



## Senior Lecturer/ Reader / Chair in Musculoskeletal Health Research

### School of Medicine, Medical Sciences and Nutrition

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**Closing date:** 30 November 2019  
**Interview date:** To be Confirmed  
**Reference number:** IHS051A



## Introduction

*The Aberdeen Centre for Arthritis and Musculoskeletal Health (ACAMH) undertakes pioneering research to understand mechanisms of disabling musculoskeletal conditions, describe their epidemiology and provide evidence on effective management. Our research focuses on mechanisms, epidemiology and management. Members of the group involve clinical researchers, clinicians and patient partners.*

We have a vibrant programme which focusses on risk factors of onset and outcome of rheumatic and musculoskeletal disorders (RMD), assesses effectiveness of interventions through reviews, meta-analyses, trials and disease registers. Building upon the research we have done, we have now expanded our research focus to the organisation of healthcare and how it is provided for people with arthritis and musculoskeletal disorders. Many healthcare service delivery improvements are unsuccessful, yet there is an incomplete understanding of why many improvement initiatives fail and experience and learning is often not shared. We are therefore bringing together researchers, those responsible for delivering healthcare and those receiving healthcare to address these issues. We are currently undertaking major programmes of research in designing health services for common but complex pain conditions and also addressing the specific challenges of rare rheumatic disorders.

We now seek an individual with expertise in musculoskeletal health research to join the multidisciplinary team in ACAMH ([www.abdn.ac.uk/acamh](http://www.abdn.ac.uk/acamh)), based in the Epidemiology Group ([www.abdn.ac.uk/epidemiology](http://www.abdn.ac.uk/epidemiology)), to play a leading role in continuing to expand our work in applied health sciences.



# Job description

## Main purpose of the role:

### Research

Working with colleagues across ACAMH and more widely in the School of Medicine, Medical Sciences and Nutrition to play a leading role in developing a programme of work relevant to their expertise. We are particularly keen to recruit an individual with expertise in Health Services Research to

- (a) identify the evidence base for effective care for persons with specific musculoskeletal conditions
- (b) design and test service delivery models, taking account of the associated costs, likely outcomes and patient preference.
- (c) create models for achieving optimal health outcomes and delivering sustainable change in healthcare practice for those living with musculoskeletal conditions across a diverse range of healthcare contexts.

However we are also willing to consider an appointment in other areas relevant to epidemiology and biostatistics.

The postholder would be expected to seek funding from local, national and international bodies to support the research.

They postholder would be expected to link with colleagues throughout the University in undertaking this work. The School of Medicine, Medical Sciences and Nutrition has specific expertise in Health Services Research ([www.abdn.ac.uk/hsru](http://www.abdn.ac.uk/hsru)), Health Economics ([www.abdn.ac.uk/heru](http://www.abdn.ac.uk/heru)) and Health Data Science ([www.abdn.ac.uk/achds](http://www.abdn.ac.uk/achds)).

ACAMH is a European League Against Rheumatism Centre of Excellence. It has members based in the Institute of Applied Health Sciences and Institute of Medical Sciences of the School of Medicine, Medical Sciences and Nutrition, and in the Department of Rheumatology in NHS Grampian. We also have an active group of patient partners who contribute to setting our research priorities and working with us on these studies. ACAMH is led by Professors Cosimo de Bari and Gary Macfarlane. This post would be based within the Epidemiology group of the Institute of Applied Health Sciences (lead: Professor Gary J Macfarlane). The Epidemiology group has approximately 25 members of staff and students and has current live grant income of £6.7million. It has a clinical focus on inflammatory arthritis (including ankylosing spondylitis (<https://www.rheumatology.org.uk/practice-quality-registers-ankylosing-spondylitis-register>) and psoriatic arthritis (<https://www.rheumatology.org.uk/practice-quality-registers-psoriatic-arthritis-register>) for which we host the British Society for Rheumatology national registers), pain (including fibromyalgia) and osteoarthritis.

### Teaching

There will be opportunities to contribute to teaching at both undergraduate and postgraduate level, such as the Quality Improvement Curriculum of the MBChB course and face-to-face or online teaching as part of the Masters in Public Health

### Administration

The postholder would be expected in due course to take their share of administrative activities within the School of Medicine, Medical Sciences and Nutrition.

## At a glance

### Salary:

Senior Lecturer/Reader:  
Grade 8 (£52,559 - £59,135  
per annum)

Chair: Grade 9 (£60,905 –  
£68,530 per annum)

### Hours of work:

Full-Time (37.5 hours per  
week)

### Contract type:

Substantive

# Candidate background

## Knowledge

PhD in a relevant area

## Skills

- *Evidence of expertise in applied health research, ideally (but not essentially) with a background in musculoskeletal disorders*
- *Evidence of track record in successful grant awards*
- *Evidence of publishing internationally excellent work*
- *Using routinely collected data*
- *Excellent written and verbal communication skills*
- *Strong methodological skills including research design, measurement, quantitative and/or qualitative analysis*
- *Excellent strategic skills in the context of higher education*
- *Analytical, IT and data management skills*
- *Ability to think creatively and innovatively and impart enthusiasm for subject*
- *Commitment to multidisciplinary team working*



## Experience

- *Conducting and reporting mixed method studies*
- *Working with a group of diverse stakeholders*
- *Supervising PhD students*
- *Designing and effectively delivering teaching modules*
- *Experience of having undertaken musculoskeletal health research is desirable but not essential. The candidate may have worked in diverse clinical areas or focussed on another specific clinical area, but is interested in re-focussing their research in musculoskeletal health.*



## Terms of appointment

Salary will be at the appropriate point on the Grade 9 salary scale (£59,828 - £67,318 per annum) for Chairs, or the Grade 8 salary scale (£51,630 - £58,089 per annum) for Senior Lecturers and Readers, and negotiable with placement according to qualifications and experience.

Any appointment will be made subject to satisfactory references and a 3 year probation period.

For further information on various staff benefits and policies please visit [www.abdn.ac.uk/staffnet/working-here](http://www.abdn.ac.uk/staffnet/working-here)

Should you require a visa to undertake paid employment in the UK you will be required to fulfil the minimum points criteria to be granted a Certificate of Sponsorship and Tier 2 visa. As appropriate, at the time an offer of appointment is made you will be asked to demonstrate that you fulfil the criteria in respect of financial maintenance and competency in English. Please do not hesitate to contact Grant Rae, HR Adviser on +44 (0)1224 437068 or email [grant.rae@abdn.ac.uk](mailto:grant.rae@abdn.ac.uk) for further information.

# Person specification

	<i>Essential</i>	<i>Desirable</i>
<b>Education/Qualifications</b> Academic, technical and professional education and training	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>PhD in a relevant area</i></li> </ul>	
<b>Work and Other relevant experience (including training)</b> eg Specialist knowledge, levels of experience, supervisory experience, research	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Experience of conducting and reporting mixed method studies</i></li> <li>• <i>Experience of working with a group of diverse stakeholders</i></li> <li>• <i>Evidence of expertise in one or more areas of applied research relevant to musculoskeletal health.</i></li> <li>• <i>Evidence of track record in successful grant awards</i></li> <li>• <i>Evidence of publishing internationally excellent</i></li> <li>• <i>Supervision of PhD students</i></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Experience in musculoskeletal health research</i></li> <li>• <i>Experience of using routinely collected data</i></li> <li>• <i>Experience of working in the field of musculoskeletal health</i></li> </ul>
<b>Personal qualities and abilities</b> eg initiative, leadership, ability to work on own or with others, communication skills	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Evidence of having worked effectively as part of a multidisciplinary team</i></li> <li>• <i>Excellent communication skills</i></li> <li>• <i>Evidence of ability to develop research strategy and ideas.</i></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Experience of managing staff</i></li> </ul>
<b>Other</b> eg special circumstances (if any) appropriate to the role such as unsocial hours, travelling, Gaelic language requirements etc.		

# The University

*Founded in 1495, Aberdeen is Scotland's third oldest University and the fifth oldest in the UK. Ranked within the world top 160 in the Times Higher Education Rankings 2019 and named Scottish University of the Year in the Times and Sunday Times Good University Guide 2019. Aberdeen is 'open to all and dedicated to the pursuit of truth in the service of others'.*

Aberdeen is a broad based, research intensive University, which puts students at the head of everything it does. It has significant academic strengths and potential across a wide variety of disciplines. Outstanding in a wide range of discipline areas, Aberdeen has also been credited for its international reach and its commercialisation of research ideas into spin out companies.

The University has over 14,000 matriculated students and 3,600 staff representing 130 nationalities. We encourage bold thinking, creativity and innovation and we nurture ambition with many opportunities for professional and personal development in an inclusive learning environment which challenges, inspires and helps every individual to reach their full potential.

The University combines a distinguished heritage with a forward looking attitude. In the past few years, the University has encouraged creativity in its academic staff, broken new ground with an innovative curriculum, and developed state-of-the-art facilities including the new Sir Duncan Rice Library and the Aberdeen Sports Village and Aquatics Centre. In looking to the future, the University seeks to enhance its reputation as one of the world's leading Universities by moving forward with ever more ground breaking research; ensuring students have an intellectual and social experience second to none; and capitalising upon the dual role as one of the major institutions of the north and as a cornerstone of regional economic and cultural life.

# School of Medicine, Medical Sciences and Nutrition

The School (<https://www.abdn.ac.uk/smmsn/index.php>) encompasses all of the disciplines that underpin today's medicine, including biomedical sciences, health sciences, nutrition and medical, medical science and dental education and these are organised into five Institutes. The largest school in the University, the SMMSN has five Institutes: the Institute of Medical Sciences (IMS), the Institute of Applied Health Sciences (IAHS), the Rowett Institute, the Institute of Education in Medical and Dental Sciences (IEMDS) and the Institute of Dentistry, comprising all of our undergraduate and postgraduate programmes and our own graduate entry Dental School.

Staff are line managed and research opportunities are supported through our institutes which work together in an integrated and coordinated way to deliver research and teaching across the School, details of which can be found on their websites as below.

- The Institute of Applied Health Sciences <https://www.abdn.ac.uk/iahs/>
- The Institute of Medical Sciences <http://www.abdn.ac.uk/ims/>
- The Rowett Institute <http://www.abdn.ac.uk/rowett/>
- The Institute of Education for Medical and Dental Sciences <https://www.abdn.ac.uk/iemds/>
- The Institute of Dentistry <https://www.abdn.ac.uk/dental/>

Within the IMS, our scientists are working towards the creation of effective therapies for patients with a range of debilitating and life-threatening conditions. Current research areas include: arthritis and musculoskeletal medicine; cell developmental and cancer biology; immunity, infection and inflammation; metabolic and cardiovascular health; microbiology and translational neuroscience.

Within the IAHS, research is focused on improving health and health care delivery. It is home to a multidisciplinary grouping of around 100 university academic staff who conduct population and clinically-orientated health research and hosts the Health Services Research Unit ([HSRU](#)) and Health Economics Research Unit ([HERU](#)), both funded by the Chief Scientist's Office (CSO) of the Scottish Government.

As well as being the organisational home to the teaching scholarship staff and responsible for oversight of the UG and PGT programmes offered by the School, the IEMDS promotes and supports excellence in medical education through research and development, with a focus on conceptually and theoretically robust research and development which has strong potential for reaching international recognition.

The Dental Institute runs an undergraduate BDS programme and a growing suite of masters programmes for professional development.

We have a number of specialist Centres representing areas of particular research strength and capacity within the School all of which are willing to support colleagues on projects in their areas. More information is available at the following websites.

- The Centre for Healthcare Education Research and Innovation (<https://www.abdn.ac.uk/acdc/>)
- The Centre for Health Data Science (<https://www.abdn.ac.uk/achds/>)
- The Aberdeen Cardiovascular & Diabetes Centre (<https://www.abdn.ac.uk/acdc/>) and
- The Aberdeen Centre for Arthritis and Musculoskeletal Health (<https://www.abdn.ac.uk/acamh/>)



The School is home to over 800 staff and 2000fte students. It is located on the Foresterhill site, shared with our main clinical partner, NHS Grampian, with whom we work in close collaboration at primary and secondary care levels.. This is one of the largest integrated healthcare delivery, training and research sites in Europe and has rich assets including state-of-the-art academic (research and teaching) and clinical buildings. Excellent infrastructure is also provided through core facilities for biomedical science including flow cytometry, proteomics, microscopy and genome sequencing, support for data health science projects and clinical trials.

The last major academic capital development was the opening of the Rowett Institute, occupied in March 2016, whose staff undertakes nutrition research to help improve people's lives through the prevention of ill-health and disease. Their new £40M building has provided the University of Aberdeen with a facility with unique capabilities for human nutrition and metabolic research. Currently, the NHSG is carrying out an exciting £164 million building development creating The Baird Family Hospital and The Aberdeen and North Centre for Haematology, Oncology and Radiotherapy (ANCHOR) Centre Project, scheduled for completion in 2021.

# The city and the region

## *Aberdeen and Aberdeenshire*

With a population of approximately 230,000, the city stands between the Rivers Dee and Don. This historic city has many architectural splendours and the use of its sparkling local granite has earned Aberdeen the name of the Silver City. Recognised as the oil capital of Europe, Aberdeen nevertheless retains its old-fashioned charm and character making it an attractive place in which to live.

Aberdeen enjoys excellent communication services with other European cities - e.g. flying time to London is just over one hour with regular daily flights. There are direct air links to London (City, Gatwick, Heathrow, and Luton), Manchester, Birmingham, Leeds, Southampton, Belfast and East Midlands within the U.K. There are also flights to international hub airports: Amsterdam (Schiphol), and Paris (Charles De-Gaulle) as well as flights to other European destinations. <http://www.aberdeenairport.com> Road and rail links are also well developed.

The Grampian Region which took its name from the Grampian Mountains has a population of approximately 545,000. It is made up of five districts – Aberdeen, Banff & Buchan, Gordon, Kincardine & Deeside and Moray. The city and the surrounding countryside provide a variety of urban, sea-side and country pursuits. Aberdeen has first class amenities including His Majesty's Theatre, Music Hall, Art Gallery, the Aberdeen Exhibition Centre, Museums, and Beach Leisure centre. Within a short time, beach pursuits, equine activities, salmon, trout and sea fishing, hill-walking, mountaineering, golf, sailing, surfing and windsurfing can be reached. The city and the surrounding countryside are repeatedly given high ratings for quality of life in surveys.

Aberdeenshire is one of Scotland's most appealing regions. Royal Deeside and the Cairngorms National Park are within easy access of the city, and there are a variety of towns and villages scattered along the coastline.

Aberdeen and Aberdeenshire cater for a wide range of tastes in sporting and cultural activities.

To find out more about Aberdeen and Aberdeenshire go to [www.visitabdn.com](http://www.visitabdn.com)



## How to apply

Online application forms are available at [www.abdn.ac.uk/jobs](http://www.abdn.ac.uk/jobs)

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The closing date for receipt of applications is 30 November 2019

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Should you wish to make an informal enquiry please contact:

Professor Siladitya Bhattacharya, Head of School of Medicine, Medical Sciences and Nutrition  
[s.bhattacharya@abdn.ac.uk](mailto:s.bhattacharya@abdn.ac.uk)

Please do not send application forms or CVs to Professor Bhattacharya.

**Please quote reference number IHS051A on all correspondence**

*The University pursues a policy of equal opportunities in the appointment and promotion of staff.*