



Social Research Executive

Prostate Cancer Research

Working hours: 35 hours per week.

Salary: £33969 to £37095 FTE

Team: Research

Location: Hybrid with time in the office required on an ad-hoc basis. Office is in Holborn, London. Some national travel will be required to partner sites.

Contract: Full time (35 hours a week), FTC for 6 months, with flexible working

Job Description

In 2025, Prostate Cancer Research will be launching a groundbreaking new initiative to increase trust and participation in healthcare and clinical trials among the Black community in London, Northeast and the West Midlands, with a specific focus on prostate cancer. We are looking to recruit a social researcher to lead on building the evidence base which will be the foundations of this initiative. You will conduct comprehensive research to identify and understand the specific barriers to trust within the Black community concerning healthcare, aiming to uncover the root causes of distrust and identify opportunities for building stronger relationships between the Black community and healthcare professionals. At the end of this phase a full report will be compiled which will be the basis for the co-creation of new initiatives with the community.

This is a newly created role, which will be line managed by the Director of Research and Communications. You will have the opportunity to join a department which has more than quintupled its research activity in four years, and last year won a prestigious Change Project of the Year award for the creation of a bespoke programme to tackle the racial disparity faced by Black men with prostate cancer. You will also have the opportunity to work cross-departmentally with the Patient Projects Department, which is responsible for cutting-edge initiatives such as the Infopool. Your work will also involve collaborations with Partnerships and Communications.

You will be mentored and supported throughout this role, so we encourage you to apply even if you feel you don't meet all of the criteria. We are committed to promoting diversity and inclusion in our workplace. As a principle, we encourage applications from people of all backgrounds and communities. However, due to the nature of this role and it being culturally specific, there is a Genuine Occupational Requirement under the Equality Act 2010 that it be filled by a Black person.

Key Responsibilities

You will be responsible for

- Conducting a literature review of existing research and studies addressing healthcare trust barriers within the Black community, to gather a broad understanding of the issues.
- Identifying and interviewing relevant experts in trust and healthcare, including sociologists, oncologists, urologists, and community leaders, to gain diverse perspectives on trust-building strategies and understand the complexities of healthcare engagement within the Black community. These interviews will be shared publicly, potentially through live webinars or being filmed.
- Collaborating with the communications team to poll a large number of members of the Black community in the UK, to capture the views of the wider community.
- Organise and facilitate workshops and focus groups bringing together community members, healthcare professionals, and representatives from relevant organisations to explore potential trust-building solutions, and advise other staff as they co-create, test and refine these key solutions.

Skills

Skills and Competencies

Our ideal candidate would have the following:

- A degree or equivalent experience in a social research discipline
- Critical thinking
- Experience leading qualitative research projects, with an understanding of quantitative methods
- Excellent interpersonal skills
- Strong report writing skills, with an ability to understand and fairly reflect nuance and diversity of opinions and lived experience
- A passion for health equity and social justice
- A demonstrated understanding of the role, and a strong belief in the work we do at PCR.

Personal Qualities

- Strong belief in our work at Prostate Cancer Research
- A high degree of autonomy with a will to learn, reflect and self-teach
- Collaborative outlook, including managing expectations, working flexibly and reaching out to colleagues on joint goals.
- Confidence to lead on new initiatives, where appropriate, and with the support of your manager
- The agility to adapt to changing needs when necessary

About Prostate Cancer Research

We support bold science, backed by patients, to keep our research both cutting-edge and relevant. Patients give feedback directly to scientists so that they can understand, learn and modify their research so that what they do in a lab will make a difference to patients.

Over the past four years we have more than quintupled our research, now funding 23 projects across multiple locations in both the UK and the USA. We also changed the way that things are done, designing a bespoke system that enables us to much more proactively support our researchers and track the progress of the research. This enabled us to keep almost all of our research going when the first lockdowns hit in 2020. To the best of our knowledge we are the only medical research charity in the sector who didn't have to cut a single research budget or suspend any project completely in this time. We are also the only charity to create a specific programme addressing prostate cancer's racial disparity, and have influenced other charities in the sector to do more to tackle disparities.

So far, our scientists have discovered a potential way to make radiotherapy work more effectively and with fewer side effects. They invented a new technique to discover networks of on/off signals for cancer, which we hope to use to develop more treatments. Our researchers also started investigating how fat fuels prostate cancer, and using AI to predict whether or not a cancer needs treatment. We have run national campaigns to empower patients to ask questions and get the right treatment for them, and to talk about and get support for the side effects of treatment.

Our Patient Projects team focus on ensuring that the patient voice is central to all that we do and that patients input directly into all of our operations. Their work informs, educates and empowers patients and their major new initiative is the Infopool, launching March 2023, which provides patients with the information they need to help them become a joint partner in the decision making about what treatment they will have. We believe this trip advisor style approach with stories from others in the same boat is a revolutionary way of reaching the hardly reached groups; older black men and older men with low health literacy.

Proven Connect is our newly established translational arm, focused on co-investing in promising biotech companies, along with venture capital funders and impact investors. Proven Connect aims to ensure that less products fall down the wide gulf between the lab bench and the patient by connecting early stage biotechs to the resources and the expertise they need to succeed. We have already funded some fascinating startups that could replace outdated tests and antiquated treatments that lead to horrific side effects and mental anguish. <https://www.provenconnect.com>

We do all of this in honour of the men and families who have already been through things no family should have to go through, and to create a future where no one needs to fear a prostate cancer diagnosis.

Benefits of working at Prostate Cancer Research

As a growing charity organisation, we want to give our staff the opportunity to expand their roles while also ensuring that we are sensitive and fair to all staff. We are committed to the continuous learning and development of all staff to enable people to develop individual skills and realise their full potential. We aim to engage all staff with a challenging and exciting learning culture and encourage openness, discussion and feedback so we can develop and continuously improve what we do. We pay the equivalent of 5% of your salary towards your training. We run a comprehensive induction programme to help new staff get up to speed and feel welcomed as soon as possible. Other benefits include:

Transport

Our office is in Holborn and therefore easily accessible by all forms of transport. The nearest tube stations are Holborn, Russell Square, Chancery Lane and King's Cross. If your contract is for 12 months or more, you can take advantage of our interest-free season ticket or car park season ticket loans.

Annual leave

25 days holiday a year (with an additional 3-5 days given when the office closes at Christmas/New Year), rising incrementally with an additional day every year, plus statutory holidays.

Flexible annual leave: employees have the opportunity to buy up to 3 days of annual leave (in addition to the standard leave entitlement) and the option of selling up to 3 days of unused annual leave.

Advice and support services

You'll have 24/7 access to our employee assistance programme. EAP provides a service for employees to access financial, emotional, and physical wellness benefits. It will provide you with free, impartial and confidential advice and support to help you live well, be well and work well.

Perkbox Membership

Our team enjoys benefits of the Perkbox which provides 250+ perks and freebies chosen to support all areas of employees' lives, from high street and supermarket shopping, to cinema trips and eating out.

Discounted gym membership

Our team get up to 28% off memberships at leading gyms, including PureGym and My Gym, nationwide.

How to apply?

Send your CV, along with a full covering letter that outlines why you are the right person for this job. Refer to the specified key responsibilities, skills and competencies, personal qualities, along with other relevant skills and experience. We look forward to hearing from you.