Centre for Tropical Medicine and Global Health

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Job title</th>
<th>Clinical Research Paediatrician</th>
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<tr>
<td>Division</td>
<td>Medical Sciences</td>
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<tr>
<td>Department</td>
<td>Centre for Tropical Medicine and Global Health</td>
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<tr>
<td>Location</td>
<td>Oxford University Clinical Research Unit (OUCRU), Ho Chi Minh City, Viet Nam</td>
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<tr>
<td>Grade and salary</td>
<td>Grade E64: £31,931 - £51,176 per annum</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hours</td>
<td>Full time</td>
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<tr>
<td>Contract type</td>
<td>Fixed term for 42 months in the first instance</td>
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<td>Reporting to</td>
<td>Head, Tuberculosis Research Group, Oxford University Clinical Research Unit and Wellcome Africa Asia Programme in Viet Nam</td>
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<td>Vacancy reference</td>
<td>137466</td>
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Overview of the role

OUCRU’s tuberculosis research group is seeking an enthusiastic physician specialising in paediatrics to help deliver a clinical trial which aims to improve outcomes from childhood tuberculous meningitis (TBM).

OUCRU has a global reputation for performing clinical trials defining the best diagnostic and treatment strategies for tuberculous meningitis (TBM). The TBM research programme in adults is currently funded through a Wellcome Trust Investigator Award (2016-23) to Professor Guy Thwaites (OUCRU Director). The new post holder will join the TBM research team to help deliver a major trial, funded by the Joint Global Health Trials (JGHT) scheme (Wellcome, MRC, DIFID), to determine whether children with TBM can be safely treated with 6 months of intensive anti-tuberculosis drugs, and whether adjunctive aspirin reduces death and disability. The trial is led by the MRC Clinical Trials Unit (CTU) in London (PI Professor Di Gibb), in conjunction with OUCRU CTU, and involves sites in Africa and Vietnam.
This 42-month post will be funded by the JGHT award and the successful candidate will join the team responsible for delivering the trial in Vietnam. Trial participants will be recruited from the main TB hospitals in Ho Chi Minh City and Hanoi, and the National Children’s Hospital in Hanoi. The post holder will be based in Ho Chi Minh City, but will be expected to travel frequently to Hanoi (1.5 hour flight).

The post holder will have the opportunity to study for a PhD, nesting their own research within the clinical trial. The focus of the PhD will depend upon the interests of the candidate and the requirements of the trial, and will be decided early on in the post through discussion between the successful candidate and her/his PhD supervisors (Professor Guy Thwaites and Dr Nguyen Thuy Thuong Thuong).

Research summary

Full title of trial: Short intensive anti-tuberculosis and anti-thrombosis treatment for children with tuberculous meningitis (the SURE trial)

The trial will address the following principal research questions:

1) Is a 6-month enhanced regimen for the treatment of tuberculous meningitis (TBM) in children at least as good as the 12-month standard WHO-recommended regimen in terms of all-cause mortality at 48 weeks and functional status and disease relapse at 72 weeks

2) Will adjunctive aspirin for the first 2 months of treatment improve functional outcome at 48 and 72 weeks?

The trial will be conducted over 48 months in Vietnam, Uganda, Zambia and Zimbabwe. It will be a phase III, multi-centre, international, partially-blinded factorial randomised controlled trial of treatment of TBM in children. The first randomisation (1:1) will be a non-inferiority open-label design to evaluate whether a short 6-month enhanced anti-TB treatment regimen is non-inferior to the current 12-month standard WHO-recommended treatment regimen in terms of all-cause mortality. The second randomisation (1:1) will be a blinded placebo-controlled, superiority design to evaluate the efficacy of low-dose aspirin on modified Rankin score (MRS) functional status (including death).

Secondary endpoints include: 1) MRS outcomes at 24, 48 and 72 weeks; 2) Clinical or microbiological relapse of TBM by 72 weeks; 3) Adverse events: new grade 3 or 4 clinical or laboratory adverse events and adverse events (any grade) leading to treatment modification; 4) Adherence to treatment; 5) Suppressed HIV viral load <50 copies/ml/change in CD4 cell parameters at 24/48/72 weeks in HIV-positive children.
The trial will include a number of Sub-studies: 1) Health economics (Costs from health, patient/family and societal perspective and health measured in QALYs and DALYs using either the EQ-5D-Y; 2) Qualitative evaluation of acceptability of interventions (subject to additional funding) will evaluate the impact of a shorter enhanced regimen on children and their families as well as medical staff and health managers; 3) Pharmacokinetic (PK) studies: we will be in a strong position to fill remaining gaps in knowledge regarding the PK of anti-TB drugs in childhood TBM. PK studies might include measuring the interaction between RMP and levofloxacin (LFX) in children with and without ART and evaluating the relationship between serum and cerebrospinal fluid (CSF) concentrations of anti-TB drugs and clinical outcome in the early (within the first week) and later phase (after two months) of treatment; 4) Impact of aspirin on brain ischaemic changes between baseline and 6 months  will be carried out by MRI imaging in the selected sites and reviewed centrally by radiology experts blinded to the clinical condition and treatment arm; 5) Neurodevelopmental and neurocognitive evaluation  will be performed at selected larger sites to explore the effect of treatment on developmental outcome. Responsibilities/duties

Responsibilities of the post holder

The post holder will report to the Head of the Tuberculosis Research Group, Dr Nguyen Thuy Thuong, and will be responsible for:

- Assisting with the day to day management and running of the SURE trial in Vietnam by providing direct clinical liaison with the Vietnamese doctors and nurses responsible for recruiting and caring for the enrolled patients
- Working with OUCRU’s large and dynamic CTU to ensure the trial is conducted to the highest standards and is compliant with Good Clinical Practice in Ho Chi Minh City and Hanoi.
- Working with the MRC CTU to ensure the trial is conducted consistently across all the international sites, according to the protocol
- Engaging with and enhancing the scientific activities of OUCRU’s tuberculosis group
- Developing their own research skills and interests in the field of paediatric tuberculosis, aligned with the scientific direction of OUCRU’s tuberculosis research group
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Key Duties of the post holder

The trial is expected to start recruiting patients in mid-2019, and we anticipate the successful applicant will take up the position sometime between February-June 2019. Key duties will include:

- training of study associated personnel
- encouraging study recruitment
- ensuring adherence to the study protocol and compliance with regulatory requirements
- problem solving, maintaining and developing good relationships with researchers and clinicians associated with the study in Ho Chi Minh City and Hanoi
- providing medical advice on the diagnosis and management of TBM to study doctors
- identifying and developing further research ideas which could be nested within the trial

All OUCRU staff are expected to contribute to the administrative work of OUCRU coordinated through the office of the Director of Operations.

The post holder will also be expected to carry out any other reasonable duties as required by the Head of the Tuberculosis Group.

Selection criteria

Essential

- Clinically qualified and engaged in specialist training in Paediatrics.
- Excellent communication and organisational skills
- Significant clinical experience treating children with tuberculosis and/or brain infections.

Desirable

- Membership of the Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health, or equivalent
- Sub-speciality training/active interest in Paediatric infectious diseases or Paediatric Neurology
- Experience of coordinating, organising and/or conducting clinical research.
- Clinical and/or research experience in resource constrained settings, preferably Asia.
- Diploma in Tropical Medicine and Hygiene
- The ability to build and maintain relationships with stakeholders and colleagues from a variety of health care and science backgrounds.
- Up-to-date Good Clinical Practice training
- Scientific publications in peer-reviewed journals commensurate with career stage
About the University of Oxford

Welcome to the University of Oxford. We aim to lead the world in research and education for the benefit of society both in the UK and globally. Oxford’s researchers engage with academic, commercial and cultural partners across the world to stimulate high-quality research and enable innovation through a broad range of social, policy and economic impacts.

We believe our strengths lie both in empowering individuals and teams to address fundamental questions of global significance, while providing all our staff with a welcoming and inclusive workplace that enables everyone to develop and do their best work. Recognising that diversity is our strength, vital for innovation and creativity, we aspire to build a truly diverse community which values and respects every individual’s unique contribution.

While we have long traditions of scholarship, we are also forward-looking, creative and cutting-edge. Oxford is one of Europe's most entrepreneurial universities. Income from external research contracts in 2016/17 exceeded £564m and we rank first in the UK for university spin-outs, with more than 130 companies created to date. We are also recognised as leaders in support for social enterprise.

Join us and you will find a unique, democratic and international community, a great range of staff benefits and access to a vibrant array of cultural activities in the beautiful city of Oxford.

For more information please visit www.ox.ac.uk/about/organisation

Medical Sciences

The Medical Sciences Division is an internationally recognized centre of excellence for biomedical and clinical research and teaching. We are the largest academic division in the University of Oxford

World-leading programmes, housed in state-of-the-art facilities, cover the full range of scientific endeavour from the molecule to the population. With our NHS partners we also foster the highest possible standards in patient care.

For more information please visit: www.medsci.ox.ac.uk

Nuffield Department of Clinical Medicine (NDM)
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The Nuffield Department of Clinical Medicine (NDM) is one of the largest departments of the University of Oxford and is part of the Medical Sciences Division, with responsibility for a significant part of the teaching of clinical students within the Medical School. The Department also has a substantial research programme which requires high quality administrative management.

NDM has significant financial turnover and complexity, resulting from its diverse research portfolio, its geographical spread and its close links with NHS funding and strategic teams involved in the development and delivery of increasingly integrated clinical research platforms.

For more information please visit: [http://www.ndm.ox.ac.uk/home](http://www.ndm.ox.ac.uk/home)

........fostering your career in science.

The University of Oxford is a member of the [Athena SWAN Charter](http://www.athena-swans.org.uk) and holds an institutional Bronze Athena SWAN award. The Nuffield Department of Medicine holds a Silver Athena SWAN award in recognition of its efforts to introduce organisational and cultural practices that promote gender equality in SET and create a better working environment for both men and women.

For more information please visit: [www.ndm.ox.ac.uk/working-for-ndm/aboutndmatheneswan/](http://www.ndm.ox.ac.uk/working-for-ndm/aboutndmatheneswan/)

**Tropical Medicine and Global Health**

The Centre for Tropical Medicine and Global Health is a world leading Centre within the Nuffield Department of Clinical Medicine, University of Oxford, comprised of research groups who are permanently based in Africa and Asia as well as across two sites in Oxford. Our research ranges from clinical studies to behavioral sciences, with capacity building integral to all of our activities.

Our research is conducted at three Wellcome Trust Major Overseas Programmes in Kenya, Thailand and Viet Nam as well as a growing Centre in Oxford. The Centre for Tropical Medicine and Global Health also brings together a number of sister groups in Laos, Tanzania, Indonesia, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Myanmar, Cambodia and Nepal, as well as multiple collaborators around the world.
Centre for Tropical Medicine and Global Health

Tackling infectious diseases, which kill many millions of people every year, is one of the greatest challenges of the 21st century. We are researching solutions to the increasingly urgent problems these diseases cause.

The Centre’s annual turnover is in excess of £48m per annum with over 100 externally funded research grants and donations.

For more information please visit:  http://www.tropicalmedicine.ox.ac.uk/home

The Oxford University Clinical Research Unit Viet Nam

The Oxford University Clinical Research Unit in Viet Nam is a Wellcome Trust Africa Asia Programme and aims to have a positive and significant impact on global health and, in particular, the prevention, diagnosis and treatment of infectious diseases. This is achieved through an integrated, long-term epidemiology, clinical and laboratory research programme, including capacity building and training in Viet Nam and other countries in the region. The programme is currently implemented by a dedicated team of over 400 scientists, technical and administrative staff in Viet Nam, Indonesia and Nepal. The research programme focuses on epidemiology, public health, clinical trials, central nervous system infections, dengue fever, enteric infections, malaria, respiratory infections, tuberculosis, drug resistance and zoonosis.

For more information please visit:  www.oucru.org

How to apply

Before submitting an application, you may find it helpful to read the ‘Tips on applying for a job at the University of Oxford’ document, at  https://www.ox.ac.uk/about/jobs/professionalandmanagement/ and  https://www.ox.ac.uk/about/jobs/research/

If you would like to apply, click on the Apply Now button on the ‘Job Details’ page and follow the on-screen instructions to register as a new user or log-in if you have applied previously. Please provide details of two referees and indicate whether we can contact them now.

You will also be asked to upload a CV and a supporting statement. The supporting statement must explain how you meet each of the selection criteria for the post using examples of your
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skills and experience. This may include experience gained in employment, education, or during career breaks (such as time out to care for dependants).

Your application will be judged solely on the basis of how you demonstrate that you meet the selection criteria stated in the job description.

Please upload all documents as PDF files with your name and the document type in the filename.

All applications must be received by **midday** on the closing date stated in the online advertisement.

**Information for priority candidates**

*A priority candidate is a University employee who is seeking redeployment because they have been advised that they are at risk of redundancy, or on grounds of ill-health/disability. Priority candidates are issued with a redeployment letter by their employing departments.*

*If you are a priority candidate, please ensure that you attach your redeployment letter to your application (or email it to the contact address on the advert if the application form used for the vacancy does not allow attachments)*

Should you experience any difficulties using the online application system, please email recruitment.support@admin.ox.ac.uk. Further help and support is available from www.ox.ac.uk/about_the_university/jobs/support/. To return to the online application at any stage, please go to: www.recruit.ox.ac.uk.

Please note that you will be notified of the progress of your application by automatic emails from our e-recruitment system. **Please check your spam/junk mail** regularly to ensure that you receive all emails.
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Important information for candidates

Pre-employment screening

Please note that the appointment of the successful candidate will be subject to standard pre-employment screening, as applicable to the post. This will include right-to-work, proof of identity and references. We advise all applicants to read the candidate notes on the University’s pre-employment screening procedures, found at: www.ox.ac.uk/about/jobs/preemploymentscreening/.

Data Privacy

Please note that any personal data submitted to the University as part of the job application process will be processed in accordance with the GDPR and related UK data protection legislation. For further information, please see the University’s Privacy Notice for Job Applicants at: www.admin.ox.ac.uk/councilsec/compliance/gdpr/privacynotices/job/. The University's Policy on Data Protection is available at: www.admin.ox.ac.uk/councilsec/compliance/gdpr/universitypolicyondataprotection/.

The University’s policy on retirement

The University operates an Employer Justified Retirement Age (EJRA) for all academic posts and some academic-related posts. From 1 October 2017, the University has adopted an EJRA of 30 September before the 69th birthday for all academic and academic-related staff in posts at grade 8 and above. The justification for this is explained at: www.admin.ox.ac.uk/personnel/end/retirement/acrelretire8+/

For existing employees, any employment beyond the retirement age is subject to approval through the procedures: www.admin.ox.ac.uk/personnel/end/retirement/acrelretire8+/

From 1 October 2017, there is no normal or fixed age at which staff in posts at grades 1–7 have to retire. Staff at these grades may elect to retire in accordance with the rules of the applicable pension scheme, as may be amended from time to time.

Equality of Opportunity

Entry into employment with the University and progression within employment will be determined only by personal merit and the application of criteria which are related to the duties of each particular post and the relevant salary structure. In all cases, ability to perform the job will be the primary consideration. No applicant or member of staff shall be discriminated against because of age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage or civil partnership, pregnancy or maternity, race, religion or belief, sex, or sexual orientation.
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Benefits of working at the University

University Club and sports facilities
The University Club provides social, sporting and hospitality facilities. It incorporates a bar, café and sporting facilities, including a gym. Staff can also use the University Sports Centre on Iffley Road at discounted rates, including a fitness centre, powerlifting room, and swimming pool. See: www.club.ox.ac.uk and www.sport.ox.ac.uk/oxford-university-sports-facilities.

Information for international staff (or those relocating from another part of the UK)
If you are relocating to Oxfordshire from overseas, or elsewhere in the UK, the University's International Staff website includes practical information related to moving to and settling in Oxford such as advice on immigration, relocation, accommodation, or registering with a doctor. See: www.internationalstaffwelcome.admin.ox.ac.uk/

The University of Oxford Newcomers’ Club
The University of Oxford Newcomers' Club is an organisation run by volunteers that aims to assist the partners of new staff to settle into Oxford and to provide them with an opportunity to meet people in the area. See www.newcomers.ox.ac.uk/

Childcare
The University has excellent childcare services with five University nurseries, as well as University-supported places at many other private nurseries. For full details including how to apply and the costs, see www.admin.ox.ac.uk/childcare.

Family-friendly benefits
The University subscribes to My Family Care (www.admin.ox.ac.uk/personnel/staffinfo/benefits/family/mfc/) and staff are eligible to register for emergency back-up childcare and adultcare services, a ‘speak to an expert’ phone line and a wide range of guides and webinars through a website called the Work + Family space.

Disabled staff
We are committed to supporting members of staff with disabilities or long-term health conditions. Please visit www.admin.ox.ac.uk/eop/disab/staff for further details including information about how to make contact, in confidence, with the University’s Staff Disability Advisor.

Staff networks
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The University has a number of staff networks including the Oxford Research Staff Society, BME staff network, LGBT+ staff network and a disabled staff network. You can find more information at www.admin.ox.ac.uk/eop/inpractice/networks/

Other benefits

Staff can enjoy a range of other benefits such as free visitor access to the University’s colleges and the Botanic Gardens as well as a range of discounts. See www.admin.ox.ac.uk/personnel/staffinfo/benefits