Applications are invited for the post of **NIHR Research Methods Fellow in Medical Statistics** starting **1st October 2012** in the **Department of Health Sciences** at the **University of Leicester**.

Based jointly within **Primary Care Research Group** and **The Infant Mortality and Morbidity Studies (TIMMS) Group** in the Department of Health Sciences at the University of Leicester, the fellowship will provide an excellent opportunity for the successful candidate to receive high quality structured training in medical statistics (and health-related research and research methods generally) within a supportive and dynamic research and teaching environment. Specifically the fellowship will provide:

- **2 year salaried position** based at the University of Leicester
- Funding to undertake an **MSc in Medical Statistics** at the University of Leicester
- Undertake a **research project** on statistical methods for quantifying and reporting variations in rates of clinical outcomes in primary care medicine
- Experience **multi-disciplinary health-related research** through their research project (Epidemiology, General Practice, Biostatistics & Health Economics)
- Undertake **generic training** in health-related research and research methods
- Opportunity to develop a **PhD proposal**, and submit it for an NIHR Doctoral Training Fellowship
- Experience of **supervising a 2-month NIHR Research Methods Internship**

**Further Information**

Applicants should have a good honours degree (2:1 or higher) with a substantial mathematics or statistics content, as well as good IT skills, and the ability to communicate clearly and effectively both in writing and orally.

Informal enquiries are welcome and should be made to Dr Brad Manktelow, e-mail Brad.manktelow@le.ac.uk, tel 0116 252 5496.

To apply on-line, please visit our website: [http://www2.le.ac.uk/offices/personnel](http://www2.le.ac.uk/offices/personnel) and search for post Ref MBP00627.

The closing date for this post is **Midnight on 9th July 2012**, and interviews are likely to be on Tuesday **17th July 2012**.

**Background**

**Environment**

The Primary Care research group comprises three main research areas: Quality and Service Delivery; Primary Care Diabetes and Cardiovascular Medicine; Health and Disability. The successful candidate will work primarily in Quality and Service Delivery, a multidisciplinary research area that uses a range of methods to address issues of quality of care and service delivery. These include evidence synthesis, qualitative work to build theory, the development of interventions, and their testing in pragmatic trials as well as work focused on policy. The Primary Care group have a longstanding interest in the development and testing of methods of getting evidence into practice and host the NIHR CLAHRC for Leicestershire, Northamptonshire & Rutland whose work includes a series of studies on the implementation of evidence based practice in primary and secondary care. Members of the Primary Care research group include 3 professors, 1 clinical senior lecturer, 2 clinical fellows and 33 other research active staff (including 2 medical statisticians).

Researchers in The Infant Mortality and Morbidity Studies (TIMMS) group comprise 2 professors and 11 other research staff (including 4 medical statisticians). The aims of this long established research group include the investigation and reporting of care provision and clinical outcomes in perinatal, neonatal and paediatric care.

Both groups have a strong record of obtaining grant income and publishing, and provide a stimulating and supportive environment for training and development. Researchers in these groups also run or collaborate in a number of current
international, national and regional studies. Further details can be found at; [http://www2.le.ac.uk/departments/health-sciences/research/primary/intro](http://www2.le.ac.uk/departments/health-sciences/research/primary/intro) (Primary Care) and [http://www.le.ac.uk/timms](http://www.le.ac.uk/timms) (TIMMS).

**Training, Professional & Personal Development**

The Fellow will undertake the MSc in Medical Statistics at the University of Leicester on a full-time basis during the first year of the fellowship. This is a long standing and highly respected masters programme – the only one based exclusively within a Medical School, and provides a thorough grounding in both the principles and practical aspects of bio-medical statistics. The taught component of the course lasts from October to June during which time students attend 10 core modules and 2 optional modules, together with undertaking two mini-projects centred on real clinical problems. Following the taught component of the course students complete a 3 month project on which they write a dissertation. The MSc typically has 15+ full-time and 5 part-time students in each cohort so classes are relatively small and interactive. Further details can be found at; [http://www2.le.ac.uk/departments/health-sciences/PG/pgt/msc](http://www2.le.ac.uk/departments/health-sciences/PG/pgt/msc)

When the Fellow finishes the MSc, they will be able to access a large range of generic courses and training opportunities via the Staff Development Unit at the University of Leicester.

**Research Project**

Using data from the National Clinical and Health Outcomes Knowledge Base (NCHOD), and other data available to the research groups where appropriate, the Fellow will investigate variations between GP practices and Primary Care Trusts in their rates of clinical outcomes (for example, mortality, blood pressure control in hypertension, glycaemic control in diabetes) and in the utilisation of Secondary and Tertiary Care services (for example, hospital admission, hospital referral, outpatient attendance). Research questions of interest include investigating and quantifying potential health inequalities by socio-economic status, area deprivation and ethnicity. The primary statistical methods used will be multi-level generalised linear models, including logistic and log-linear models. Particular focus will be paid to the presentation and interpretation of the analyses to ensure that the results are understandable to clinical staff, managers and patients.

In addition to skills in statistical methodology, the Fellow will also increase their understanding in other aspects of applied medical research such as research ethics, data protection, research governance, writing for publication in peer-reviewed journals and presentations at scientific meetings.