PhD Studentship in Health Sciences

Prevalence and risk for psychiatric disorders in children born extremely preterm: Changes over time

Project Description

Being born extremely preterm, before 27 weeks of gestation, places babies at high risk for developmental disorders later in life. Recent studies show that extremely preterm children are at three times increased risk for psychiatric disorders compared with children born at term. However, these studies are of children born in the 1990s or earlier and major advances in neonatal intensive care over recent years may have reduced the risk for psychopathology following extremely preterm birth. This studentship will provide the opportunity to study the risk for psychiatric disorders in children born extremely preterm in 2006 and to investigate, for the first time, whether outcomes have changed compared with extremely preterm birth a decade earlier. You will have the opportunity to work with the internationally renowned ‘EPICure’ team who carry out longitudinal studies of outcomes following extremely preterm birth in the UK (www.epicure.ac.uk). Data collection will involve carrying out diagnostic psychiatric interviews with parents and collecting additional data using behavioural rating scales in a national cohort of 11 year old children born extremely preterm along with a group of term-born controls. These results can be combined with data from physical and neuropsychological assessments and with data from the earlier study of extremely preterm children born in 1995 to analyse how outcomes have changed over time. You will join The Infant Mortality and Morbidity Studies research group in the Department of Health Sciences where you will be supported by a multi-disciplinary team of epidemiologists, psychologists, neonatologists and statisticians. This studentship is ideal for those with interest in clinical or developmental psychology and is likely to lead to high impact publications in medical or psychological journals and the potential to apply for post-doctoral fellowships to continue work in this field.

Supervisors Dr S Johnson sji19@le.ac.uk and Prof E Draper msn@le.ac.uk

Funding Information

The studentship funding covers:
- Fees - full-time registration covering full UK/EU tuition fees for three years.
- Enhanced Stipend - an annual tax-free stipend of £17,500pa
- Enhanced Research Training Support Grant – an enhanced research training support grant (including travel allowance) of £1,500pa.
- Writing Up Fees - writing up fee (currently £100).

To apply

Please submit your PhD application using our online application system

In order to apply please select Health Sciences Research for a September 2017 intake on the application form linked below. In the Funding section of the online application, please select Studentship and then Select CMBSP in the next dropdown option. Please indicate the name of the project supervisor(s) and the project title in the space provided within the application.

Applications accepted until 28th April 2017