

UHS Lead for Imaging Research Job Role

Version v2 28/02/2022

Job Title:	Lead for Imaging Research
Responsible to:	Divisional Clinical Director and Clinical Director of R&D
Liases with:	Divisional Senior Management Teams Care Group Managers and Clinical Leads Radiology and Medical Physics senior management teams and staff Director of R&D R&D Manager R&D Head of Nursing and AHPs R&D Divisional Research Management Team CRN Divisional and Speciality Groups Leads Researchers and research teams
Tenure:	2 years renewable for further 2 years
Sessions:	1-2 PA (dependent on postholder and funding envelope)

Job Summary:

Strategic Leadership

- Work with senior stakeholders to set out the vision for Imaging Research at Southampton, meeting the current and assessing the future demands of researchers and clinical teams
- Lead the Southampton Imaging and Radiology Research Group – linking imaging interested researchers across UHS and UoS to develop this group
- Drive the development of a long-term, coherent strategy across UHS and UoS to deliver that vision – link this to UHS and UoS strategies
- Work with managers to ensure the viability of the strategy, including ongoing workforce development across professional groups and identification of funding opportunities
- Be supported by the Radiology and Medical Physics imaging research teams and UHS R&D
- Represent imaging research within UHS (for example at monthly R&D steering group meetings) and in any other relevant forums across Southampton and regionally
- Engage with the Wessex Imaging Network and SE Imaging Academies to embed research and innovation into the work of these new groups

Operational Leadership

- Identify the skills and resources required to deliver the agreed strategy and work with managers to fill gaps
- Ensure that the imaging research infrastructure in Southampton is resilient and sustainable, to deliver high quality imaging research activity
- Work towards costings and funding transparency, and relate this to imaging research activity
- Empower all imaging staff to be involved in research at every level
- Provide operational oversight and guidance to develop and enable imaging research delivery
- Work with CRN Wessex to improve imaging research delivery

Academic and Commercial Leadership

- Encourage UHS imaging focussed research, especially projects led from within Radiology and Medical Physics at UHS – increase income in relation to this research
- Work with SoAR and departmental managers to actively promote research activity across AHP (including radiographers) and healthcare/clinical scientist teams
- Work with university leads to identify complementary strengths at UoS and shape an imaging research strategy based on these
- Highlight and determine the potential growth of imaging research activity across UHS and UoS (including AI and data science applications) and ensure appropriate priority for this is established in the strategic planning within both organisations

- Leverage the commercial value of the UK's largest Radiology Managed Equipment Services at Southampton (currently provided by Siemens MES) and agree a mutually beneficial research agreement
- Collaborate and liaise with other external entities (academic and commercial) to accelerate the development of imaging research in Southampton, to encourage investment and increase income

Communication and Profile

- Create a well-structured, coherent and dynamic web presence for imaging research in Southampton
- Develop multi-disciplinary networks to facilitate discussions between clinical and academic (FoM and wider UoS) teams
- Ensure research imaging capability and potential is visible to other key strategic health research areas
- Highlight relevant funding opportunities to researchers and collaborators
- Establish mechanisms to ensure stakeholders – including our patients and staff – are kept updated about the clinical translation of imaging research outputs and research successes
- Ensure our patients are involved in our imaging research at every stage and increase opportunities for them to participate and benefit from imaging research
- Publicise imaging research achievements, both internally and externally, through a variety of routes/media. Produce reports and present data at relevant meetings to demonstrate activity
- Communicate matters relating to imaging research across divisions and to Trust Management

Deliverables:

Overarching strategic development:

- Address national challenges – aligning with the NIHR Imaging Group
- Strategic planning and clear objectives to direct resource, focus activity and enable growth, with a coherent strategy across Radiology & Medical Physics
- Profile and visibility – recognition and better integration within UHS and UoS wider research teams

Operational delivery and financial gains:

- Costing and funding transparency
- Income generation and growth
- Operational leadership to ensure robust and resilient delivery
- Improved data gathering and data management (including for AI)
- Improved integration and communication (including across UHS/UoS) through a single pathway

Workforce:

- An empowered team, enthused by research
- Succession planning and contingency capacity
- Workforce development and recruitment (both for research and routine clinical work) – multi-disciplinary, operational and academic
- Academic framework and expertise – increasing imaging-led research and research leaders

Research translation and innovation:

- Translation and innovation to meet clinical needs
- Removal of barriers between UoS and UHS (particularly with Engineering and Electronics and Computer Science)
- Commercial confidence – to encourage investment
- Regional engagement – an exemplar model for the planned Wessex Imaging Research Collaborative (WIRC)
- Efficiencies and clearer pathways – to both delivery and impact

Year 1 and 2 objectives

- Embed research into the work of 'imagers' across UHS – across professions, modalities and departments (Radiology and Medical Physics) by establishing SIRRG, raising the profile of this group via a website and seminars and by appointing research champions within departments/modalities and across professions and sub-specialities
- Establish robust research radiographer staffing and succession planning for existing research radiographers in CT and MRI (Alex Blades and Chris Everitt)
- Develop accurate costing, activity tracking and income checking procedures for all types of research studies involving imaging – commercial, non-commercial and university/academic
- Increase UHS-led imaging research (3-5 new grant funded projects/collaborations/fellowships)
- Ensure imaging research data is available for researchers (via XNAT or PACS) and that a fair pricing structure for accessing this data is established. Create workflows and associated documentation for users
- Develop an imaging research strategy to align with and support the UHS research strategy and UoS strategies (FoM and others)
- Establish the Wessex Imaging Research Collaborative to increase research capacity and improve delivery across Wessex, linking in with the new Wessex Imaging Network