



**Department of Psychological Sciences, Institute of Psychology, Health and Society
and
Department of Biostatistics, Institute of Translational Medicine**

Fully funded PhD studentship: Patient and public involvement in selecting what outcomes to measure in clinical trials

Applications are invited for a full-time PhD studentship based at the University of Liverpool for three years to investigate patient and public involvement (PPI) in selecting what outcomes to measure in clinical trials. The studentship is funded by the University of Liverpool and will be supervised by Bridget Young (Professor of Psychology), Paula Williamson (Professor of Biostatistics) and Kerry Woolfall (Research Fellow) at the University of Liverpool.

Researchers are increasingly involving patients and the public alongside other stakeholders in identifying what outcomes (such as pain, quality of life etc.) to measure in clinical trials, but no one knows how best to do this. This project will compare the ways that patients have been involved in outcome selection across several clinical areas and whether the current methods of PPI are fit for purpose. The findings will inform guidance and interventions to enhance the quality of PPI in outcome selection in future studies.

The project will be part of the North West Hub for Trials Methodology Research, as well as the COMET (Core Outcome Measures in Effectiveness Trials) initiative. COMET is encouraging researchers across the world to develop standardised or agreed core sets of outcomes (COS). COS will improve research by tackling the major problems that arise when researchers use inconsistent outcomes to measure the effects of new treatments within the same clinical area. More consistency will make it easier to compare treatments and easier for doctors to advise patients about which treatments are best. COS will also improve the real world relevance of research by ensuring that patients and the public have a say in what outcomes are measured. For further information about COMET and COS please see <http://www.comet-initiative.org/> and <http://www.comet-initiative.org/resources/PlainLanguageSummary>.

The successful applicant will receive an award equivalent to the Research Council stipend of £14,057 as a contribution to maintenance costs. The University of Liverpool will fund fees for the student at the Home/EU level only.

Applicants should hold (or expect to be awarded in 2016) a First Class or high 2(i) BSc or BA degree in a relevant subject (e.g. psychology, social science or a health-related subject) and show evidence of strong quantitative and/or qualitative research skills. The successful applicant must have demonstrated an interest in psychological or social processes in healthcare/health services research and have some experience of working with the public. The successful candidate will require confidence and strong interpersonal skills. They will also require excellent verbal and written communication skills, (where English is not a first language an IELTS score of 7.5 is required) together with first-rate organisational skills.

To apply please submit the following: (1) a one page draft research outline indicating your thoughts on how to investigate current methods of patient and public involvement in COS, (2) a covering letter including a personal statement indicating how your qualifications, experience and personal qualities are suitable for the PhD in this area, (3) a CV with details of two referees, (4) degree transcripts and certificates (UG/PGT) Professor Bridget Young: email byoung@liv.ac.uk or telephone 0151 794 5525.

Closing date for applications: Friday 4TH December 2015