

Job Description of RF META-SMI Project

Title of Position: Research Fellow for the Global Health Research on Mental and Physical Comorbidity

Location: Institute of Psychiatry, Benazir Bhutto Hospital Rawalpindi

Hours of work: Full-time (40 hours per week)

Duration of Contract: 1 year (initial 3-month probation period), with the possibility of extension

Expected Salary: PKR 120,000 to 150,000.

Reports to: Principal Investigator and Programme Manager

Overview:

We are seeking a motivated Mixed Method Research Fellow to join our research team at the IMPACT Research Office at the Institute of Psychiatry, Rawalpindi. The Research Fellow will join the Global Health Research Team on Mental and Physical Comorbidity working on multiple projects in collaboration with the University of York, UK. S/he will primarily contribute to the Metformin Trial for Antipsychotic-Induced Weight Gain (AiWG) in Individuals with Severe Mental Illness in Pakistan (META-SMI).

We are seeking a motivated Mixed Method Research Fellow to join our research team at the IMPACT Research Office at the Institute of Psychiatry (IOP), Rawalpindi. IOP is an academic unit of Rawalpindi Medical University (RMU) and a tertiary mental health care facility at the Benazir Bhutto Hospital, Rawalpindi. The IOP has multiple collaborations with national and international organizations in various mental health projects. The Research Fellow will join the Global Health Research Team on Mental and Physical Comorbidity working on multiple projects in collaboration with the University of York, and Hull York Medical School, UK and will be working primarily on the project called “Metformin Trial for Antipsychotic-Induced Weight Gain (AiWG) in Individuals with Severe Mental Illness in Pakistan (META-SMI)”. This randomized controlled trial aims to investigate the effectiveness of metformin in addressing weight gain caused by antipsychotic medication in patients with severe mental illness. This role offers the opportunity to contribute to groundbreaking research aimed at improving the lives of individuals with severe mental illness by addressing a significant side effect of their treatment.

Job Responsibilities:

The job responsibilities will include but will not be limited to:

1. Contributing to preparing research proposals, research tools, and other relevant applications to external bodies (e.g., ethics review boards, drug regulatory authorities).
2. Collaborating with research staff to conduct comprehensive quantitative research, including data collection, analysis, and clinical trials.
3. Working closely with the program coordinator/manager and principal investigator to recruit, enroll, and maintain communication with trial participants, addressing issues empathetically while ensuring adherence to ethical guidelines and study protocols.
4. Monitoring both the control group and the intervention group to ensure proper administration and adherence to the study protocol.
5. Managing the distribution and tracking of metformin and placebo medications, ensuring accurate dosing and compliance.
6. Developing, adapting, translating, and reviewing resource materials for quantitative research, including participants' information sheets, promotional materials, consent forms, case report forms, and other relevant materials.
7. Systematically capturing, storing, and managing all data gathered in the project, contributing to both data collection and analysis.
8. Working closely with the program manager and research team to utilize appropriate research techniques and methods, write up research results, and disseminate findings through publications, seminar and conference presentations, and public engagement and outreach activities.
9. Monitoring project progress, planning and reporting activities to line supervisors at the Institute of Psychiatry, Rawalpindi, and the University of York, UK.
10. Maintaining office decorum and following the ethical code of conduct.

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11. Undertaking any additional responsibilities within the job's scope allocated by the manager, supervisor, or investigators in consultation with the post-holder.

Eligibility and Specifications:

Qualifications	
First degree in field of Medical or Allied Health sciences	Essential
Masters in relevant area (Medical or Allied Health Sciences)	Essential
A completed or ongoing PhD in a relevant field (Medical or Allied Health Sciences)	Desirable
Knowledge	
Knowledge of applied health research methods relevant to both mental and physical health	Essential
Knowledge of common mental disorders	Desirable
Knowledge of non-communicable diseases	Desirable
Skills, abilities, and competencies	
Highly developed communication skills to engage effectively with a wide-ranging audience, both orally and in writing, using a range of media	Essential
Ability to conduct research with patients, carers, and healthcare staff	Essential
Ability to accept, give and build on feedback for personal development	Essential
Ability to write up research work for publication and engage in public dissemination with the assistance of a mentor if required	Essential
Ability to develop healthcare research objectives, projects, and proposals with the assistance of a mentor if required	Essential
Proficiency in MS Office, Statistics and Conferencing software (Zoom)	Essential
Competency to conduct individual and collaborative research projects	Essential
Ensuring the blinding process is maintained throughout the study and manage the randomization process as per the protocol.	Essential
Ability to contribute to the writing of research grant applications if required	Desirable
Experience	
Experience in carrying out both independent and collaborative research	Essential
Experience in writing up research work for publication	Essential
Experience in conducting research with patients, carers, or healthcare staff	Essential
Experience in a relevant health area such as mental health	Desirable
Experience in conducting a clinical (Placebo-Controlled) trial	Desirable
Personal attributes	
Commitment to high quality	Essential
Attention to detail	Essential
Collaborative ethos	Essential
Interest in and enthusiasm for the subject matter of the project(s)	Essential
Positive attitude to colleagues and others involved in the project in any capacity	Essential
Willingness to work proactively with colleagues in other work areas/institutions	Essential
Ability to plan and prioritize own work to meet deadlines	Essential
Commitment to personal development and updating of knowledge and skills	Essential
Willingness to respect equality & diversity	Essential
Ability to accept, give and build on feedback for personal development	Essential

Application Process:

To apply, please submit the following documents through email to administrator_rgmo@rmur.edu.pk with the Subject: *Candidate Name* RF-META Application.

- A cover letter outlining your interest in the position and relevant experience

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- An updated CV/resume
- Application form downloaded from the RMU website (job sections: <https://rmur.edu.pk/jobs/>)
- Contact Information of 3 references

Application Deadline:

The Institute of Psychiatry will accept applications submitted by midnight Friday ***2nd August 2024***.