

## Job Description

### **Clinical Director of Research**

The Royal College of Surgeons of England

**The Royal College of Surgeons of England is inviting applications to lead the world's largest surgical research initiative. This post offers an unrivalled opportunity to improve surgical outcomes and global healthcare.**

The successful applicant will inherit an established and thriving network of research collaboration. She/he will establish strategic direction and report to an independent steering committee.

### **Background**

The Clinical Research Initiative (CRI) was formed five years ago and coordinates the development and delivery of clinical trials to benefit surgical patients. It is a network of RCS Surgical Trials Centres, Surgical Specialty Leads and newly developed and recruiting Professorial Chairs.

There are more than 40 surgical trials currently recruiting across the CRI network. To sustain this activity, the CRI also promotes and supports the delivery of methodological training for trainees, consultants, research nurses and medical students. It also funds training in systematic reviews for up to 6 new groups per year (including 3 global surgery teams in 2018).

The CRI works actively with many stakeholders to secure additional funding to support the surgical research programme. Over £4m has been invested in the programme directly over the last 5 years and over £50M of research income has been leveraged through the clinical network and surgical trials centres.

The programme has established six Surgical Trials Centres (STCs) and 19 Surgical Specialty Leads (SSLs) over the last 5 years. The SSLs and STCs work with the surgical societies and charities to prioritise and develop clinical trials with relevance to patient needs and priorities.

The programme has also worked closely with industry through links with DoH and NOCRI. The CRI also works directly with industry where a direct benefit to patients can be identified (e.g. developing robotics studies).

In the last 18 months the CRI has raised funding for seven new Chairs of clinical surgical research. These chairs are jointly funded by the host HEI and are linked to the Surgical Trials Centres. The strategic role of each post is to grow the surgical trials capacity and support the growth of new investigators.

## **The role of Clinical Director**

The successful applicant will lead the CRI and be responsible for further development, linking surgeons, trainees and consultants across widespread disciplines. While the primary responsibility will be within the UK, the initiative has taken on a global footprint and there are opportunities to lead internationally as well as domestically.

The Clinical Director reports to an independent CRI Steering Committee (CRISC) and establishes the strategic direction and assesses progress of the programme routinely (currently every 4 months) through face to face meetings with the SSLs and STC Directors. It will be her/his responsibility to ensure the strategy is aligned with key stakeholders such as the NIHR, CRN, CRUK, and where possible develops 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. She/he 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 Director will spend some time each month at the College headquarters in Lincoln's Inn Fields, averaging 2-3 days per month depending on other meetings and commitments.

## **Responsibilities**

### **Programme development / continuity**

- Work as part of a team with the Head of Research, Research Coordinator and other RCS colleagues, reporting to the RCS Research Committee and Clinical Research Initiative Steering Committee (CRISC), on developments.
- Ensure continuity (both in strategy and delivery) in the work of the Initiative.
- Provide clinical expertise and strategic guidance to the Research Department
- Lead in the development of a five-year RCS clinical research strategy, and ensure the implementation and delivery of this plan, against set targets and milestones.
- Continue to make every effort to engage with academic departments and institutions across the surgical spectrum, to explore potential collaborations and joint funding opportunities.
- Work closely with stakeholders and RCS departments to maximise exposure of its clinical research outputs and promote the work of the network.

### **Development of clinical research strategy**

- Ensure continuity of the work of the Initiative with regards to supporting Surgical Trials Centres, Surgical Specialty Leads, Research Collaboratives and establishing of the new RCS Professorial Chair positions, working closely with HEI and funders to deliver these projects.
- Hold at least 3 meetings per year with SSLs and STCs to update developments, share experience and develop joint initiatives.
- Provide annual report for funders (with research manager), with specific and tailored reports where required (e.g. for orthopaedics).

- Carry out annual appraisals for SSLs and set annual targets.
- Maintain profile of STCs through review of outputs and use of websites/social media.

#### International / Global Surgery

- Ensure international RCS ties with projects and collaborations are maintained and act as a leader in the development of international ties with countries interested in developing studies together.
- Advancing the RCS involvement in Global Surgery projects in LMICs and ensuring the RCS support is provided to new and existing projects.

#### Technology

- Develop the relationships with partners, such as NOCRI, and advance projects to support industry 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 committees, such as the Committee on the Future of Surgery, where appropriate.
- Establish strategic collaboration with industry where appropriate (e.g. robotics).

#### 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 Development 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.

### **Required skills**

Applicants should be conversant with scientific methods at a high level and have conducted research and/or supervised research of their own.

The post-holder will be a surgeon who is a member or fellow of the Royal College of Surgeons of England.

Demonstrable capacity for leadership in a collaborative environment.

Financial acumen and the ability to create and maintain strong and trusting links with key stakeholders.

The post-holder's employers would be recompensed for 2 PAs.

### **How to apply**

For those interested in applying for this post, please submit your CV along with a personal statement, of no more than 1,000 words, indicating the reasons why you wish to apply for this post, including your thoughts on the development of clinical research within surgery, over the next five years.

The deadline for applications is **noon on Friday 15th February 2019**. Your CV and personal statement should be submitted by email to Murat Akkulak [makkulak@rcseng.ac.uk](mailto:makkulak@rcseng.ac.uk)