

## **JOB DESCRIPTION**

<b>POST:</b>	<b>Clinical Fellow for National Oesophago-Gastric Cancer Audit</b>
<b>BOARD:</b>	<b>Research</b>
<b>DEPARTMENT:</b>	<b>Clinical Effectiveness Unit</b>
<b>RESPONSIBLE TO:</b>	<b>The Audit's Methodologist and the Director, Clinical Effectiveness Unit</b>

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### **Potential benefits of the post**

This position provides a unique opportunity to investigate the care given to patients with oesophago-gastric (OG) cancer and identify opportunities to improve outcomes for them. The National Oesophago-Gastric Cancer Audit has access to a wealth of data on patients diagnosed in England and Wales, and this can provide important insights into the management of patients with these cancers. The successful candidate will work within a multidisciplinary team, delivering the Audit and will play an active role in producing the audit reports and other outputs.

The fellowship will also involve undertaking research related to the Audit. Having a large detailed dataset available will enable you to develop a series of academic papers, whilst also developing advanced analysis and research skills. The post-holder will lead on the writing of journal articles and conference presentations with the support of senior colleagues at the CEU. The research can form the basis of either an MD or PhD. The fees for an MD or PhD will be covered by the CEU.

### **National Oesophago-Gastric Cancer Audit**

The current National Oesophago-Gastric Cancer Audit began in October 2011 with the aim of assessing the quality of care received by patients with OG cancer in England and Wales. The Audit focuses on:

- the diagnosis, the staging, and treatment planning process
- curative treatments and their short-term outcomes
- palliative oncological treatment and endoscopic / radiological palliative therapies and their short-term outcomes.

The Audit publishes comparative results for regions and NHS trusts on pre-treatment staging, treatment planning, the short-term outcomes of curative (surgical) and palliative care. It has published results on the quality of care received by OG cancer patients in relation to:

- The use of staging investigations to identify patients suitable for curative therapy
- Variation in the proportion of patients selected for palliative oncology
- The outcomes of curative resections
- The use of minimally invasive surgery
- Oncological treatments received by palliative patients,

Building on its successes, the plan for the Audit is to continue developing its scope, and to look in more detail along the care pathway before, during and after diagnosis. For example, there is potential to:

- Look *earlier in the pathway* to describe the process of care immediately before diagnosis, with the aim of reducing the numbers of patients whose cancer is diagnosed as an emergency.
- Broaden the coverage of the Audit by investigating the planning of care, and what influences the selection of different multi-modal therapies when patients have similar clinical profiles.
- Look *later in the pathway* to describe longer-term outcomes, in order to compare mortality and other important relevant health events among providers of OG cancer services.

The data sources used for the Audit provide a wealth of information from which clinical and health services research questions can be answered and written up as academic papers.

### **Clinical Effectiveness Unit**

The Clinical Effectiveness Unit (CEU) is a collaboration between The Royal College of Surgeons of England and the Department of Health Services Research and Policy of the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine (LSHTM)

(<https://www.rcseng.ac.uk/surgeons/research/surgical-research/ceu>).

The objectives of the CEU are:

- to carry out national surgical audits
- to develop audit methodologies
- to produce evidence on clinical and cost effectiveness

Since its inception in 1998, the CEU has become a national centre of expertise in the methods, organisation, and logistics of large-scale studies of the quality of surgical care. It has fostered collaborative links with professional organisations, the Department of Health and other relevant bodies within the NHS.

The CEU has developed a strategy for its involvement in national audit projects. An essential element of this strategy is that it considers audit projects as *epidemiological studies* of the quality of surgical care. This implies that epidemiological methods should be used to generate high quality evidence on the *processes* and *outcomes* of surgical care as well as on their *determinants*. Another important feature of the CEU's strategy is the emphasis it gives to joint clinical and methodological leadership.

The CEU's audits and research have directly influenced clinical policy as well as audit practice in the UK. We have undertaken national projects on tonsillectomy, liver and heart / lung transplantation, vascular surgery, joint replacement, bowel cancer, breast cancer, and treatment of children with a cleft lip or palate.

The CEU is a project-based organisation. The majority of its projects are externally funded. The CEU also receives a contribution from the College's research funds. The Unit has 20 staff members, of whom 7 are academic staff members of LSHTM. The background of the staff

demonstrates the multidisciplinary character of the Unit (medicine, health services research, medical statistics, epidemiology and public health). The Unit's Director is David Cromwell, Professor of Health Services Research.

## **Duties of the post**

### **1. Further development of the National OG Cancer Audit**

- To work with the senior clinicians, methodologists and project managers in further developing the Audit. This work will include:
  - Designing, managing, analysing and reporting on an organisational survey of service providers on the structure and provision of care
  - Supporting the analysis of the prospectively collected Audit data linked to HES and other databases
  - Reporting the results of the Audit in Annual Reports and papers for peer-reviewed publications
  - Developing research topics on treatment patterns and clinical outcomes that lead to peer-reviewed journal articles and conference presentations
  - Reporting the results of Clinical Outcomes Publication<sup>1</sup> for upper GI consultants

### **2. Collaboration with NHS Digital and other relevant organisations to maintain case ascertainment, improve quality and timeliness of data entered, and increase the engagement of staff within NHS trusts**

- To liaise with the NHS Digital in order to support the project management and data collection
- To liaise with staff in participating NHS trusts and hospitals in order to publicise the Audit and its findings and to respond to clinical queries
- To liaise with all professional bodies involved in the management of patients with OG cancer, and to represent the Audit at regional and national meetings

### **3. Other**

- To undergo further training in statistics and audit / research methodology
- To maintain the confidentiality of data at all times and to ensure that the requirements of the Data Protection Act are met throughout the project
- To ensure that the data collection, analysis and reporting of the study is carried out to the highest professional standards
- To carry out other occasional duties within the Clinical Effectiveness Unit, e.g. contributing to training workshops

There will be no clinical duties or on-call commitments but there is flexibility to allow the post-holder to continue their clinical practice.

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<sup>1</sup> <http://www.augis.org/surgical-outcomes-2018/>

**Accountability**

The post-holder will be responsible to Audit's Methodologist (Dr Min Hae Park) and, ultimately, the Director of the Clinical Effectiveness Unit (Professor David Cromwell).

**Grade/Scale:**

A clinical academic post-holder will be on the scale for Clinical Academic Staff (£35,093 to £42,399 per annum) depending on qualifications and experience.

**Selection process:**

Candidates who are invited for interview will be asked to give a short presentation about an audit or research project they have been involved in followed by a panel interview. They will also be given a short test of their problem solving skills and numerical ability.

## PERSON SPECIFICATION

**POSITION:** Clinical Fellow, National OG Cancer Audit

**DEPARTMENT:** Clinical Effectiveness Unit

ESSENTIAL CRITERIA	DESIRABLE CRITERIA
<b>Education/Qualifications</b> Membership / Fellowship of a relevant Royal College	<b>Education/Qualifications</b>
<b>Knowledge</b> Good numeracy (e.g. good pass at A level or equivalent) Good understanding of health-related research methods Good understanding of basic statistical principles	<b>Knowledge</b> Understanding of epidemiological research (study design, data collection and analysis) Familiar with national clinical audit programmes
<b>Experience</b> Relevant clinical experience Experience in analysing clinical data	<b>Experience</b> Experience of research or clinical audit projects in a hospital setting Evidence of peer-reviewed publications Evidence of presenting research at professional conferences
<b>Skills</b> Excellent verbal & written communication skills Good organisational skills Ability to think systematically and critically Computer literate and proficient with office software Ability to work independently Ability to work in a small team	<b>Skills</b> Familiar with software for data management and statistical analysis