, such as the Committee on the Future of Surgery, where appropriate.
- Establish strategic collaboration with industry where appropriate (e.g. robotics and digital).

Trainee / training requirements

- Support Surgical Specialty Leads, Specialty Advisory Committees and engage with the JCST/ISCP in ensuring all specialties consider including research methodology requirements in their trainee training curricula, growing the next generation of research leaders.
- Continue to support the development of new researchers across the country, supporting networks, such as the national research collaboratives and other regional and specialty- specific groups, in developing and delivering clinical research for patient benefit.
- Support the annual national trainee collaborative meeting.

Fundraising

- Support the fundraising efforts of the fundraising team and other partners, to ensure future activity of the Initiative is fully supported going forward.
- Maintain relationships with existing funders and be proactive in developing new sustainable funding partnerships. This may require face to face meetings and annual attendance/presentation to the Court of Patrons.

Best Practice Principles

The Surgical Trials Advisor is required to sign up to the following four principles:

- A commitment to providing study information and monthly accrual data to the UKCRN Portfolio Database for UKCRN portfolio studies
- A commitment to patient/public involvement.
- A commitment to follow the principles of GCP for all trials.
- A commitment to provide annual reports to the Steering Group, and participate in the Annual Review process.

Eligibility

Applicants should

- have a higher degree, experience of supervising surgical trainees in research and have a broad perspective of the surgical trials and research landscape
- have significant experience of designing, developing and delivering surgical clinical trials, and of using this to provide clinical expertise, support and strategic guidance
- be familiar with the Royal College of Surgeons of England extensive research portfolio.
- be a consultant/senior lecturer in surgery, who is a member or fellow of the Royal College of Surgeons of England.

Tenure of post

3 years, subject to satisfactory annual reviews. With a further possible 2 year extension, based on performance.

Location

Much of the work can be undertaken remotely, however there will be occasional meetings/interviews in London or around the UK.