

Southampton Academy of Research

Role Description

Role Title: Southampton Academy of Research (SoAR) – early career researchers' champion (clinical and non-clinical doctoral and post-doctoral researchers).

Time commitment: To attend up to 4 management committee meetings per year and other working groups as they become established. Comment on, and contribute to, documents as needed. Facilitate activities designed to network the early career researcher community on a regular basis. Invitations to occasional meetings e.g. to meet new ECRs at their induction session. Not expected to exceed more than one hour a week on average.

The ECR champion does not provide formal supervision or support. This is the responsibility of academic supervisors, managers and mentor.

Term: 2 years.

Accountable to: Director of SoAR (referred to as the Academy)

Working closely with: Nominated training leads of the Academy (e.g. Medical, Nursing, Midwifery & Allied Health Professions, Respiratory, Nutrition, Non-Clinical Scientists, Research Delivery, Research Management), clinical academic trainees and early career research scientists and recently appointed Biomedical Research Centre Early Career Researcher Champions, SoAR Administrator.

Background

World-leading healthcare research requires excellent researchers. The UHS/UoS partnership has identified a strategic need to build the capacity and capability of our research workforce through the co-ordination and provision of high quality research training. This requires a culture that encourages and enables individuals to develop their careers and apply their research skills and knowledge to advance patient care.

University Hospital Southampton NHS Foundation Trust and the University of Southampton host significant NIHR infrastructure and have a strong track record of developing clinical academic trainees and other groups of early career researchers. Building on our experience, we are well placed to lead the development of an increasingly coordinated approach to research training embedded within a busy NHS Foundation Trust, collaborating with partners across Wessex and nationally with similar initiatives, working in the spirit of 'One NIHR'. We aim to do this through the Southampton Academy of Research.

Vision

Our vision is to create a highly skilled research active, multidisciplinary healthcare workforce composed of all relevant professionals and scientists. We want to become recognised nationally and internationally as a highly effective and well-functioning training system and career development partnership, rather than a collection of individual training environments. It is our goal that Southampton be increasingly recognised as a great place to work, learn and collaborate; a place where trainees play a part in making discoveries, and are part of team that achieves more when we work together.

Role description

1. Contribute as a full member of the Academy management committee.
2. Provide the Academy's management committee with your personal perspective on strengths and areas requiring development with respect to research training and career development at UoS/UHS.
3. Work collaboratively with the Director and Training Leads to canvass opinions of trainees and early career researchers (ECRs) in order to inform the strategy and implementation plans of the Academy.
4. Champion the trainee/ ECR perspective, in particular by contributing to the development of the Academy's strategy through attendance at the Management Committee, and where appropriate, to other groups formed in support of strategy development and implementation.
5. Contribute to activities designed to promote the Academy and maintain and develop Southampton's reputation as a leading centre for health research talent management and be proactive in sharing our good practice.
6. Working with other ECRs contribute to the design, analysis, interpretation and dissemination of the annual survey of training and support needs of ECRs. Work with SoAR administrator to promote a good response rate amongst ECR community and engage this community in developing actions plans in response to the findings.
7. Contribute to induction and act as informal point of contact for ECRs.
8. Work with the SoAR administrator and R&D Communications team to promote the role model initiative.
9. Advise the Director of Academy on direction and priorities for research training and education in the context of the experience of trainees and our wider healthcare research workforce.

Updated February 2019