

Patient Involvement Officer

12 month paid internship with scope and funding for development

£18,278 per annum

Home-based as per government guidance, otherwise office based in Leeds

Starting March 2021

There are over 70,000 people living with a brain tumour in the UK. 16,000 more people are diagnosed each year. 20-40% of all cancers spread to the brain. Brain tumours are the biggest cancer killer of the under 35s. The disease is responsible for over 20 years of life lost in the typical patient, making it the most lethal cancer. What causes brain tumours is unknown and incidence is increasing.

But we know that these statistics don't help you on the day you are told 'you have a brain tumour'.

We know a brain tumour diagnosis is confusing, isolating and overwhelming. We know these problems are exacerbated by not being able to access care and information quickly and easily. And we also know that access to proactive support, and good information can improve knowledge and understanding, reduce anxiety, increase preparedness for events, instil control and improve satisfaction with treatment in brain tumour patients. That's why we're here. *brainstrust's* support and information projects deliver measurable improvements in peoples' wellbeing.

The role

Ensuring that patients are involved in clinical research has recognised benefits. Research shows that patients have better outcomes in research-active centres and that patients who are involved in research know more about their condition. Patients and carers have unique experience and expertise which they can bring to research. This enables them to be part of the solution to the problems faced by researchers when designing clinical research. Clinicians who engage patients in research are also more likely to attract more funding. To date, *brainstrust's* work in this area has helped attract £13.7m into brain tumour research at some of the most prestigious hospitals and universities in the UK.

Your role will be multifaceted, but ultimately will be to ensure *brainstrust* remains at the forefront of Patient & Public Involvement (PPI)

You will be working closely with both our Communications Manager and our Director of Policy and Support and will become the go-to expert for PPI input into *brainstrust's* work, flagging opportunities where consumer involvement should be sought for projects, as well as supporting the development and training of a growing PPI community as its first point of contact.

You will deliver both internal and external communications regarding PPI, and work closely with the Director of Policy & Services to maintain a database of clinical research and our level of charity involvement. You will also potentially contribute to clinical trial and research applications as well as *brainstrust's* Annual and Impact reports.

Activities

If you are successful in your application you will:

1. Help us scale this work by building capacity for further patient involvement in research through supporting the Director of Policy & Services and the Communications Manager by:
 - Maintaining a database of neuro-oncology clinical research and our involvement.
 - Contributing to third party development of high-quality research proposals.
 - Contributing to *brainstrust's* Annual and Impact reports.
 - Supporting with the development and training of a growing PPI community.
 - Being the first point of contact for PPI requests.
2. Be responsible for a collective source of PPI input into *brainstrust's* work:
 - Flag opportunities where consumer input should be sought for projects.
 - Support the Director of Policy & Support with provision of advice to research applicants on the PPI aspects of trials in development, publications or reports on request.
3. Provide outreach:
 - Assist with the development and communication of *brainstrust's* research proposition with guidance from our Communications Manager.
 - Seek opportunities to promote the importance of PPI in clinical research and proactively communicate the value that *brainstrust's* PPI community is bringing to relevant clinicians, professional bodies, supporters and beneficiaries.
 - Support the Director of Policy & Support with the continued development of networks across relevant bodies.
 - Be an advocate as to how clinical researchers could be interacting with *brainstrust* and promote our services.

Profile

Whilst dedicated training will be provided to help you on your way, you will need to have some innate skills to get started.

We are looking for a someone with, or looking to develop, a great grasp clinical research, and who is also a natural communicator with excellent problem-solving skills. You will be able to multi-task in a fast-paced environment. You'll love working across different teams and will have an innate desire and ability to set and meet goals. You understand the importance for concise, engaging and relevant information, which you will also be able to communicate clearly and at the appropriate level for the audience with whom you are working.

You will have thorough familiarity with MS Office and you will have used databases in some format. You'll be confident with numbers, statistics and written word. Excellent written and verbal communication skills are key, alongside critical and creative thinking and the ability to pause and reflect. You won't take things at face value and will love to interrogate a brief to be sure that we're working towards the right objectives. It's important that you can work independently, but also understand the value of communicating with the wider team. You will also need to have exemplary organisational skills.

As an inclusive organisation committed to equal opportunities, we welcome and encourage candidates from a diverse range of backgrounds to apply. We recognise the need for greater diversity in the charity sector, and we are committed to supporting individual development within this role to help the successful candidate reach their potential.

The application process

You are applying for a 'Time to Shine' internship award, supported by the Rank Foundation. The role pays the living wage and there is a significant focus on learning and development to suit your needs and goals for your future career.

You will need to be available for interview on two separate dates, the first of which will be 29th January via Zoom. The second interview will be with the Rank Foundation on the 9th February via Zoom.

To apply, please email a short CV and covering letter to Eve Flynn at join.us@brainstrust.org.uk.

Closing date for applications is midnight on Tuesday 26th January 2021.