

Director of the National Council for Osteopathic Research



Recruitment Information Pack

Job and person specification for the post of Director of the National Council for Osteopathic Research

The National Council for Osteopathic Research (NCOR) was constituted to steer and promote research to explore and assure the place of osteopathy in healthcare. NCOR is a coalition of stakeholder organisations engaged with the quality of osteopathic patient care.

NCOR has successfully established a firm foundation for osteopathic research development. We wish now to appoint a new Director of NCOR to build on the organisation's achievements and provide strategic leadership that will help shape the osteopathic profession.

The Role

The Director of NCOR will provide the impetus for strategic leadership, being responsible for development and management of NCOR. The core elements of the role are:

- Working with a wide range of stakeholders to achieve the strategic and operational leadership required to foster osteopathic research and research development.
- Chairing and leading meetings of the NCOR Research Council, directing staff, and working with and reporting to the NCOR Trustees, to develop and deliver the organisation's objectives.
- Acting as the advocate for the work and purpose of NCOR and osteopathic research activity, supporting effective communication with stakeholders both within and outside of the osteopathic profession.
- Devising strategies for promoting a high level of research-awareness and research activity amongst osteopaths.
- Fostering inter- and intra-professional research collaboration, building links within the healthcare research community, identifying and attracting research funding to NCOR and osteopathy.
- Managing programmes of work commissioned by stakeholders
- Supporting the development of international co-operation in osteopathic research.
- Ensuring the continuing flow of funds into the charity
- Managing members of staff (currently two, part time)
- Developing the role of NCOR in collaboration with funding partners and stakeholders

The Person

- Credible and persuasive, with a proven ability to work effectively with a range of stakeholders and stakeholder interests.
- A strategist who displays an understanding of the value that research and evidence has to offer the future development of the profession.
- Has an entrepreneurial and imaginative outlook capable of identifying opportunities and synergies across a broad range of individuals and interests.
- An able and experienced chairperson.
- Has a proven track record and experience of leadership in healthcare, healthcare education, research or research funding. Has clear experience of public policy development.
- Must have links into national/international research communities.
- Can demonstrate effective performance in strategic planning, budget, business planning and staff management.
- Is likely to be:
 - a senior University-based academic (ideally professorial level), or
 - a health services specialist (not necessarily osteopathic), with links to an academic or research organisation
- Must have excellent communication, facilitation and negotiation skills.
- Has a strong interest in developing osteopathic research capacity and capability.

An honorarium of £12,000 will be offered for this role and it is anticipated that it will involve a time commitment of 1 day per week. The appointment is for an initial three-year term.

NCOR is looking to fill this role from November 2021, with a handover period starting on 1 October 2021.

For an informal discussion about this role, call Maurice Cheng, NCOR Chair, on **07710 318 083**, or email **chair@ncor.org.uk**. The current Director, Professor Dawn Carnes, is also available, at **d.carnes@qmul.ac.uk**.

How to apply

Applications expressing interest in the role and detailing the value you believe you would bring to this important function should be sent to **recruitment@ncor.org.uk**. Applications should comprise a current Curriculum Vitae and Supporting Statement, which should address the elements in the role and person specification as listed above.

Your application should be received by **30 April 2021**. Interviews for this position will be held during the week beginning 17th May 2021.

What is NCOR?

The National Council for Osteopathic Research (NCOR) was established in 2003 to provide leadership and unity in osteopathic research development. NCOR aims to improve the osteopathic evidence base by fostering research, increase research capacity and capability within the osteopathic profession, and raise the profile of osteopathic research findings through dissemination.

Our core purpose

NCOR is entering a new phase of development, in which its primary functions are:

1. **Strategic leadership:** to lead and facilitate osteopathic research development in the UK, including developing a comprehensive and cohesive research strategy providing both direction and coordination of osteopathic research.
2. **Advocacy:** representing the profession on matters relating to the osteopathic evidence base and research development. Acting on behalf of the profession, in a research context, to the media, the public & patients, policy-makers, the inter-professional research community, other health professions and healthcare regulators.
3. **Research education:** to provide a forum for the Osteopathic Educational Institutions (OEIs) through which to forge consistent standards in research governance, to share expertise, achieve economies of scale, and foster undergraduate and postgraduate research collaboration. To promote research capacity and scholarship.
4. **Information resource:** to provide osteopaths, the public and patients, healthcare professionals, and the research and academic community with a recognised, high quality and accessible resource of research-related information concerning the distinctive body of knowledge within osteopathic practice.
5. **Liaison and promotion:** to improve awareness of osteopathic research development amongst osteopaths and the wider community. To establish links and build networks within the research fraternity, nationally and internationally, with a view to development through collaboration. To formulate and foster strategies for attracting funding for osteopathic research development.
6. **Research Governance:** to provide systems relevant for grants governance and research governance for the benefit of all stakeholders.
7. **Knowledge Transfer:** to foster and disseminate outputs from osteopathic audit, evaluation, and research activities via, for example, an annual research conference.

Who are the NCOR funding partners?

NCOR is a coalition comprising the key osteopathic stakeholder groups that have an interest in and an influence on the development of osteopathic research and high standards of osteopathic training, scholarship and practice:

- The Osteopathic Educational Institutions (undergraduate educators)
- The Osteopathic Alliance (postgraduate educators)
- **The Institute of Osteopathy (iO)** *(professional association representing 70% of registered osteopaths).*
- **The General Osteopathic Council (GOsC)** *(statutory regulator responsible for standards of training, practice and conduct).*
- **Osteopathic Foundation (oF)** – *independent charitable trust dedicated to the furtherance of osteopathic education and research.*

How does NCOR operate?

The National Council of Osteopathic Research comprises:

The Research Council (RC) – comprising representation of all stakeholder groups that contribute funding to NCOR, including the Heads of Research of the Osteopathic Educational Institutions. The RC meets approximately five times per year to develop and deliver, through working groups, a strategy for osteopathic research development that fulfils NCOR's core aims. Meetings of the RC will be chaired by the Director of NCOR, who also coordinates collaborative initiatives.

The Board of Trustees – NCOR is an incorporated charity (registered number 1157217) provides effective governance and oversight of the financial management and performance of NCOR, on behalf of the stakeholder organisations that fund NCOR's operations. The board comprises five members, representing the GOsC, the iO, the OF, the educational institutions, and the Research Council. The board meets up to 3 times per year and is attended by the Director of NCOR.

The NCOR Team:

- The Director: 1 day/week (0.2 FTE)
- Senior Research Officer: 2.5 days/week (0.5FTE)
- PhD student: 5 days/week (1.0 FTE) (until September 2022)
- Administrator 0.5 days/week (0.1 FTE)

NCOR is currently hosted within the Institute of Population Health at the Queen Mary University of London. We are looking for a new academic host, as the relationship with QMUL is linked to the current Director. We will also wish to move the NCOR team into the new academic environment also.

How are NCOR operations funded?

Annual funding for the NCOR infrastructure costs – staffing, accommodation and operational costs – are derived from three roughly equivalent stakeholder funding streams provided by:

- The Institute of Osteopathy
- The General Osteopathic Council.
- The Osteopathic Educational Institutions collectively.

Overview of NCOR current key services

- Public information resource: NCOR website and telephone/email information service and research dissemination and translation development.
- Advocacy: voice of the osteopathic profession on research-related issues, in response to public or media interest/enquiry.
- UK-wide network of facilitated osteopathic research hubs.
- Research (CPD) tutorials: published bi-monthly in The Osteopath magazine, distributed to all UK-registered osteopaths/public subscribers.
- On-line research tutorials.
- National health policy development (e.g. NICE guidelines): co-ordination of UK osteopathic evidence submission.
- Research conferences: coordination and hosting.
- Development, promotion, and management of UK-wide Patient Reported Outcome Data Collection.
- Clinical audit in osteopathic practice: resources and support to promote general implementation in practice.
- Research Governance Framework for osteopathy: formulate, maintain and promote.
- Support and information resources for osteopaths/other health professional

For an informal discussion about this role, contact Maurice Cheng, NCOR Chair, on **07710 318083**, or **chair@ncor.org.uk**

Applications should be received by **30 April 2021**. Interviews will be held in May 2021.

