



UK Dementia
Research Institute
Sefydliad Ymchwil
Dementia y DU



Centre Director

Candidate Pack



Principal funder:



Medical
Research
Council



Welcome

**Centre Director, MRC UK Dementia Research Institute at Cardiff
Chair in Neuroscience, Clinical or Non-Clinical
School of Medicine
College of Biomedical and Life Sciences**

We are seeking to appoint an outstanding established academic to a Chair in Neuroscience and to lead the MRC UK Dementia Research Institute (DRI) Cardiff Centre within the School of Medicine. We are looking for an Internationally recognised scientist working in any area relevant to the overarching mission of UK DRI, “To improve understanding of disease mechanisms and identify therapeutic targets for dementia and other forms of neurodegeneration”. This includes the biology of behavioural and psychiatric features of dementia. The Centre builds on an international reputation for the genetics of brain disorders, neuro-immunity and bioanalysis. Current strengths include the discovery and functional analysis of genes underlying neurodegenerative diseases, specifically the roles of immunity and neuroinflammation, endocytosis, biomarkers and DNA repair, in Alzheimer’s, Parkinson’s or Huntington’s diseases. The Centre hosts state-of-the-art equipment and has access to world leading imaging facilities in the Cardiff University Brain Research Imaging Centre (CUBRIC).

The Director will join at an exciting time of growth in the MRC UK DRI. As part of the National UK DRI Senior Leadership team led by Professor Siddharthan Chandran, they will contribute to establishing the UK DRI as a world-leading MRC Institute focussed on dementia research.

The Director will set the scientific direction and vision of the MRC UK DRI Cardiff Centre with the overarching objective of driving research excellence. They will direct their own internationally leading research programme in dementia/neurodegeneration and be a scientific leader within the UK DRI community. As a Cardiff University Professor, they will contribute to a thriving neuroscience community with world-leading research. Their research will complement work in this broader community. They will have the opportunity to teach on relevant courses following a three-year establishment period.

While there are currently no clinical sessions confirmed for this position, in case of a clinical appointment we will arrange with our NHS partners to support the appointee to maintain up to 20% clinical work, if required.

Role of Centre Director

Your core role will be to direct and grow the research activities of the MRC UK DRI. You will have an established academic record and bring your expertise, research activities and leadership skills to the role.

Leadership

The Centre Director will utilise their scientific leadership skills and vision to nurture and grow the UK DRI Cardiff Centre, working with colleagues across Cardiff University and the wider UK DRI to further develop our strong scientific identity and reputation for excellence in dementia research.

The Director will bring the intellectual energy and independent thinking needed to personally lead and deliver a programme of cutting-edge research and work with others to shape the overall research direction and growth of the Cardiff Centre.

The Director will deliver senior leadership across Cardiff University to create a mutually supportive and vibrant environment for dementia research that takes full advantage of other local strengths. The appointee will commit to the ethos of an inclusive and welcoming Centre, promoting equity and opportunity across all areas, particularly recruitment, people development and collaboration activities.

The Director will manage the scientific, logistic, financial and human resources of the Centre to deliver programmes of cutting-edge research that fit the overarching aims of the MRC UK DRI. The Director will have primary responsibility for talent development, financial management and performance in the Cardiff Centre, and play key roles in communicating with the media, the public and politicians to raise the profile of dementia research locally, nationally and internationally.

The Director will be a member of the MRC UK DRI Senior Leadership Team comprising all Centre Directors and senior leadership; they will engage collaboratively across this network of talented and experienced scientific leaders.

The Director will ensure that all research within the Centre is conducted in accordance with good practice and in compliance with UK DRI and Cardiff policies and legal requirements. Research outputs will be disseminated by encouraging publication of results, presentations at scientific meetings and responding to media enquiries, working with Cardiff and UK DRI communications teams to ensure that achievements are widely publicised through all suitable media outlets.

Role of Centre Director

Research

As Director of the Cardiff Centre, you will lead a fully funded, major dementia-focussed programme of research at Cardiff. You will dictate the scientific direction of your research programme, addressing key questions within the overall scientific remit of the MRC UK DRI and being accountable for presenting the programme for peer review, as part of the Institute's scientific assessment and funder's procedures.

The appointment of the Director provides an excellent opportunity to develop a world-leading programme of research in dementia that complements the present research portfolios in the Cardiff Centre and across the MRC UK DRI, helping to shape the future science direction of UK DRI. Although start-up funds will be available, the Director will be expected to apply for further research funding from the MRC UK DRI and other relevant funders to further strengthen their personal portfolio. The Director will have a strong understanding of and commitment to the mission of the MRC UK DRI: "To improve understanding of disease mechanisms and identify therapeutic targets for dementia and other forms of neurodegeneration". They will have a broad and deep understanding of dementia research and a strong commitment to supporting and delivering research of the highest quality.

The Director will be responsible for identifying and managing key collaborations locally across the University, nationally across the MRC UK DRI and other relevant UK partners, and internationally with leading dementia researchers globally. You will seek and develop industry partnerships to facilitate translation of the Centre's research into drugs, devices, tests, services, and other deliverables. The Director will work with the relevant Cardiff and MRC UK DRI teams to identify and capitalise on opportunities for the creation of intellectual property and the exploitation of commercial potential, including cooperating on patent protection and exploitation in accordance with MRC UK DRI Ltd and Cardiff policies. The Director, with Centre administrative support, will be responsible for recording all DRI activities and compiling submissions for MRC UK DRI annual reports and quinquennial reviews.

As part of the UK DRI Senior Leadership Team, the Director will contribute positively to championing and raising the profile of the MRC UK DRI, build public awareness of the importance of dementia research and engage with people affected by dementia and the broader public. In this leadership role, the Director will represent the Cardiff Centre and the MRC UK DRI, contribute to scientific progress in the field, and maintain a broad, balanced and informed perspective of current scientific issues and opportunities in dementia research.

Role of Centre Director

Teaching

Following an establishment period of three years with no teaching expectations, the Director will be encouraged to contribute, as appropriate, to teaching programmes at Cardiff University. Given the nature of this role, this will primarily involve the direct supervision of Doctoral and Masters students with occasional Undergraduate involvement. The Director will encourage the appropriate involvement of UK DRI staff in the organisation and delivery of research-led teaching.

The Director will be expected to provide a positive role model to junior colleagues and students and, where appropriate, be a coach and mentor, assisting in the development of the next-generation of dementia research leaders.

Other

In addition to the specific roles described above, the Director is expected to comply with the generic expectations of a senior academic role, including:

- ❖ Contributing to the effective management and administration of the relevant Division, School and College of Cardiff University.
- ❖ Ensuring compliance with legal and regulatory requirements in respect of equality and diversity, data protection and information governance, copyright and licensing, security, financial and other University policies, procedures and codes as appropriate.
- ❖ Delivering other academic duties, on an occasional basis and by agreement, which are not included above, but which are consistent with the role of a senior academic.



Benefits

Cardiff University is an exciting and vibrant place to work and is a proud Living Wage supporter.

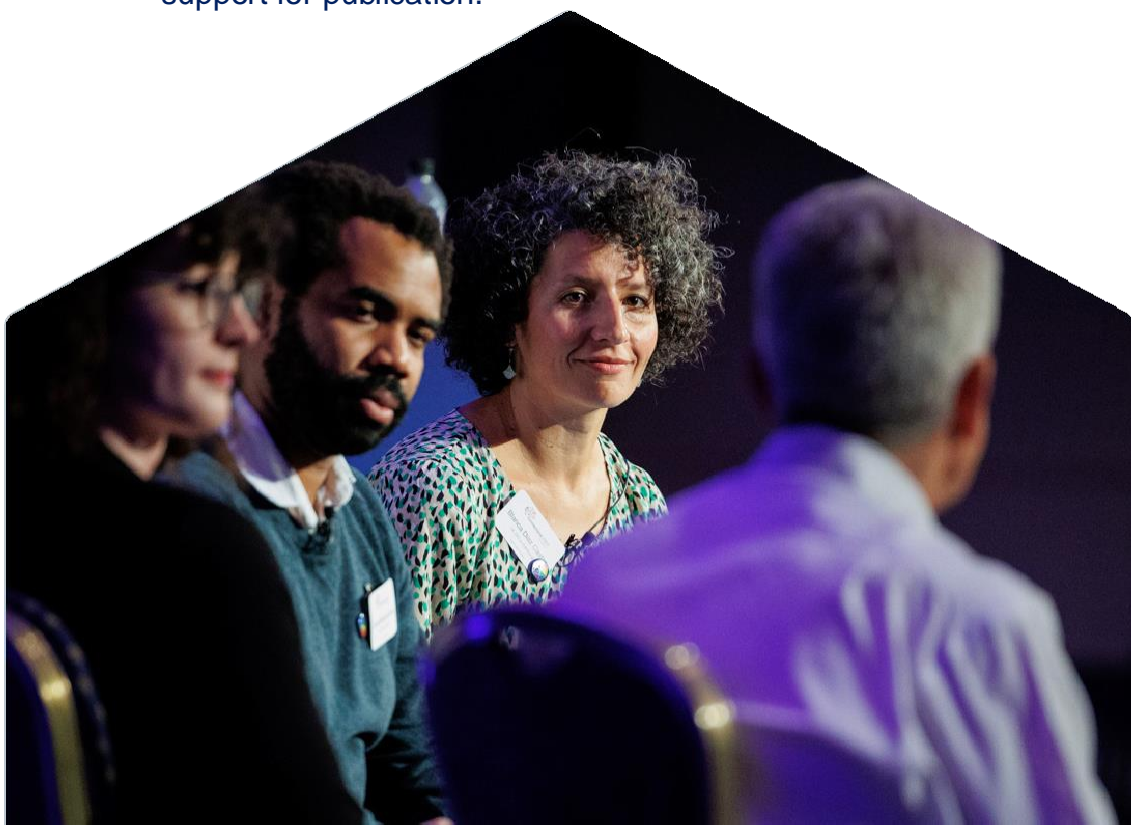
The post is full-time, open-ended and available immediately.

The successful candidate will be paid at a point on the appropriate Cardiff University Pay Scale to be decided by agreement and based on their skills and experience.

Cardiff University is committed to supporting and promoting equality and diversity and to creating an inclusive working environment. We believe this can be achieved through attracting, developing, and retaining a diverse range of staff from many different backgrounds. We therefore welcome applicants from all sections of the community regardless of sex, ethnicity, disability, sexual orientation, trans identity, relationship status, religion or belief, caring responsibilities, or age. In supporting our employees to achieve a balance between their work and their personal lives, we will also consider proposals for flexible working or job share arrangements.

As well as a competitive base salary and the exciting opportunities this role presents, we also offer:

- ❖ 45 days annual leave (including UK bank holidays),
- ❖ Membership of NHS, University or local pension scheme,
- ❖ Several travel initiatives, including cycle to work schemes,
- ❖ annual increments within the pay scale and pathways for promotion,
- ❖ Excellent support services
- ❖ Outstanding library services, including subscriptions to most Journals and support for publication.



Apply

We welcome your application.

For informal enquiries please contact:

Prof Paul Morgan
Interim UK DRI Director
Cardiff University
MorganBP@cardiff.ac.uk

See job description for closing date and how to apply.

For more information about the UK DRI team at Cardiff, please visit
https://ukdri.ac.uk/sites/default/files/2024-12/UK-DRI-at-Cardiff_Booklet_English.pdf

