

Job Description

Post	Lead Researcher: Insight and Lived Experience (permanent, full-time)
Job Ref	R/18
Location	Flexible
Department	Research and Patient Advocacy
Reporting to	Director of Research and Advocacy
Responsible for	Postdoctoral Researcher Research Officer - Patient and Public Involvement and Engagement

Job Summary

Myeloma UK is the only UK charity focused on myeloma and its related conditions. We provide support and campaign for access to treatments, while researching a cure.

Our new Research Strategy puts people affected by myeloma in the driving seat: funding, supporting projects and advocating for improvements that we know are important to people affected by myeloma.

Our Applied Health Research (AHR) team is the key to understanding patient and carer experiences and how to translate that insight into innovation. We have a unique connection with people affected by myeloma and our ability to generate large scale insight and big data through our AHR Programme is unrivalled.

This is an exciting opportunity to develop our flagship Unmet and Emerging Needs Research Programme, gathering insight from the myeloma community to drive the change needed to deliver better diagnosis, treatment and care.

We bring academic rigour to our work with a clear focus on delivering change in clinical practice and our own support services.

This is a time of expansion in the team as we continue to develop new partnerships and funding streams. You will:

- Be a skilled researcher with experience of survey design, health research methodologies and understanding of Patient and Public Involvement and Engagement (PPI/E)
- Have experience in managing and developing a team
- Be motivated to realise income potential from our research, in partnership with the Head of Commercial Development
- Help build our digital and AI capabilities in our AHR work

The role will provide day to day leadership and professional oversight for key AHR programmes including:

- Our unique core Unmet and Emerging Needs Research Programme
- Our gold standard delivery of Myeloma UK Patient and Public Involvement (PPI)

The postholder may also be required to work with the Principal Researcher on external partnership research projects, drafting new grant proposals and supporting delivery of contracted AHR work (providing PPI/E, a focus on quantitative studies, with some opportunities for qualitative research). You will specifically project management support for the Research Officer working grant projects.

The range of research projects covered includes:

- Health related quality of life
- Psychological wellbeing
- Burden of the disease and their treatments insights generation

The Lead Researcher will liaise closely with internal teams in Myeloma UK, external research collaborators and University partners, to perform their duties.

1. Main duties and responsibilities

Project delivery

- Oversee the delivery of key AHR research programmes in line with business and operational plans and budget; monitoring and reporting on activities, and managing project risks to ensure outputs are delivered to the required standard and deadlines
- Working with the Principal Researcher and Director develop the Myeloma UK Unmet and Emerging Needs Programme, including working with the Head of Commercial Development to generate income
- Line manage Postdoctoral Research team members and the Research Officer
- Work with the Principal Researcher in AHR, to develop and implement robust programme management processes and protocols
- Deputising for the Principal Researcher as appropriate
- Deliver project events, such as research collaboration meetings, workshops, and coordinate appropriate publicity
- Where appropriate, work with the relevant Myeloma UK teams to cost up research proposals and bids

Operations and resources management

- Exceptional project management and organisational skills combined with a strong attention to detail

- Good analytical skills demonstrated by a robust structured and methodological approach to research
- Perform strategic project resource planning and financial analysis, including assisting in the preparation of budgets, to include staffing and operational needs
- Coordinate the delivery of strong project governance to ensure all research meets ethical requirements

Communications and relationship management

- Develop and maintain strong relationships with external stakeholders including funders, clinical Key Opinion Leaders (KOLs) and people affected by myeloma and related conditions
- Work with communications and brand team, as well as funders and research partners, to communicate the aims and impact of programmes, including case studies
- Present at external conferences and meetings

2. General

Continuous improvement, developing skills, adhering to organisational quality standards, and teamwork underpin all roles at Myeloma UK.

General responsibilities include:

- Support the AHR team's professional development and undertake regular 1-2-1s to build professional working relationships, delivery of research programmes and mentoring. This will also involve undertaking appraisals to ensure team members are achieving their goals, developing their skills and delivering on KPIs
- Be attentive to and implement organisation brand and style guidelines
- Participate in team meetings and work together with colleagues to maintain and improve knowledge and skills
- Act as a source of information and support to colleagues throughout the organisation
- Demonstrate a commitment to ongoing learning and development and to participate in any training relevant to the role
- This role will require some essential travel throughout the UK, therefore the post holder must be willing to travel. Regular travel to Edinburgh if based elsewhere will be required. Travel will be undertaken in line with relevant guidance and restrictions
- Undertake such work as may be appropriate to the post

This job description is not exhaustive. It merely acts as a guide and may be amended to meet the changing requirements of Myeloma UK at any time after discussion with the post holder.

Person Specification

Area	Essential	Desirable
Qualifications & Experience	• Educated to PhD degree level in a relevant field • Proven track record in mixed methods research with a specific focus on Applied Health Research utilising quantitative research methods; validated questionnaires, developing surveys, literature reviews • Experienced in the use of parametric and non-parametric statistics, modelling, computational modelling and a variety of other analytical techniques (using SPSS, R, Python) • Previous project management experience • Experience of working with people living with long term health conditions and clinical and academic stakeholders • Understanding of gold standard Patient and Public Involvement and Engagement (PPI/E) guidance and previous experience of delivering PPI/E into Research • Experience of managing and developing a team	• Experience of working in the charity sector • Management of multi-disciplinary research projects, involving internal and external partners • Knowledge of cancer research priorities • Experience of securing income to support research projects and programmes • Understanding of the role of digital and AI in Applied Health Research • Ability to undertake focus groups and analyse data in NVivo
Knowledge	• Health research methodologies (quantitative research & variety of lit. reviews) • Medical, health related resources and environments • Understanding of the needs and preferences of	• Experienced in the use of qualitative research methods would be valuable

	people living with chronic long term conditions and their families	
Skills	• Exceptional project management and organisational skills • Ability to communicate effectively and clearly with a wide range of people and audiences at all levels • Effective decision-making • Demonstrable problem solving and advisory skills • Time management, prioritisation and calmness under pressure • Budget management	• Experience of relevant project management tools or processes
Personal	• Patient centred approach to research • Flexible and delivery focused • Curious mindset and impact driven • Embracing “test and learn” approach to delivery, with a willingness to persevere • Commitment and desire to make a difference • Ability to multi-task and work on own initiative as well as proven team building and motivational skills • Diplomatic, able to negotiate and apply judgement in complex areas • Proven ability to work effectively to deadlines and priorities • An ability to work out of the office and across the UK as required, with occasional international travel	

Terms and Conditions

Post	Lead Researcher: Insight and Lived Experience (permanent, full-time)
Salary	£44,808 - £48,434
Probation period	Three months
Hours of work	The standard working week comprises 35 hours, Monday to Friday. Myeloma UK operates a flexitime scheme and details will be provided by the Head of HR and Operations.. The post holder will be expected to assume duties outside working hours to support the delivery of their role and the operation of the organisation when required
Holidays	Full-time holiday entitlement is 30 days per calendar year, plus 6 public holidays.
Pension scheme	Myeloma UK complies with its auto-enrolment obligations and offers a 7% pension contribution to all staff.
Premises	Myeloma UK is situated at 22 Logie Mill, Beaverbank Business Park, Edinburgh, EH7 4HG.