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| Job DescriptionPost 2 |  |
| Clinical Research Fellow,  Centre for Neuromuscular Diseases | Grade: StR/Junior Doctor pay scale |
| UCL Department: UCL Queen Square Institute of NeurologyResearch Department: Neuromuscular Diseases | Location: Queen Square |

#### Reports to:

**LONDON’S GLOBAL UNIVERSITY**

#### Professor Mary Reilly

**Director- Prof Mike Hanna**

**Centre Co-Director – Prof Mary Reilly**

**Clinical Research Fellow**

#### Context

The UCL Queen Square Institute of Neurology (ION) in Queen Square was established in 1950, merged with UCL in 1997, and is a key component of the Faculty of Brain Sciences (FBS), School of Life and Medical Sciences (SLMS), at UCL. The Institute has [eight academic research Departments](https://www.ucl.ac.uk/drupal/site_ion/research/research-departments) (<https://www.ucl.ac.uk/ion/research/research-departments> ), which encompass clinical and basic research within each theme. In parallel, there are currently [six Divisions](http://www.ucl.ac.uk/ion/divisions) representing clinical professional affiliations.

***The mission is to translate neuroscience discovery research into treatments for patients with neurological diseases.***

In addition, a number of important research centres are based at the ION, affiliated with one of our academic research departments: <https://www.ucl.ac.uk/ion/research/research-centres>

The UCL Queen Square Institute of Neurology has a significant postgraduate [teaching and training portfolio](http://www.ucl.ac.uk/ion/education), with nearly 500 graduate students at Queen Square. The Institute employs just over 740 staff, and hosts just under 300 honorary & visiting staff, spread over a complex and large estate comprising of over 15 buildings. Our annual turnover is £85 million.

The Institute is closely associated in its work with the National Hospital for Neurology & Neurosurgery (NHNN), University College London Hospitals' NHS Foundation Trust, and in combination they form a national and international centre at Queen Square for teaching, training and research in neurology and allied clinical and basic neurosciences. The Institute also has active collaborative research programmes with other centres of excellence and works in close partnership with them: <http://www.ucl.ac.uk/ion/about/related>

**Research Excellence**

A large proportion of the Institute's funding is obtained from the Higher Education Funding Council for England. The most recent research assessment exercise, REF2014, showed that the IoN, as part of the FBS, is the first rated UK institution for neuroscience research output.

The Institute currently holds 602 active research projects, totalling £275 million, for research from the principal medical charities concerned with neurological diseases, and from government agencies such as the Medical Research Council. Generous support for research is also provided through grant awards from the Brain Research UK and we also receive significant philanthropic support.

UCL Neuroscience is currently rated second in the world by ISI Essential Science Indicators. In the calendar year 2018, Institute staff published 1613 papers; 68 were published in the top 50 of all scientific journals (ranked by ISI impact factors), including Nature, Science, Lancet, BMJ and JAMA. RAND report shows that UCL has the highest share of highly cited publications in Neurology in England: <http://www.rand.org/pubs/research_reports/RR1363.html>

There are 81 professors/ professorial research associates and 21 emeritus professors, including 10 Fellows of the Royal Society, 27 Fellows of the Academy of Medical Sciences and one Nobel Prize winner at Queen Square.

The headquarters of the new UK Dementia Research Institute (UK DRI), led by Professor Bart De Strooper are based at UCL, embedded within the UCL Queen Square Institute of Neurology (ION), as an autonomous academic research department.. The UK DRI is a joint £250 million investment from the Medical Research Council, Alzheimer’s Society and Alzheimer’s Research UK. The headquarters of the DRI is at University College London, with additional research centres at the University of Cambridge, Cardiff University, Edinburgh University, Imperial College London and King’s College London. You can read more about the DRI at [www.ukdri.ac.uk](http://www.ukdri.ac.uk/)

**Teaching excellence**

The UCL Queen Square Institute of Neurology has a significant postgraduate teaching and training portfolio, with over 500 graduate students (over 280 PhD students) at Queen Square, and taught MSc/MRes courses in: Advanced Neuroimaging; Brain and Mind Sciences (an innovative two year, two centre programme); Clinical Neuroscience; Clinical Neurology; Neuromuscular Disease; Stroke Medicine, Dementia and Translational Neuroscience. A distance-learning Diploma in Clinical Neurology was launched in Autumn 2011. Excellent graduate students of the highest quality are recruited to both ION and UCL-wide PhD programmes, including the LWENC 4-year PhD programme, which are supported through Research Council, charity and industry funded studentships. Institute staff contribute to undergraduate teaching of Clinical Neurology for the UCL Medical School, host an Elective programme for final year medical students and participate in the organisation of several CPD courses: <http://www.ucl.ac.uk/ion/education>

**Equality, Diversity & Inclusion**

The Institute prides itself for operating in an all-inclusive environment. Teamwork is highly valued, individual strengths are recognised and celebrated, and there is a commitment to advancing the careers of everyone, regardless of gender or role. We aim to provide a family friendly environment where both women and men feel able to take the time they need for family. The Athena SWAN Charter recognises commitment to advancing women's careers in science, technology, engineering, maths and medicine (STEMM) employment in academia. ION is delighted to have received an Athena Swan Silver Award in October 2015. Mentoring is a crucial part of supporting career progression. While UCL has an online mentoring scheme called u-mentor, we have added a specific mentoring scheme for female academics at the ION. Currently we have 27 mentors who have been trained by an external mentoring expert.

At the Institute we uphold the UCL-wide “Dignity At Work” policy, which, together with support available, protects staff and students from unacceptable behaviour. As an Institute we have pledged to Zero Tolerance: <https://www.ucl.ac.uk/ion/working-institute/dignity-work> and actively support [Wellbeing@UCL](mailto:Wellbeing@UCL) : the five year wellbeing strategy for the whole UCL community, supported by our Wellbeing Champions.

**Environmental sustainability**

The Institute is committed to operating within an environmentally sustainable environment, through the implementation of the UCL Sustainability policy at Departmental level. For more information, please visit our webpage at: <http://www.ucl.ac.uk/ion/green-awareness/>

**For more information on our initiatives:** [**https://www.ucl.ac.uk/ion/working-institute**](https://www.ucl.ac.uk/ion/working-institute)

**The Research Department**

The Department of Neuromuscular Diseases is a hub for clinical and research excellence across the spectrum of spinal cord and neuromuscular diseases. Our group of world-leading clinical, genetic and basic science researchers focus their work on understanding the causes and biological mechanisms leading to Neuromuscular Disease and translating this knowledge into developing novel therapeutic solutions that is of direct benefit to neurological disorders such including neuropathies, muscle diseases, motor neurone disease and myasthenia gravis.

Our research groups use a powerful combination of modern non-invasive research technology, theoretical and computational approaches and a variety of genetic, cellular, animal and human models, while translational programmes include use of cell culture, molecular biology and transgenic approaches. The Department hosts a number of important Research Centres, including the MRC funded International Centre for Genomic Medicine in Neuromuscular Diseases (ICGNMD), the UCL ALS Centre as well as the Alzheimer’s Research UK Drug Discovery Institute.

We have numerous collaborative scientific and clinical research links across the Institute, UCL and particularly strong links with the National Hospital for Neurology and Neurosurgery.

#### Main purpose of the job

The MRC-funded International Centre for Genomic Medicine in Neuromuscular Diseases (ICGNMD) was established in June 2019 to deliver a deeply-phenotyped “trial-ready” international cohort of NMD patients and their families and to train fellows in clinical genomics. The Centre will expand the beneficiaries of NMD interventions and therapies, including emerging gene therapies, to include people in low-to-middle income countries.

This specific post is based in the Centre for Neuromuscular Diseases at the UCL Queen Square Institute of Neurology and is funded by the ICGNMD and the NIH-funded Inherited Neuropathies Consortium (NIH-INC). The Queen Square Centre for Neuromuscular Diseases is a recognised centre of excellence for clinical research training and education in neuromuscular diseases. For more information on the Centre and its partners please visit https://www.ucl.ac.uk/centre-for-neuromuscular-diseases/

The post is specifically aimed at someone with an interest in inherited neuropathies. Training will be provided in all aspects of genetic neuropathies and other inherited neuromuscular diseases. The post holder will undertake a research project towards a PhD which will be based on genetic neuropathies. The project may include analysis of array, whole exome and genome sequencing data (including via the 100,000 Genomes Project Database and data generated by the International Centre) of families with inherited neuropathies. The post-holder’s project may include (i) assessing global prevalence and regional genetic variation of inherited neuropathies, (ii) detecting new, potentially pathogenic genes and/or variants related to inherited neuropathies and (iii) functional genomic analysis. The post-holder may also recruit participants to the International Centre via an established data collection platform and perform lab-based genetic testing of International Cohort participants to confirm causative mutations in known NMD genes. The post holder will be expected to liaise and collaborate with the international and UK ICGNMD fellows and with the NIH INC fellows.

There will also be an opportunity to train in trial methodology and participate in active clinical trials at the MRC Centre for Neuromuscular Diseases.

#### Duties and responsibilities:

Main duties:

* To undertake a research project in inherited neuropathies towards obtaining a PhD.
* To assess patients with inherited neuropathies and other NMDs and accurately document clinical details to establish clinical phenotype.
* To assess disease severity and progression using previously validated rating scales.
* To undertake, subject to honorary clinical contract, an outpatient clinic at the National Hospital for Neurological Diseases, London under the supervision of Professor Mary Reilly. A DBS check will be required for the award of an honorary clinical contract.
* To provide ad-hoc teaching for doctors, nurses, medical students, other healthcare

professionals and external organisations in both formal and informal settings.

* To maintain study folders in line with guidance from R&D Department where required.
* To acquire the knowledge and skills essential for effective research governance.
* To liaise and collaborate with other ICGNMD and INC fellows

Teaching and R&D:

* To provide teaching on topics related to the post holder’s work as requested by the line manager
* To contribute to the department’s multidisciplinary research projects within the strategy

Professional and Quality Assurance:

* Ensuring confidentiality is maintained as applicable.
* Attending and contributing to Departmental, Institutional and other meetings as appropriate.
* Acting at all times in accordance with the highest professional standards.
* Adhering at all times to the policies, rules and regulations of the Department, Institute and UCL.
* The post holder will actively follow UCL policies including Equal Opportunities and Information Governance policies.
* The post holder has a responsibility to carry out their duties in a resource efficient way and actively support UCL’s Sustainability Strategy, policies and objectives within the remit of their role.
* The post holder will maintain an awareness and observation of Fire and Health & Safety Regulations.

General

* As duties and responsibilities change, the job description will be reviewed and amended in consultation with the post holder.
* The post holder will carry out any other duties as are within the scope, spirit and purpose of the job as requested by the line manager.

# Person Specification

| Criteria | Essential or Desirable | Assessment method  (Application/Interview) |
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| **Qualifications, experience and knowledge** |  |  |
| Registered medical practitioner licensed to practise in the UK | E | A/I |
| Experience in Neurology at NTN (previously SHO) or equivalent if from countries outside of the UK | E | A/I |
| MRCP or equivalent | E | A/I |
| Completed general medical training | E | A/I |
| Experience of clinical / translational research | D | A/I |
| Experience of neuromuscular disease | D | A/I |
| **Skills and abilities** |  |  |
| Commitment to patient confidentiality | E | A/I |
| Excellent oral and written communication skills | E | A/I |
| IT proficiency at advanced user level (Spreadsheet, Word Processing, Database, Email, Web based applications) | E | A/I |
| Resourceful and able to act on own initiative | E | A/I |
| Excellent organisational skills | E | A/I |
| Exceptional inter-personal skills with an ability to work co-operatively in a multidisciplinary setting | E | A/I |
| A very high level of consideration and care for patients and research subjects | E | A/I |
| Interested in research and a commitment to quality in the research process | E | A/I |
| Excellent presentation and teaching skills | D | A/I |
| Understanding of research methodology | D | A/I |
| Demonstrate flexibility and adaptability to a highly evolving, fast-paced environment | D | A/I |

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| To apply for this position visit:ucl.ac.uk/jobs If you have any queries regarding the application process, please contact Oksana Shapoval, HR Officer, UCL Queen Square Institute of Neurology, 23 Queen Square, London, WC1N 3BG (email: [ion.hradmin@ucl.ac.uk](mailto:ion.hradmin@ucl.ac.uk)).  The post is available from August 2020 and is funded by awards from the MRC and NIH for 36 months in the first instance. The post will be offered subject to satisfactory references and successful completion of a 9 month probationary period.  **Salary**  Appointment will be on Specialty Training Registrar Grade in the range £36,938 - £53,216 per annum (including London Allowance) or Junior Doctors Pay Scale in the range £30,837 - £51,223 per annum (including London Allowance). Progression through the salary scale is incremental. Cost of living pay awards are negotiated nationally and are normally effective from 1st April each year.  **Probation**  Appointments are subject to receipt of satisfactory references and a probationary period of 9 months.  **Hours of work**  Full time 36.5 hours per week and times of work are as determined by the Head of Department.  **Annual leave**  Annual leave is 27 working days for a full time member of staff + 6 UCL closure days in addition to 8 Bank Holidays.  **Pension**  Appointments are superannuable under the Universities Superannuation Scheme (USS) or, subject to eligibility requirements, the National Health Service Pension Scheme (NHSPS). Further information about USS and the benefits can be found at [www.uss.co.uk](http://www.uss.co.uk).  **Other benefits**  UCL is a dynamic, global university based in one of the most exciting capital cities in the world. Not only does working at UCL offer the opportunity to work with some of the greatest intellects in the world, it also offers competitive terms, conditions and benefits to its staff. In the 2013 UCL staff survey, 83% of staff would recommend UCL as a good place to work and 86% are proud to work for UCL.  As part of the UCL community you can access free lunch hour lectures, exhibitions and museums and collections. On campus UCL has the Bloomsbury theatre hosting a range of performances and a series of bars, cafes and other facilities, which UCL staff can use.  In addition to 41 days annual leave (inclusive of public holidays and closure days) and generous pension schemes, UCL provides a number of other staff benefits which are linked from the page below:   * <https://www.ucl.ac.uk/human-resources/pay-benefits/staff-benefits>   UCL benefits and policies apply equally, whatever the sexual orientation and/or gender identity of employees. Benefits and policies relating to employees partners, includes both different sex and same sex partners. |