NCSEM Sheffield Research Director Post:
Job Description and Information Pack

Creating a culture of Physical Activity in Sheffield
Job title: Director of Research for the National Centre for Sport and Exercise Medicine Sheffield

We are seeking to appoint a new Director of Research for the National Centre for Sport and Exercise Medicine. The position is available from 1 April 2016.

It is anticipated that the successful candidate will remain with their current employer (The University of Sheffield or Sheffield Hallam University), in their current role, seconded to the role for two days per week. The appointment is offered for an initial period of 2 years; subject to review after 1 year.

Informal enquiries should be directed to the NCSEM Project Officer, Professor Rob Copeland (r.j.copeland@shu.ac.uk)

Applications: Applicants should send a CV and covering letter outlining their suitability for the position, by email to Vivienne Walker (v.walker@sheffield.ac.uk) by 5pm on Friday 19th February 2016.

Director of Research Job Purpose

- To provide leadership to the National Centre for Sport and Exercise Medicine (NCSEM) Sheffield in its objective as an internationally competitive research facility, carrying out research that is world-leading in terms of originality, significance and rigour.
- To work with colleagues towards enhancing research funding through grant income and commercial sources to a level that is highly competitive within the sector.
- To Chair and drive forward the NCSEM Sheffield Research Interest Group, making the most of opportunities afforded by the co-location of services with physical activity at the 3 NCSEM facilities (Concord, Thorncliffe and Graves).
- To lead, shape and deliver the NCSEM Sheffield Research Strategy and Annual plans.
- Act as a key figure within the wider NCSEM in contributing towards the leadership, development and implementation of the NCSEM Research agenda and strategy.
- To optimise performance in any future assessment of research excellence.

1.0 Context

- Following the successful bid to host the 2012 Olympics, the Government published its legacy plans via the Department for Culture, Media and Sport’s Legacy Promises
document (2007). In order to deliver the health legacy the Department of Health (DoH) provided £30million capital for the development of a NCSEM (NCSEM England) provided from three locations in England; London, East Midlands and Sheffield.

- The NCSEM England vision is to bring together leading universities, hospitals and high profile partners to help tackle some of the country’s most serious health issues, including chronic long-term conditions, obesity, and musculoskeletal disorders, through sport, exercise and physical activity.

- The House of Lords’ Select Committee on Science and Technology Inquiry into Sport and Exercise Medicine recommended that the NCSEM lead a national strategy, engaging researchers and clinicians to identify key research needs, improve the quality of research, promote collaboration and co-ordinate research into sport and exercise science and sports and exercise medicine over the next five years.

- The NCSEM England will therefore facilitate, support and enable organisations to translate research into innovative and improved services/programmes that will transform the country’s health and well-being, working with partners at policy and operational levels. Research findings and best practice will be shared with key stakeholders across the country.

- The NCSEM England will act as the “single point of contact”, signposting to the most appropriate organisation. It will enable systematic and structured engagement across a wide variety of stakeholders. It will work through partnerships, alliances and collaboration and ensure that there is only one conversation at national level.

1.1 Aim and Objectives of NCSEM England

The aim of NCSEM England is to improve the health and wellbeing of the nation through Sport, Exercise and Physical Activity. This will be achieved through research and translation objectives across the 5 themes tabulated in appendix 1.0.

2.0 NCSEM Sheffield

- In Sheffield, the NCSEM (NCSEM-Sheffield) comprises 11 Partners covering a range of sectors and expertise:

  1. Sheffield Teaching Hospitals STH- with Sir Andrew Cash as NCSEM Accountable Officer
  2. Sheffield City Council (and all City Council departments)
  3. Sheffield Health & Social Care
  4. Sheffield Children’s Hospital
  5. Sheffield Clinical Commissioning Group
  6. University of Sheffield
  7. Sheffield Hallam University
  8. English Institute of Sport Sheffield
2.1 NCSEM Sheffield Aims

- The aim of the NCSEM Sheffield is to create a culture of physical activity in the city which sees Sheffield become the most active city in the UK by 2020.

- We aim to do this using a ‘whole-systems’ approach, combining policy, environmental, community and individual level interventions and programmes of work.

- This ambitious vision has been articulated into a 5 year plan under the banner ‘Move More’ which identifies six key areas of work. (see http://www.movemoresheffield.com/uploads/files/Move%20More%20Plan%20(final%20draft)%20(1).pdf).

- One of the 6 key areas of the Move More plan focuses on the promotion of physical activity as a viable treatment option for NHS patients (primary and secondary care). This has been termed ‘Activity as Medicine’ and aims to make it easier to deliver and evaluate the impact of physical activity in the treatment of a range of chronic long term conditions.

- With this in mind the £10million capital grant from DH has been used in Sheffield to establish an innovative Hub and Spoke capital model to co-locate NHS clinics with physical activity opportunities in 3 locations across the city. In doing so, the capital funding has also enhanced existing physical activity and leisure facilities, created community facilities through which physical activity can bring benefit to traditionally hard to reach users and ultimately connected and co-located patients, researchers and health care professionals making it easier to extend the reach and impact of physical activity as a medicine.

2.2. NCSEM Sheffield: Research Agenda

- A key aspect of the NCSEM is to contribute, through research programmes, to the ‘evidence-base’ and ‘economic-case’ for the role of physical activity in achieving good population health and treating long-term conditions and chronic disease.

- This work supports the five strategic priorities of the NCSEM at national level (see Table 1) as well as being a priority locally and regionally.
• The NCSEM Research Director will oversee the strategy for identifying and
developing such new opportunities in relation to its research programme.

• To date, the NCSEM Sheffield has developed a broad outline of research-related
work and has produced a draft research strategy to support the work over the next
3-5 years. This includes:
  • Developing a protocol to ‘baseline physical activity’ across the city;
  • Engaging and embedding physical activity within existing chronic
disease care pathways through the connection of researchers,
clinicians and rehabilitation specialists;
  • The submission of high-quality and collaborative bids to research
councils and appropriate funding bodies.

• To build upon and extend these priorities the NCSEM is seeking to appoint a
Research Director to take responsibility for these deliverables but also act as the
conduit between NCSEM and the research community in Sheffield.

• A key aspect of this role would be to contribute to and ensure that the physical
activity agenda of the NCSEM supports the broader vision of the NIHR Collaboration
for Leadership in Applied Health Research and Care (CLAHRC) for Yorkshire &
Humber, and where appropriate joint programmes of work are developed.

• The generation of high quality research submissions and associated outputs that
lever the opportunities presented by the co-location of services in NCSEM facilities is
a priority for this role.

3.0 Key Responsibilities of the Post

• To provide leadership and grow the NCSEM research programme, both nationally
and internationally, with the research and the research policy communities.

• To lead and grow an ambitious sports, exercise and health research programme.

• The Research Director will have specific responsibility for supporting and sustaining
NCSEM Sheffield partnership working in relation to research.

• To shape the research strategy of the organisation at Board and senior management
levels, working to ensure an effective use of our resources to deliver a credible,
robust and high quality programme of SEM and public health research.

• To work closely with senior colleagues across the organisation to build effective and
persuasive cases for financial support and income generation in relation to major
research ambitions, with the potential to improve the health of the population.

• To provide leadership and management for all aspects of a medical and scientific
research grants programme, including developing the research strategy for the
external grant programme and delivering effective business planning within NCSEM
Sheffield and NCSEM England.
• To build the national and international alliances and partnerships with other funding organisations that will enable us to ensure co-ordinated research action for SEM research.

• Support cross-organisational arrangements to support the generation and application of research evidence as part of the organisation’s commitment to effective service delivery.

• As a member of the Senior Management Team, this role has overall responsibility for delivering the effective management of the research programme and development of a research network.

• The Director of Research will be required to profile the existing sport, exercise and health and related research areas within Sheffield and to co-ordinate and integrate their impact

• A degree of flexibility will be considered for the right candidate who may seek to combine this position with an existing commitment in the field

4.0 Candidate experience and qualifications

We anticipate that the successful candidate will be a senior academic with an national and international reputation in physical activity, public health or a related field.

Qualifications: A doctoral degree in a relevant field.

Experience
• Relevant track record of research grant funding.
• Relevant track record of research publication.
• Demonstrable experience of delivering organisational change and improvement.
• Demonstrable experience of relevant, successful partnership development.
• Experience in consumer/public involvement in research and/or healthcare.
• Experience of functioning successfully within senior management forums within the university, NHS, private or charity sectors.

Aptitude and Skills
• Able to instigate and champion change.
• Able to gain the commitment of others to the organisation’s vision and strategy.
• Able to identify risk, assess impact and develop strategies to mitigate risk and identify the impact of potential problems.
• Able to adopt a solution-focussed approach and make sound decisions.
• Ability to motivate and empower people to achieve their full potential across geographically dispersed teams.
• Able to demonstrate the drive necessary to achieve results.
• Ability to be responsible for their own work, setting targets and working to tight deadlines.
• Ability to communicate effectively in writing and verbally to a wide range of people, including consumers, researchers, university staff, senior scientists.
• Ability to rapidly assimilate information and to take firm considered decisions.

Personal attributes

• Willingness to travel extensively, including abroad, with occasional overnight stays.
• Personal confidence and ability to take authoritative responsibility.

Accountability

• To the NCSEM Project Director (David Whitney) and through him to the Accountable Officer for the NCSEM Sheffield (Sir Andrew Cash, CE Sheffield Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust).
• Professionally to the Pro Vice Chancellors for the University of Sheffield (Professor Pam Shaw) and Sheffield Hallam University (Professor Karen Bryan), respectively.
## Appendix 1.0 NCSEM England strategic priorities and themes of work.

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<tr>
<th>Workstream</th>
<th>Aims</th>
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<tr>
<td>Physical activity in disease prevention</td>
<td>Promote the take-up of exercise as a preventative therapy, particularly to groups who at greater risk of developing chronic diseases. Reduce the cost burden on public health and social care services. Identify successful strategies to encourage people to adopt healthy lifestyles.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Exercise in chronic disease</td>
<td>Develop evidence-based best practice guidelines for the prescription of exercise to patients who are at the risk of, or suffering from, chronic disease. Provide quality research to evaluate the case to commission exercise as therapy in the NHS.</td>
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<td>Sports injuries and musculoskeletal health</td>
<td>Establish and disseminate patient care models for the use of exercise in the effective diagnosis and management of musculoskeletal disorders. Achieve public cost savings through a reduction in absenteeism from work due to musculoskeletal disorders.</td>
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<td>Mental health and wellbeing</td>
<td>Support workplaces to develop strategies that encourage participation in physical activity to improve staff health, reduce absenteeism and enhance productivity. Develop a compelling case for the role of exercise in the treatment of mental illness. Delivering world-leading research, education and training in the identification of eating disorders in sport.</td>
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<td>Performance health</td>
<td>Fully utilise the Centre's unique position of accessing and researching elite athlete performance to further understand how to optimise health for this population. Translate the knowledge gained and make it applicable to benefit other groups, such as the ageing population.</td>
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