JOB DESCRIPTION

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Job Title:</th>
<th>Postdoctoral Research Assistant in MS Cognition</th>
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<tr>
<td>Department / Unit:</td>
<td>Psychology</td>
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<td>Grade:</td>
<td>RHUL 7</td>
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<td>Accountable to:</td>
<td>Principal Investigator, Professor Dawn Langdon</td>
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**Purpose of the Post**

The post-holder will be expected to contribute to study designs and oversee implementation of the IPAD SDMT. An external software company is involved in the study and the post doc RA will work closely with them. The pharma trial will recruit several hundred people with MS across Europe and America, involving various countries and languages; there will also be additional validation studies and healthy control data collection. The post-holder will be expected to complete systematic reviews and to carry out quantitative analysis of study results, and write up the results for publication. It is funded by Novartis AG (Global).

Cognitive impairments impact adversely on the lives of people with MS, affecting employment, disease management, and relationships. Information processing speed is the most prevalent and severe cognitive deficit at all stages of the disease. The Symbol Digit Modality Test (SDMT) is the best measure of information processing speed in MS, and the most psychometrically sound. To date, most data reports work with the paper version. Professor Langdon’s team have developed an IPAD version, with preliminary validation. The IPAD SDMT is to be used in a large international pharma trial, which will include some additional validation studies.

**Key Tasks**

Responsible for taking an active role in the planning and implementation of the project, under the general guidance of the Principal Investigator.

To ensure that all research is undertaken according to good research practice and guidance, such as Good Clinical Practice (GCP), College and Trust protocols, and meets all ethical and legal requirements.

To communicate in a skilled, tactful and effective manner with all academic, clinical and industry personnel including appropriate travel as requested, to deliver liaison, support and training as required.

Set-up study database, Maintain appropriate databases, keeping accurate written and computerised records and to ensure that these records are stored in a secure place, and to maintain confidentiality of all electronically stored personal data in line with the provisions of the Data Protection Act and ethical permissions of the study.
Undertake literature and database searches as relevant the research project, and be able to use these to inform project delivery and data interpretation and deliver systematic reviews, in addition to developing additional potential projects using data collected as part of/in connection this study.

Be responsible for auditing recruitment rates and data quality.

Contribute to, and potentially lead on, writing papers summarising research findings for publication in peer-reviewed journals (of high international standing where possible).

Contribute to other reports where possible.

Prepare reports of appropriate research results for public presentation through seminars and conferences, including for international MS scientific conferences and MS charities.

Keep up to date with subject related and professional issues, in particular, developments in the specific subject area.

Other Duties

The above list of responsibilities is not exhaustive and the jobholder may be required to undertake other duties commensurate with the level of the role, as reasonably requested by their line manager.

This job description sets out the duties of the post at the time it was drawn up. Such duties may vary from time to time without changing the general character of the duties or level of the responsibility entailed. Such variations are a common occurrence and cannot in themselves justify a reconsideration of the grading of the post.