

## **DIRECTOR – Dementia@Manchester**

### **Dementia Research at the University of Manchester – a cross-institution network**

#### **Background**

The University of Manchester has the potential to be internationally leading in dementia research but this has yet to be fully realised. The tremendous breadth and scope of dementia and neurodegeneration research across the University ranges from “cell to society” and has been recently boosted by significant funding successes, e.g. MRC Dementias Platform UK, EPSRC Sensing and Imaging in Diagnosis of Dementia and the ESRC/NIHR Neighbourhoods and Dementia study. This context provides a timely opportunity to develop an inclusive multidisciplinary dementia research strategy, informed and underpinned by the involvement of people living with dementia and their support networks. Such a University-wide strategy will:

- coordinate, focus and optimize our dementia research through an integrated cross-Faculty network *Dementia@Manchester*;
- build a sustainable base for future capacity in dementia studies;
- increase grant income and deliver added value to translational outputs;
- build the reputation of UoM as a leader in dementia research nationally and internationally;
- enable the University to become dementia friendly and to enhance its social responsibility agenda;
- build on and develop our PPI networks and establish a University PPI Dementia Research Advisory Group;
- deliver stratified medicine and improved health and social care benefits for those living with dementia in Manchester and the North West of England.

Through a co-ordinated and collaborative approach, working in partnership with regional and national organisations, we must deliver a step change in the quality and quantity of dementia research activity in the University, and thus bring forward real benefits to people living with dementia and their carers.

This initiative requires strong strategic leadership with an excellent understanding of dementia research, practice and policy. To this end, we are seeking to appoint a Director for Dementia Research - a new role for the University of Manchester.

#### **The Role and Responsibilities of the Director for Dementia Research**

- To lead on the implementation of the recently finalised strategic plan for Dementia@Manchester, delivering on agreed Key Performance Indicators and reporting to the UMRI Board via the MICRA Management Group.
- The Director, working with strategic theme academic leads, will continue to explore and develop the strengths in dementia research within the University and the partner organisations and scope for opportunities for funding.
- To develop links with other structures, organisations and initiatives on dementia. This will include activities across the University, within MAHSC NHS partners and other local NHS organisations (such as Clinical Commissioning Groups), local councils (e.g. working with Directors of Public Health), and other academic institutions (e.g. Manchester Metropolitan University and University of Salford) to exploit opportunities for research and influencing policy and practice.

- To establish effective external influencing relationships e.g. with research, educational and professional leaders as well as the NHS and local councils, Department of Health and other Government Departments, Research Councils, HEFCE, charitable and other UK funding bodies, the Dementias Platform UK, international funding agencies and other external partners and stakeholders.
- To seek out and identify opportunities for external partnership and funding.
- To support and develop activities in support of the University of Manchester 2020 Vision Goal 3 – Social Responsibility (<http://www.manchester.ac.uk/aboutus/vision/>), as appropriate.

### **Candidate Profile**

- An international research profile in an aspect of dementia research
- Experience of effectively interacting with major national and international organisations involved in funding dementia research activities
- Clear understanding of the research translation process and ability to operate throughout that spectrum and engage with academics, local decision-makers and national policy-makers
- Demonstrable track record of leading positive change with excellent leadership, influencing and communication skills, and ability to both lead and participate in a team
- Ability to represent complex and challenging issues to external stakeholders in health and social care and public health, and more widely across academia, the NHS, Councils and Government
- Ability to collaborate and influence a wide range of individuals and groups in professionally-based organisations whilst remaining sensitive to the autonomy and individual accountability of the members, both NHS and HEI

He/she must also be able to demonstrate, as relevant to the Dementia strategy:

- Experience of formulating and delivering a strategic plan whilst being accountable to a diverse group of stakeholders
- Experience of strategic leadership of research, especially with regard to the integration of research, practice and policy
- Relevant health research qualifications, plus a higher academic degree or evidence of an equivalent level of expertise by research publications
- Understanding of the role and remit of UK NHS and Public Health organisations (including Public Health England), awareness of relevant NHS and Local Government policy and planning documents and the importance of research governance.
- The highest ethical and professional standards in research and education.
- Active research profile at international level with a continuing track record of external research grant funding and a track record of leading or participating in successful applications for major strategic grants from third party bodies, such as the National Institute for Health Research

- Experience of establishing new governance structures and procedures based on networks of influence and persuasion in an academic environment.
- Experience of successful liaison with funders, including philanthropy and/or non-academic bodies
- Understanding of the need for demonstrating research impact, and the setting of a proactive and strategic approach to impact, including balancing the need for academic publications with the need to demonstrate impact for the local population.

### **Terms and Conditions**

The Director for Dementia Research position is expected to involve a minimum of one day per week of the post holder's time. The post holder will be a University of Manchester member of staff and will become a member of the MICRA Management Board. For the purposes of appraisal the FMHS Vice Dean for Research will set the post holder's deliverables and personal development objectives in conjunction with other line manager(s).

Initial appointment will be for a period of three years.