

# MPRU Public Engagement Project Manager /Coordinator

## JOB DESCRIPTION

**POST:** MPRU Public Engagement Project Manager / Coordinator

**HOURS:** 1 FTE (or less if the partner institution prefers)

**RESPONSIBLE TO:** (Bella Starling, pilot site collaborating PI, MPRU management team)

**LIAISES WITH:** Public Engagement Project Lead, MPRU Public Engagement Advisory Board, MPRU researchers, research staff, management and administrative personnel

**LOCATION:** The postholder will be based at and employed by a partner institution in Africa

## JOB PURPOSE

The NIHR Global Health Research Unit on Mucosal Pathogens (MPRU [www.mpru.org](http://www.mpru.org)) is an international partnership between world-leading UK and African institutions focused on improving the effectiveness of vaccines that prevent life-threatening infections such as pneumonia, meningitis and sepsis.

The MPRU places public engagement as a priority, and is committed to engaging local and global communities and policy-makers in its work. As part of a wider public engagement strategy for the MPRU, we have identified a need to focus public engagement efforts around herd immunity and vaccination. This focus enriches global conversations about vaccination research and is a response to mucosal pathogen vaccine development research at partner institutions in Malawi, Kenya, Mali, South Africa, The Gambia, Uganda, Ghana and across the UK.

The MPRU is establishing a programme of work entitled 'One for All?' which seeks to improve vaccine uptake by promoting the concept of community protection through herd immunity, addressing and overcoming barriers (amongst citizens, scientists and policy-makers) to increase mutual understanding and trust. We will co-produce, test and disseminate engagement resources focused on herd immunity and community protection in lower and middle income countries. The longer term aim is to contribute to the public ownership of the concept of community protection with vaccines, and promote responsible research into vaccines and their uptake.

The proposed programme of public engagement will:

- Support awareness and dialogue regarding herd immunity in vaccine implementation and development with parents, guardians, older children and young adults
- Support informed choice about research participation and uptake of vaccines against mucosal pathogens amongst parents, guardians, older children and young adults

- Support responsible research by increasing awareness amongst researchers, of public and community considerations related to herd immunity and vaccine development, ultimately informing and influencing future research
- Support awareness and engagement with herd immunity amongst policy-makers to support informed choice about vaccine development, adoption and policy people targeted and involved.

The role of public engagement coordinator will be crucial to delivering this exciting programme of engagement for the MPRU. The programme will be instituted in phases: the first phase (year 1) will be focused on a public engagement programme at one pilot site based at a MPRU partner institution in Africa. Based on the knowledge and experience gained at the pilot site, the programme will expand to additional sites, and hopefully, globally. The responsibilities of this post will be limited to one site in the first year. Depending on funding, the post may be extended to cover the wider ambition of the public engagement programme.

## **MAIN DUTIES & RESPONSIBILITIES**

Main duties:

- Be responsible for the overall oversight and management of MPRU's public engagement programme at the pilot site.
- Work effectively with MPRU researchers and staff, and project partners as part of a team to deliver the MPRU's programme of public engagement according to the MPRU's strategic priorities.
- Develop, deliver and evaluate a programme of creative and culturally relevant public engagement focused on herd immunity, informed and in partnership with local communities, with relevance to a global audience
- Develop, maintain and manage relationships with key personnel and partner organisations including scientific, creative, community and patient partners
- Provide the secretariat to, and work closely with the MPRU's Public Engagement Advisory Board and implement its actions;
- Be responsible for delivering programme elements to time and target, including effective project management and day-to-day monitoring and coordination of budgets;
- Compile, write and disseminate project reports,
- Undertake any other duties that may reasonably be required from time to time.

## **PERSON SPECIFICATION**

### **1. Qualifications**

Essential:

- Educated to degree level in biomedical, health or social science or related subject.

Desirable:

- Post graduate qualification in Science Communication, Public Engagement, Health Sciences, Social Sciences or related subject.

### **2. Knowledge**

Essential

- Knowledge of the principles and practices of public engagement
- Knowledge of different methods of public engagement in health research
- Appreciation of the potential impacts and methods evaluating public engagement in health research.
- Understanding of social research and co-production principles and methodologies

Desirable

- Understanding of working with policy-makers and informing policy.
- Good understanding of vaccine development and research, and concepts of herd immunity
- Understanding of attitudes to vaccine development and uptake

### **3. Training and experience**

Essential

- Significant experience of public/community engagement with science, health, and/or health research as a practitioner in a global setting;
- Experience of working in partnership and managing relationships with a range of different research and/or health organisations/institutions, professional, creative and public/community groups;
- Experience of working with patients and/or members of the public/communities;
- Experience of planning and delivering workshops and participatory events

Desirable

- Experience of working in PPIE in a health research or scientific organisation.
- Experience of developing and delivering comprehensive programmes of PPIE within health research or science.
- Experience of communications, including marketing and media;

- Experience of using social networking platforms and an enthusiasm to adopt digital influence and work constructively with senior researchers;
- Experience of evaluating PPIE work, especially using creative approaches.
- Experience of working with researchers, including the ability to influence and work constructively

As part of this appointment appropriate training will be provided to ensure that that the postholder fulfils the requirements of the position

#### **4. Skills and abilities**

Essential

- Excellent project management skills, including project planning, implementation, risk management and managing day to day budgets.
- Excellent chairing and facilitation skills, demonstrating a personable and inclusive approach
- Excellent interpersonal skills, enabling the post holder to work effectively as part of a team;
- Excellent organisational and time management skills
- Excellent verbal and written communication skills;
- Good problem solving skills – using imagination and initiative;
- Ability to work under pressure, whilst maintaining attention to detail.
- Computer literate and excellent with MS Office applications
- Able to travel
- An understanding of how to work within and across continents e.g. Virtual meetings

#### **5. Attributes**

Essential

- An assertive, honest and constructive approach - able to build relationships and work effectively with a variety of personalities
- Able to work in a team
- Enthusiastic and motivated;
- Flexible and open;
- Reflective and open to feedback;
- Able to recognise limitations and seek appropriate help when needed;
- Willing to travel to MPRU partner sites