**CAHPR/NIHR Research Champion**

**Role Details**

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| **Job Title:** | **Research Champion** |
| **Responsible to:** | Council for Allied Health Professionals in Research (CAHPR) and National Institute of Health Research (NIHR) |
| **Working Hours:** | Equivalent to half a day per month |

**Role Purpose**

The CAHPR/NIHR Allied Health Profession (AHP) Research Champion role holders will work across their local clinical research network acting as role models and activists to champion the active involvement of AHPs in clinically-focussed research activities. Based across the clinical research system, they will build momentum and maximise the visibility and impact of AHP research. In particular to:

* Increase AHPs’ involvement in clinically-based research
* Increase the visibility and profile of AHPs involved in research
* Highlight the value and impact of AHP research engagement
* Promote learning and leadership opportunities for AHPs in research
* Promoting research as a positive activity that provides patient benefit
* Proactively look for opportunities to raise the visibility of AHPs in research locally and nationally

AHPs represent the third largest professional workforce in health and social care. Their contributions are critical to the development and delivery of high-quality, patient-centred care and therefore research relevant to clinical practice.

Both CAHPR and NIHR believe that the development of a strong workplace community of practice and other research activities can support the objectives of these two organisations and that these objectives can be facilitated through the CAHPR /NIHR Allied Health Profession Research Champion role.

**Job Role**

The CAHPR /NIHR Allied Health Profession Research Champion role is seen as a strategic, influencing position. Optimally situated in clinical services, the role will be to reinforce the value and benefit of research to commissioners and providers. In particular:

* To act as a regionally based AHP super-connector, connecting locally and nationally to link existing and new communities of practice
* To align with the National AHP research and innovation strategy
* To seek opportunities locally to promote research activity and research careers through the AHP professions by disseminating through their networks
* To assist in identifying barriers to NHS AHP research capacity and capability
* To build links and understanding of NIHR CRN role and infrastructure
* To contribute to workforce intelligence about AHPs involved in research (all roles)
* To contribution to a shared case study repository of AHP research stories and impact
* To increase the profile of AHP professions and wider NMAHPs professions as clinical academics
* To promote and increase the organisational profile of CAHPR and NIHR
* To liaise with the CAHPR hub
* To share information about opportunities for research funding, training, learning and support
* To monitor contribution and impact of Research Champion role against predetermined parameters as devised by the Research Champion group.

**Skills and attributes of the AHP Research Champions**

* To use abilities to network across the professions and levels of seniority
* To act as a role model, mentoring and leading by example
* To inspire and encourage others
* To be reflective, with a desire to support own and the career development of others
* To be able to develop good working relationships and communicate well virtually as well as in person
* Understands the value of all types of research activity and its impact on healthcare outcomes and patient experiences, as well as benefits to healthcare staff and organisations
* Understand the wider national research landscape

**AHP Research Champions will be expected to build working relationships locally and regionally with:**

* CAHPR Hub Leaders and Facilitators
* NIHR AHP Training Advocates
* NIHR Clinical Research Network including Local Clinical Research teams
* Local organisational ambassadors, envoys and the like
* Consultant Practitioners and ACPs
* Senior AHP Managers
* NIHR and CAHPR national staff and teams
* Integrated Care Boards/ Integrated Care Systems/AHP Councils/AHP Faculties
* Serve a minimum term of two years as a Research Champion

**What AHP Research Champions will need:**

* Permission and autonomy to carry out the role from their line manager (equivalent to half a day per month) agreement to attend up to 1 national face-to face and 3 half day online workshops per year to support engaging in the role.

**AHP Research Champions should expect to receive:**

* Active support and recognition of their regional role from their employing organisation/ line manager
* Links to other AHP Research Champions as a learning community
* Active support from CAHPR and NIHR CRN nationally
* Active support from CAHPR Hub Leads/Facilitators and NIHR Advocates
* Financial support from CAHPR/NIHR to attend workshops and carry out specific tasks (to include reimbursement of travel and subsistence costs).

**Likely benefit of being a Research Champion**

* To be part of a National and Local initiative that will help to raise the profile of aspiring individuals and support their development and visibility
* To be part of a research network
* Opportunities to work in partnership with other organisations and understand the bigger picture
* Improved insight into the research skills required to shape NIHR funded or NIHR supported research
* Enhance the post holders’ personal network in support of their research career ambition
* Support evidence-based practice
* Priority spaces on CAHPR/NIHR run research courses, workshops and conferences
* To obtain useful skills that can be applied to future career opportunities, role development of research funding application
* Provide increased visibility and reputation for the Champions’ employer (supporting service/organisation).

**PERSON SPECIFICATION**

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| ATTRIBUTES | ESSENTIAL | DESIRABLE |
| **Qualifications & training** | * A statutory registered Health and Care Professional * Experience of working in and a current contract with an NHS provider or social care organisation | * Experience as a researcher or leading research delivery |
| **Knowledge and Skills** | * Excellent communication skills both verbal and written. * Experience of working in teams and developing approaches to collaboration. * Reliable, motivated and innovative * Knowledge of research skills * Excellent time management, research and organisational skills * To act as a role model and lead by example * Previous experience in leadership roles * Be emotionally intelligent and resilient * Willing to adopt a collaborative approach to assist in achieving the joint objectives of the Champions group | * To be willing to learn about how digital technologies can enhance our ability to connect and learn as professional communities * To inspire and encourage others * To be reflective, with a desire to support own and the career development of others * To be able to develop good working relationships and communicate well virtually as well as in person * To use abilities to network across the professions and levels of seniority * Be able to negotiate and influence * Be open minded and flexible - ‘able to “think outside the box’ and be creative in approaches to engagement |
| **Special Experience** | * A research-active aspiring (or existing) AHP leader in a research context with links across their profession and a willingness to grow these across organisational boundaries * Skills to influence and guide colleagues * Experience of enabling change from a people and working environment perspective | * Have an understanding of the wider national research landscape |