**Academic Primary Care Interns @ Newcastle University, 2020**

Newcastle University Population Health Sciences Institute is pleased to offer two summer internships to medical students from UK Universities, funded by the NIHR School for Primary Care Research (SPCR).

These placements will be for 4-8 weeks, with some flexibility around dates, and some financial support is available.

The aim is to encourage students to consider a career in academic general practice by gaining practical experience in primary care research. In previous years, students have joined an established research team and experienced life in an academic department. This year, we will have no face to face contact, but we will be inviting students into our now virtual world.

At the end of the placement the intern is required to submit a brief report about their experience. We also expect interns to work with their academic supervisors to produce an article for publication, based on the work completed during the internship.

Please apply with a CV and covering letter (approximately 100 words) stating which project you would be interested in applying for and explaining why you would like to undertake an internship - via email to Teresa.lisle@ncl.ac.uk by Monday June 22nd 2020.

1. **Educational Research**

We have a growing GP educational research team under the leadership of Dr Hugh Alberti including GPs, GP trainees, foundation doctors and medical students.  The successful student will have some choice about the project s/he is involved in and it may include a literature review, data collection and/or data analysis.

Projects are related to GP educational research and include evaluations of GP teaching, career influences, studying GP placements, and research on the teaching of topics such as empathy and sustainability. For example, one option is for the student to join a GP researcher studying parallel surgeries (student-learning) in GP placements through video and surveys, involving predominantly in data analysis. The project is likely to lead to a conference presentation and publication.

Supervision will be undertaken remotely via zoom/Teams including 1-2 weekly meetings as well as wider research team meetings.

Dates can be flexible.

**Supervisors: Dr Hugh Alberti, Sub-Dean for Primary and Community Care & team Contact:****hugh.alberti@newcastle.ac.uk**

1. **Validation of a set of alcohol health literacy assessment tools**

Background. Alcohol health literacy refers to the set of skills patients need to be able access, understand, and use information and services to make informed decisions about drinking alcohol. These skills include: the ability to read and understand written documents about alcohol harm (print literacy); to use quantitative information about alcohol consumption (numeracy); and to listen and express themselves confidently when communicating with primary care clinicians about their drinking (oral literacy). Being able to assess alcohol health literacy in patients is important for both academic research, and as a tool for practitioners to help them communicate with their patients about alcohol. Newcastle University researchers have developed a set of assessment tools to help primary care clinicians evaluate alcohol health literacy in their patients. However, these tools have these have not yet been tested in the wider population.

Project. This internship will involve the administration of a web-based survey of these assessment alcohol health literacy tools in sample of local authority employees; generation of descriptive statistics based on the survey data; the production of a short report to summarise the findings and an academic publication.

Student support: Zoom meetings every 1-2 weeks, feedback within 3 working days, as-hoc meetings as required

Start date: 13th July for 8 weeks

**Supervisors: Gill Rowlands, Professor of General Practice and Dr Amy O’Donnell, Newcastle University Research Fellow. Contact:** **Gill.Rowlands@newcastle.ac.uk**

1. **Health professional views and experiences of dementia medication review and de-prescribing in people with dementia: a qualitative evidence synthesis**

Medication is the most common medical intervention in primary care, and costs the NHS around £9 billion per annum. This financial pressure is in part, because people are living longer with more multi-morbidity. One common long-term condition strongly associated with older age is dementia. People with dementia often have many other long-term conditions. Previous research has suggested that people living with dementia take multiple medications, many of which are not appropriate; these medications can be burdensome, and even harmful.   Health professionals working in primary care are often responsible for medication management, so their views and experiences of how all medication is reviewed and de-prescribed are important. This is particularly the case with dementia as the illness advances and mental capacity and communication skills are lost.  There have been several studies published on this topic, but none have systematically summarised all of the information to ensure it is easily accessible for researchers, policy-makers, health professionals, patients and their families.

This proposed project, therefore, is to conduct an evidence synthesis to bring together literature on primary care health professionals’ views and experience of medication review and deprescribing in people with dementia.

Support: Weekly zoom meetings with supervisors; prompt feedback; ad hoc telephone/zoom meetings if needed.

Output: Publication with support from supervisors; conference presentation. By the end of the internships with support, we expect the student to have consolidated and expanded their critical appraisal skills; completed a focused literature search; developed expertise in abstracting data from relevant literature; completed a piece of academic writing summarising their work.

Start date: August 2020

**Supervisors: Louise Robinson, Professor of Primary Care Ageing, Dr Adam Todd, Reader in Public Health Pharmacy, Johanne Dow, SPCR GP Career Progression Fellow Contact:** **a.l.robinson@newcastle.ac.uk**