Cochrane Systematic Review Research Fellow

Centre for Reviews and Dissemination (CRD)

Closing date: 29 October 2017
Interview date: TBC
Vacancy reference: 6071
INTRODUCTION

The Centre for Reviews and Dissemination (CRD) is a research department that specialises in evidence synthesis across a wide range of health areas to provide best evidence to inform health policy and practice decisions. Established in 1994, the centre has completed over 160 systematic reviews of health and public health interventions, many of which have had a direct impact on national policy. In alignment with a new University of York Research Strategy, the centre has undergone major reorganisation to focus purely on research activity, and to extend into new areas aligned with health and wellbeing.

The Cochrane Common Mental Disorders Review Group (CMD) is a large international network of individuals and organizations committed to preparing and disseminating systematic reviews on the prevention and treatment of common mental disorders such as depression, anxiety disorders, eating disorders, somatoform disorders and suicide. The CMD Group is one of 52 Cochrane review groups worldwide which contribute to the work of Cochrane. Cochrane systematic reviews combine results of the world’s best medical research studies and are published in The Cochrane Library, an electronic publication held by Wiley-Blackwell. Cochrane reviews are recognised as the gold standard in evidence-based health care.

CRD now hosts the editorial base of the CMD group. The CMD editorial team assists groups of review authors from around the world with the production of high quality Cochrane systematic reviews in mental health. We are looking to recruit a skilled and motivated systematic reviewer to join the CMD editorial team and CRD at this exciting point in the department’s history.

Applications are welcome from candidates with a first degree and a relevant Masters level qualification in a health, science or social science subject. Candidates will preferably have a PhD in a relevant topic. The successful candidate will have an excellent understanding of systematic review and prior experience of health related research. They will be a key member of the CMD editorial team. We are particularly keen to receive applications from those with experience and knowledge of systematic reviews in mental health.
Main purpose of the role

The CMD Research Fellow will work as part of multidisciplinary teams to deliver CMD systematic reviews and other evidence synthesis projects, often to tight deadlines.

The Research Fellow will contribute to all aspects of CMDs systematic reviews including screening articles for inclusion, quality and risk of bias assessment, data extraction, data collection, data management, data synthesis (quantitative and qualitative), interpreting results and writing research reports and papers. A Research Fellow with appropriate skills will contribute to other types of synthesis within the CMD group and to other CRD projects, including individual participant data and network meta-analyses. They may also work on developing methods both within reviews and as standalone projects.

Working under the supervision of the Co-ordinating Editor of CMD the Grade 6 Research Fellow will provide support and guidance on methodological aspects of Cochrane Common Mental Disorders systematic reviews, and will collaborate with a range of review teams, at all stages of the review writing and editorial process. They will actively contribute to editorial team meetings and communicate effectively with other team members. Presentation of CMDs work at internal and external meetings and at conferences is also an expectation of the role.

CMD offers external training courses in evidence synthesis and Research Fellows are encouraged and supported to contribute to this activity.

Key responsibilities

(Role holders will be required to undertake some or all of the duties below)

- Undertake evidence synthesis projects (as part of a team or individually) according to expertise, experience and need within CRD. These may include:
  - Systematic review
  - Rapid synthesis
  - IPD meta-analysis
  - Methodological projects
  - Network meta-analysis
- This will require the ability to:
  - Critically review relevant literature
  - Identify, collect and manage data
- Depending on the type of project this may also require the ability to do one or more of the following:
  - Undertake quantitative analysis including network meta-analysis
  - Undertake statistical analysis using IPD from trials and observational studies
  - Undertake analysis of qualitative data
- Contribute to the planning and prioritisation of work across CMDs portfolio of reviews
- Write or contribute to systematic reviews in the CMD portfolio plus associated reports and academic papers
- Contribute to other CRD research projects, as required
- Present and disseminate research findings
- Help devise and plan research projects
- Assist in developing grant and funding applications
- Contribute to the development and delivery of short courses and other training as required
- Provide training and support to CMD authors in implementation of Cochrane methods
- Contribute to knowledge translation activity, as required
- Undertake administrative duties and roles for CMD and for CRD as assigned
### PERSON SPECIFICATION

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<tr>
<th>Qualifications</th>
<th>Essential / Desirable</th>
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<tr>
<td>First degree in a relevant health, science or social science subject</td>
<td>Essential</td>
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<td>Relevant Masters-level qualification</td>
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<td>PhD or equivalent relevant experience</td>
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<tr>
<th>Knowledge</th>
<th>Essential / Desirable</th>
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<tr>
<td>Principles and methods of systematic review and meta-analysis</td>
<td>Essential</td>
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<td>Study designs used in health, public health or social care research</td>
<td>Essential</td>
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<tr>
<td>Detailed understanding of the methods of at least one of the following: health technology assessment reviews, rapid reviews, public health reviews, diagnostic reviews, reviews of qualitative studies, IPD reviews, medical statistics</td>
<td>Desirable</td>
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<tr>
<th>Skills, abilities and competencies</th>
<th>Essential / Desirable</th>
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<tr>
<td>Strong skills in quantitative and/or qualitative analysis</td>
<td>Essential</td>
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<td>Able to develop research ideas, projects and proposals, with supervision if required</td>
<td>Essential</td>
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<td>Excellent writing and presentation skills</td>
<td>Essential</td>
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<td>Demonstrable skills in critical appraisal and peer-review</td>
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<td>Good IT skills</td>
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<td>Good communication and inter-personal skills</td>
<td>Essential</td>
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<td>Able to select appropriate methods and apply the principles of evidence synthesis in practice</td>
<td>Essential</td>
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<td>Able to engage and communicate with non-researchers</td>
<td>Desirable</td>
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<td>Experience of using Cochrane software RevMan and Archie</td>
<td>Desirable</td>
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<tr>
<th>Experience</th>
<th>Essential / Desirable</th>
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<tr>
<td>Undertaking health, public health or social care research</td>
<td>Essential</td>
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<td>Delivering work to agreed deadlines</td>
<td>Essential</td>
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<tr>
<td>Systematic review or meta-analysis (e.g. study selection, critical appraisal of research studies, synthesis)</td>
<td>Essential</td>
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<td>Specific experience of systematic reviews in the field of mental health</td>
<td>Desirable</td>
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<td>Using systematic review software (e.g. Eppl Reviewer, RevMan)</td>
<td>Desirable</td>
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<td>Using statistical software packages (e.g. SAS, SPSS, r)</td>
<td>Desirable</td>
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<td>Undertaking network meta-analysis and/or statistical analysis of IPD</td>
<td>Desirable</td>
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<td>Developing and/or presenting teaching materials</td>
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<td>Writing or contributing to research proposals</td>
<td>Desirable</td>
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<td>Experience in Cochrane systematic review methodology</td>
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## Personal attributes

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<tr>
<td>An interest in and enthusiasm for evidence synthesis and/or knowledge translation</td>
<td>Essential</td>
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<td>Able to work constructively as part of a team</td>
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<td>Able to work on own initiative</td>
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<td>Attention to detail and commitment to producing high quality outputs</td>
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<td>Ability to solve problems and innovate</td>
<td>Essential</td>
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<td>Commitment to developing new skills and personal development</td>
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<td>Willingness to undertake administrative responsibilities</td>
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<td>Have the ambition to build a career in evidence synthesis</td>
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THE DEPARTMENT

Background

The Centre for Reviews and Dissemination is a research department that specialises in evidence synthesis. We have been conducting and disseminating the findings of systematic reviews and developing underpinning methods for over 20 years.

We currently have 41 members of staff consisting of researchers, clinicians, information specialists, administrative staff and postgraduate students, including NIHR Academic Clinical Fellows, as well as Visiting Academic Fellows. We also now host the Cochrane Common Mental Disorders Group and collaborate widely with colleagues in the University of York.

CRD is co-located and has long-standing and successful collaborative partnerships with the Centre for Health Economics (CHE), the Department of Health Sciences, the Social Policy Research Unit (SPRU) and the Hull York Medical School (HYMS). Together these departments constitute a health services research network - a broad, multi-disciplinary grouping that includes academic public health, primary care, and secondary (specialised) health service expertise as well as strengths in epidemiology, trials, evidence synthesis, informatics, bioethics and social policy research. Externally, we work with relevant groups in the UK and internationally, and have strong links with both the Cochrane and Campbell Collaborations.

Many of our systematic reviews have had a direct influence on national policy and have achieved international impact. The world leading research undertaken by CRD, CHE, the Department of Health Sciences and HYMS has been recognised by the University of York’s ranking as equal 7th for Public Health, Health Services and Primary Care in the 2014 Research Excellence Framework. The results show that 83% of our research was rated as "world leading" or "internationally excellent". Our research spans health technology assessment, public health and policy and service delivery and organisation, all underpinned by a programme of methodological development.

Health Technology Assessment

Our largest programme of work is in health technology assessment. This includes Technology Assessment Reviews (TAR) funded by the NIHR Health Technology Assessment Programme, which are undertaken in collaboration with CHE. For NICE, we carry out critical reviews of manufacturer submissions under the Single Technology Appraisal process and review, synthesis and modelling under the Multiple Technology Appraisal process and the Diagnostic Assessment Programme. Ongoing and recently completed TAR work includes: an economic evaluation of the value of Cochrane reviews; a single technology appraisal of crizotinib for untreated non-small cell lung cancer; an assessment of a highly specialised technology Eliglustat for Gaucher disease; and a multiple technology appraisal of biologics for childhood psoriasis.

Outside of TAR, we undertake systematic reviews and economic evaluations of benefits, harms and costs of a range of healthcare interventions. Current work includes:

- NIHR Cochrane Programme of nutritional interventions to promote optimal growth and development in preterm infants
- NIHR Postdoctoral Fellowship to assess strategies to reduce antibiotic use in children with cancer
- PCORI funded IPD meta-analysis of progestogen for prevention of preterm birth
- NIHR HTA funded evidence synthesis of interventions for complex traumatic events
- Cochrane reviews of common mental disorders.
THE DEPARTMENT

Public health and policy

CRD has a track record of undertaking systematic reviews to address important public health questions. As a collaborator in the DH Policy Research Programme (PRP) funded Public Health Research Consortium we are completing a series of reviews on multiple risk behaviours. We are also working with colleagues in the Department of Health Sciences on a NIHR Public Health Research Programme funded project addressing novel psychoactive substances.

We work in partnership with the EPPI-Centre, London and the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine to provide a Department of Health (DH) supported policy reviews facility that supports national policy development and implementation, develops improved methods for evidence synthesis and promotes global awareness of the importance of reviews in decision-making.

Service Delivery and Organisation

CRD provides the NIHR Health Services and Delivery Research (HS&DR) Evidence Synthesis Centre. We summarise key evidence for managers and clinical leaders, producing authoritative single-source documents that provide clear messages in complex areas. The programme is led by CRD in collaboration with SPRU and CHE, and the EPPI-Centre, London.

Underpinning methods of synthesis

Methodological development underpins all of our research and we have particular interests in network meta-analysis and IPD synthesis including enhancement of statistical models, risk prediction and combining observational with experimental data. We are involved in developing approaches to utilise trial data and information increasingly being released under open data and data sharing initiatives. Other areas of interest include methods of narrative synthesis and defining methods and approaches to "rapid evidence synthesis".

University of York Research Strategy

In alignment with the University’s Research Strategy Health and Wellbeing and Risk Evidence and Decision Making themes, CRD is expanding its capacity to deliver high quality policy-relevant research. We are increasing our capacity to undertake health technology assessment and evidence synthesis across a broad range of clinical areas whilst building specific expertise in child health, cancer and mental health. We are extending the scope of public health research to cover public policy more broadly, in particular the wider social determinants of health (e.g. housing, transport, environment). We are seeking to build capacity and expertise across health, social care and public policy and are looking to appoint enthusiastic, skilled applied health researchers, statisticians and health economists who are committed to establishing a career in evidence synthesis.

Further information about the University of York is available at http://www.york.ac.uk

Further information about CRD including completed and ongoing research projects can be found at: http://www.york.ac.uk/crd
Founded on principles of excellence, equality and opportunity for all, the University of York opened in 1963 with just 230 students. In 2017 it is the home of more than 17,000 students across more than 30 academic departments and research centres. Since opening over fifty years ago, we have become one of the world’s leading universities and a member of the prestigious Russell Group.

We are consistently recognised as one of the leading Higher Education Institutes and one of just six post-war universities which appear in the world top 100 (2013-14) and 15th in the Times & Sunday Times league table (2016). The University of York has won six Times Higher Education (THE) Awards and five Queen’s Anniversary Prizes.

The University is proud of its association with Athena SWAN, holding 12 awards in support of gender equality, representation and success for all, with gold awards for Chemistry and Biology and a University-wide bronze award.

Of 154 universities that took part in the Research Excellence Framework (REF) in 2014, The University of York ranked 14th overall and 10th for the impact of our research. The University is consistently in the top ten UK research universities and attracts over £60m a year of funding from research alone.

Our vision is to make the University of York a world leader in the creation of knowledge through fundamental and applied research, the sharing of knowledge by teaching students from varied backgrounds and the application of knowledge for the health, prosperity and well-being of people and society.
Attractive workplace

Centred around the picturesque village of Heslington on the edge of the city of York, our colleges are set in an attractive landscaped campus. York enjoys a safe, friendly atmosphere with facilities including bars, shops, theatres and concert halls all within easy walking distance.

The University has undergone an unprecedented period of expansion and renewal since 2000. We have invested in twenty new buildings on the original campus and have completed the first and second phases of a £750m campus expansion. Our investment in new colleges, teaching and learning spaces, laboratories, research facilities and a new sports village mean there has never been a better time to join us.

During this period of change we’ve worked hard to retain our friendly, informal and collegiate atmosphere, which is important to our core values of inclusivity and interdisciplinarity.

We have a thriving international community and are committed to providing staff moving to York with as much support as possible through our Relocation Package and Welcome Officers.

The University aims to offer a nurturing and supportive environment as an employer. Flexible working hours, nursery facilities, childcare vouchers, cycle to work scheme, generous holidays and an attractive pension scheme all make the University of York one of the region’s leading employers.

For further information please visit our employee benefit pages.
THE CITY AND THE REGION

The City of York

Internationally acclaimed for its rich heritage and historic architecture, York's bustling streets are filled with visitors from all over the world. Within its medieval walls you will find the iconic gothic Minster, Clifford's Tower and the Shambles - just a few of the many attractions.

But York isn't just a great place to visit - it's also a great place to live and work. While nourishing a vibrant cosmopolitan atmosphere, York still maintains the friendly sense of community unique to a small city.

Visit www.visityork.org for more information on the city of York

Shopping, culture and entertainment

York boasts specialist and unique boutiques but also all the high street stores on its busy shopping streets. Alongside them you will find cinemas, theatres, an opera house, art galleries, a vast range of restaurants, live music venues and clubs. York is particularly renowned for its multitude of pubs and bars, from the modern to the medieval.

Housing and schools

Whether you choose to live close to the city, in one of the surrounding villages or further afield, you will find a wide range of housing within comfortable distance of York and the University. For families, the area has a range of excellent schools both in the state and independent sector.

Great location

York is one of Britain's best-connected cities. Halfway between London and Edinburgh on the East Coast mainline, on intercity trains you can reach London King's Cross in less than two hours and Edinburgh in two and a half hours. York is also well served by road links, and it is easily accessible from the A1, M1 and the M62.

For those travelling from overseas, Manchester Airport is two hours away and Heathrow Airport just three and a half. Flights from nearby Leeds Bradford Airport provide easy access to mainland Europe. By Eurostar from London St Pancras, Paris is just over six hours away.

Yorkshire

The Lonely Planet guide recently declared Yorkshire the third best region in the world to visit. There is something to cater to every taste, whether it be the rugged landscapes of the Moors or the Dales, the picturesque seaside towns of Scarborough and Robin Hoods Bay, the gothic architecture of Whitby or the vibrancy of cosmopolitan Leeds.
Apply online

- Go to https://jobs.york.ac.uk
- Find this job using reference 6071
- Complete the online application form

You will need to submit your completed application by midnight (local UK time) on 29 October 2017.

What will I need?

You will need to upload:

- your CV
- a letter describing how you meet the requirements of the job

You will also need details of 2 referees.

Help and assistance

If you have any questions about your application, contact the HR Services team:

recruitment@york.ac.uk
+44 (0)1904 324835