

School of Clinical Sciences

PhD Project (for self-funded students only)

Clinical & cost effectiveness of therapeutic strategies in older women with early primary breast cancer

The majority of breast cancers occur in older women. While surgery is normally the standard primary treatment in those with early primary disease, non-operative treatments (eg primary endocrine therapy) may be very good alternatives due to frailty, co-morbidities limiting their life expectancy, and various psychosocial considerations. A recent Cochrane review of randomised trials shows no significant difference in the overall survival of older women treated by either surgery or primary endocrine therapy. Furthermore, approximately 40% of older women with primary breast cancer in the UK were found to have received primary endocrine therapy in a national audit. A large scale clinical trial aiming to recruit 1,200 patients in the UK to compare these two approaches in a randomised controlled fashion was closed prematurely due to poor recruitment. Despite having an important health problem now and in the foreseeable future, the population concerned is underserved and under-researched.

There is currently a research programme on various (clinical, biological and psychosocial) aspects of early primary breast cancer in older women, led by Mr KL Cheung, Clinical Associate Professor, Division of Breast Surgery, School of Clinical Sciences. The team includes co-investigators from Schools of Molecular Medical Sciences and of Nursing, and from the clinical team. This project is an extension of the programme with new collaboration with the Division of Social Research in Medicines and Health, School of Pharmacy. Specifically it will investigate into the clinical and cost effectiveness of different therapeutic strategies (surgery and non-operative treatments). Based on long-term clinical data collected as part of the above programme, models will be developed, and validated as appropriate, to evaluate their effectiveness in terms of both clinical efficacy and cost. The successful student will be jointly supervised by Mr Cheung and Dr LC Chen, Lecturer, Division of Social Research in Medicines and Health.

Students should have, or expect to obtain, a first or 2.1 UK honours degree (or equivalent) in a health care related subject. They should be able to conduct research with a significant clinical element, and in the process of carrying out the research, able to work with clinical team members as appropriate. Standard vetting procedures, including CRB check, will be required.

For further information or informal enquiries please Email with CV to: kl.cheung@nottingham.ac.uk. Please note that applications sent directly to this Email address will not be considered.

To apply, please send a CV with covering letter and the names, addresses, telephone numbers and email contacts of two academic referees to Lesley Randall, Secretary to Division of Breast Surgery at Professorial Unit of Surgery, Nottingham University Hospitals City Hospital Campus, Hucknall Road, Nottingham NG5 1PB. Email: lesley.randall@nottingham.ac.uk. **Please quote ref. MED/844. This studentship will remain open until filled.**

.....
To be published as follows:

Jobs.ac.uk

- w/c Monday 29 November

Cc: Kwok Leung/Lesley Randall

HR Adviser: Kelly Coggon

Assistant Recruitment Manager: Su Hudson/Kate Holyland

Order Number: JAC/6344