NIHR Applied Research Collaboration Oxford and Thames Valley

Mental Health Theme PhD Scholar at the University of Oxford

(Evidence Synthesis and Precision Psychiatry)

We are pleased to invite both UK and international applications for a doctoral degree within the Oxford Precision Psychiatry Lab, at Department of Psychiatry of the University of Oxford. The 3-year doctoral degree will start in October 2021.

The focus of the research will be on evidence synthesis using network meta-analysis of individual patient data combined with Artificial Intelligence-approaches to develop a clinical decision-making tool about the treatment of depression that will incorporate real-world prospectively collected data to improve the patient level prediction.

The DPhil programme will be supervised by Prof Andrea Cipriani. Prof Cipriani's group (https://oxfordhealthbrc.nihr.ac.uk/our-work/oxppl/) is part of the Oxford Health Biomedical Research Centre and comprises of clinical psychiatrists, psychologists, AI-experts, research assistants, pharmacists, data analysts, post docs, DPhil and medical students, researching how, by a more careful analysis of existing data, we can better tailor the choice of a specific intervention to a specific person, to increase the chances that the treatment will be tolerable and effective.

Funded by the Mental Health Theme of the NIHR Applied Research Collaboration Oxford and Thames Valley, the aim of this project is to develop a living and continuously updated internet-based system which will help doctors and patients together monitor the effects of the treatment in routine practice and choose over the medium to long term the best intervention for each individual with moderate to severe symptoms of depression. The doctoral student will also participate in an individual patient data network meta-analysis on anxiety and in the design of a large international randomised trial that will test the algorithm (i.e. drafting the study protocol and starting the ethics and approval process).

The scholarship funds course fees, a tax-free stipend (currently £15,285 per annum), plus additional support for research expenses, conference attendance, and consumables. This is supported by a grant from National Institute for Health Research.

Applicants should have at least an upper second-class honours degree in medicine and a specialisation in psychiatry (with licence to practice in the UK, i.e. GMC registration). Interests should include evidence-based medicine, clinical psychiatry (with a specific focus on depression), digital mental health, familiarity with AI-approaches and applied statistical methodology.

Applications should be sent with a CV and a covering letter to Tracy Lindsey at tracy.lindsey@psych.ox.ac.uk or to Tracy Lindsey, University Department of Psychiatry, Warneford Hospital, Headington, Oxford. OX3 7JX.

Deadline for submission of applications: Monday 30th November 2020 by 12.00 noon (UK time).
Interview date: Friday 4th December 2020 via Zoom
Studentship Code: 21PSYCH02WEB