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Title:	Postdoctoral Researcher
Department:	Department of Psychiatry
Tenure:	Specified Purpose – up to 30 months, full-time
Location:	RCSI Education & Research Centre, Beaumont Hospital, Dublin 9
Reporting to:	Professor David Cotter, Department of Psychiatry
Salary:	Level 2, IUA Salary Scale (point commensurate with experience)

The **University of Medicine and Health Sciences**, the **Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland (RCSI)** is a degree-awarding health sciences institution specialising in medical and health sciences education, surgical training and research. As a global institution with undergraduate medical programmes in Dublin, Bahrain and Malaysia; Schools of Medicine, Pharmacy and Biomolecular Sciences, Physiotherapy, Postgraduate Studies and Nursing and Midwifery; and Leadership Institutes in Ireland and Dubai, RCSI has a broad international reach and the ability to unlock significant advancement for patient safety and clinical outcomes worldwide.

RCSI recognises that excellence in research is critical to the quality of its educational activities, its credibility, and, overall, to its mission to enhance human health. Recently, RCSI has implemented a new research strategy that will build upon its strength in translational biomedical and clinical research to deliver transformational, high impact changes in health care. Targeting both Irish national and EU funding, along with increased collaboration with industry, is a major part of the RCSI research strategy. Forging increased collaboration between RCSI PIs and industry is of critical importance to achieving success in this area. RCSI is also committed to provide its researchers with the supports and developmental opportunities to enable them to continuously grow and support their overall career development.

Background to this post:

We have been funded by the Wellcome Trust's Innovations Flagship programme. Our > 1.3 million euro IMPETUS grant involves the analysis of baseline plasma samples from subjects in the clinical high risk on who we have known outcome data (transition to psychotic disorder, functional outcome, anxiety disorder). This grant followed from our paper in JAMA Psychiatry (PMID: 32857162; Mongan et al 2020) in which we used machine learning to generate models incorporating proteomic data to predict onset of psychosis. We now seek to validate this in independent samples (NAPLS2/3, NEURAPRO) in the IMPETUS (Investigating Markers derived from Proteomics for Estimation of the Transition from UHR to pPsychotic disorder) grant. The samples have been transported to RCSI and the samples are now being prepared for Mass spectrometry.



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We now seek to employ a postdoctoral researcher to join the IMPETUS Project to analyse this valuable data.

The project is led by Professor David Cotter

Specifically, the duties of the post are:

- Manage and conduct in activities associated with the research group project to include preparation and submission of the necessary research ethics applications, project and individual authorisations, delivery of appropriate training, and contribute to experimental design and post study analysis.
- Undertake statistical and bioinformatics analysis in order to investigate the plasma proteomic basis of risk of transition from the clinical high risk to psychotic disorder and other outcomes and to generate and validate predictive models using machine learning techniques.
- Write papers describing these analysis and results of these
- Support engagement with commercialisation consultants and regulatory bodies, as appropriate.
- Contribute to commercialisation activities e.g. reviews of market space, literature reviews, engagement with KOL's.
- Review of study designs and statistical analysis plans as required.
- Review of draft progress reports.
- Support the preparation of scientific reports and grant review reports as required.
- Writing of peer-review publications and presentations.
- Academic supervision of students and research staff, as required.
- Other such duties as may be assigned from time to time.
- Complying with statutory legislation and Department rules and requirements in furtherance of your own and general staff welfare and safety.
- Undergoing programmes of training and development as may be required from time to time.
- Representing the best interests of the Department/College at all times.

Essential Qualifications:

- PhD in a relevant field, ideally psychosis, clinical neuroscience/psychiatric disorders with high level biostatistical skills.

Knowledge & Experience (Essential):

- Very strong biostatistical skills
- Strong writing skills as evidenced a by proven track record in publication of good research in this area.
- Experience working on projects with multiple stakeholders.
- Experience communicating research to academic, policy-maker and/or lay audiences.



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- A capacity to work collaboratively as part of a team as well as independently, in a non-structured environment.

Knowledge & Experience (Desirable):

- An understanding of the field of early psychosis.
- An understanding of computational analysis of proteomic data
- Excellent interpersonal, communication and presentation skills
- Attention to detail and thoroughness in work practices and an ability to work to deadlines
- A capacity to work collaboratively as part of a team as well as independently, in a nonstructured environment
- An ability to win the confidence of stakeholders, researchers and research partner representatives
- An ability to foster and sustain academic relationships internally and externally

Skills & Competencies:

- **Communication Skills:** Proven ability to communicate complex ideas
- **Project Management Skills:** Ability to ensure that project plans are communicated and that all timelines are met
- **Self-starter with the ability to work as part of a team:** Ability to operate effectively as part of a team – is cordial, tolerant and willing to help others, is co-operative and patient; shares work and information; establishes rapport, can influence and develop effective networks
- **I.T. skills:** Knowledge of MS Office suite.
- **Conscientious:** Have a pro-active approach to work, anticipating and resolving problems in advance; have keen attention to detail - from anticipating and addressing issues in advance to understanding requests and delivering quality work with minimal errors.
- **Flexibility:** Can operate flexibly within a busy environment; can shift focus when required.

Application Process

Please apply online no later than 5pm on the closing date with your CV and Covering Letter.

If you have any queries regarding the role please contact Dr David Cotter (drcotter@rcsi.ie) Dept of Psychiatry, RCSI.

Please click [here](#) to read our Recruitment and Selection Policy for Researchers.

Please Note:

This job description may be subject to change to reflect the evolving requirements of the Department and RCSI in developing healthcare leaders who make a difference worldwide.



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Similar vacancies that arise in the next 6 months may be filled from the pool of applicants that apply for this position.

Employees are required to undertake 6 months service in their current role before applying for other internal opportunities, unless agreed in advance by the SMT representative.

RCSI is proud to be an equal opportunity employer and welcome applications from all suitably qualified persons regardless of their gender, civil status, family status, sexual orientation, religion, age, disability or race.

If you have any particular requirements for your interview, please notify the Human Resources Department at your earliest convenience.



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