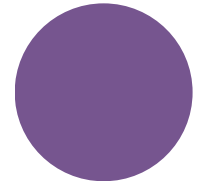


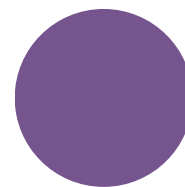


THE UNIVERSITY
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Edinburgh Clinical Trials Unit

Director



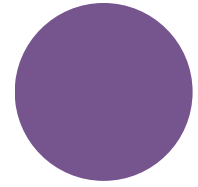


Welcome

Thank you for your interest in the post of Director of the Edinburgh Clinical Trials Unit (ECTU), which is hosted by the Usher Institute within the University's College of Medicine and Veterinary Medicine (CMVM).

This is a major, strategically important appointment for the University, CMVM and the Usher Institute. As the current interim Director and future Director (from May 2025) of the Usher Institute, we are committed to supporting the new ECTU Director in bringing their own vision, ambition and leadership to build on ECTU's success in delivering advances in trials methodology and in supporting a wide range of high impact clinical trials, providing evidence to inform healthcare policy, and clinical decision-making, while also shaping the training and credentialing of future scientific leaders. There are huge opportunities for ECTU to lead and support an expanding repertoire of efficient, innovative clinical trials and to strengthen and grow its partnerships with established and aspiring clinical trialists and trial methodologists across Edinburgh, Scotland, the UK and internationally.

Professors Julie Jacko and Cathie Sudlow



The position

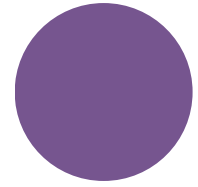
The Usher Institute, within the College of Medicine and Veterinary Medicine at The University of Edinburgh is looking for a dynamic and experienced Director for the Edinburgh Clinical Trials Unit (ECTU), to harness the enormous opportunities that exist for inter-disciplinary collaborations and to embed a culture of service provision and excellence in delivery of high-quality trials, high-quality services for trial design and delivery, and high-quality clinical trials methods research.

This important strategic role would be suitable for a clinician or non-clinician.

The Director of ECTU is a senior appointment, reporting directly to the Director of the Usher Institute. The Director will represent ECTU internally within the Usher Institute, CMVM, and the University of Edinburgh, as well as externally.

The Director will:

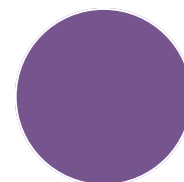
- Lead on the University's clinical trials strategy, building upon the strengths of the University, its connections with NHS Lothian and the broader Scottish health ecosystem in clinical research. They will enhance the development and growth of the College's global reputation in clinical trials through a focus on excellence and innovation in trial methodology resulting in the acquisition and delivery of clinical trials grants from competitive funding bodies and the publication of high-quality and impactful work.
- Provide senior leadership in the Usher Institute, as a member of the Usher Institute's Executive Committee and contribute to the ongoing evolution of the research and education strategies of the College of Medicine and Veterinary Medicine (CMVM). They will have a pivotal role in leading a portfolio of internationally leading clinical trials that will transform practice and impact patients, the public and society.
- Pursue excellence in research, teaching and enterprise and inspire others to do the same.
- Be responsible for overseeing the strategic, operational and financial management of clinical research activities, clinical trials services, and related educational programming, ensuring compliance with regulatory guidelines, and leading innovations in clinical trial methodologies. This pivotal role will support the objectives of the Usher Institute, CMVM, and The University of Edinburgh to advance medical research and education, ensuring the optimisation and safety of new therapies in clinical settings.
- Manage demand, align capacity, and monitor resource requirements to ensure that the operations of the ECTU are run efficiently and performance is assessed against agreed targets. They will ensure that the ECTU portfolio of clinical trials is delivered to the standard required, compliant with the scientific, legal, ethical, research governance and other regulatory requirements applying to clinical trials. There is an opportunity for the incoming postholder to integrate and centralise clinical trials services across CMVM, and the University, becoming a full-service organisation, reducing fragmentation of services across the University and providing efficiencies.



The person

Essential knowledge and experience

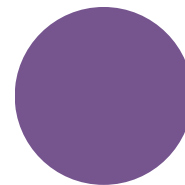
- Advanced degree (MD, PhD, or equivalent) in a subject closely allied to clinical trial methodology, and/or medicine.
- Extensive experience (minimum 10 years) of the design and delivery of clinical trials (and clinical research more broadly).
- A strong track record in leadership and management, particularly in multi-disciplinary contexts with extensive experience of leadership roles in a clinical trial setting.
- Demonstration of strategic thinking.
- Knowledge of clinical trial funding landscape.
- Thorough knowledge of regulatory requirements and ethical issues surrounding clinical trials.
- A strong research reputation evidenced by outputs and an evidenced track record of securing substantial, competitive clinical trial funding (e.g., from MRC, NIHR, Wellcome Trust, EU, and appropriate charities).
- Exceptional organisational skills and the ability to manage multiple projects simultaneously while meeting stringent deadlines.
- Experience of undergraduate and postgraduate teaching and evidence of taking a leading role in the organisation, planning and delivery of modules at undergraduate and postgraduate level.
- Excellent communication, negotiation, and other interpersonal skills with a focus on confidentiality and integrity as well as equality, diversity and inclusion.
- Ability to work as part of a senior academic team and to engage in senior-level research and strategic planning.
- Embraces modernisation and appropriate governance with a proven ability to promote and manage change.
- Talented in motivating, influencing, and working effectively with colleagues at all levels including skills in effective delegation, time management, and team working.
- Demonstrated ability and willingness to develop partnerships, to lead work across traditional disciplinary boundaries, and to establish collaborations with academic, service and industry partners across institutions and internationally.
- Strong commitment to external engagement activities with communities, practitioners and policy-makers, including the translation of research knowledge and evidence into practice.
- Experience with digital data management systems and clinical trial database applications.



As Director of ECTU you will be based in our brand new Usher Building, completed in April 2024. Located on the Edinburgh BioQuarter campus, this beautiful £70m purpose-built facility offers unique opportunities for collaboration, innovation, networking and engagement.



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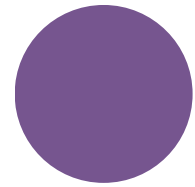
The University of Edinburgh

Founded in 1583, The University of Edinburgh was the first civic university in Britain. For more than four centuries, its people and their achievements have rewritten history time and again. They have explored space, revolutionised surgery, published era-defining books, paved the way for life-saving medical breakthroughs and introduced to the world many inventions, discoveries and ideas from - penicillin to the first cloned mammal, Dolly the sheep.

The University of Edinburgh is one of the finest centres for learning in the world and it takes pride in taking on tomorrow's greatest challenges. Whatever excites you, and whatever your ambition, you'll be in good company, doing amazing things for the good of society and the world. An exciting, positive, creative, challenging and rewarding place to work The University of Edinburgh will give you support, nurture your talent and reward success.

It holds a Silver Athena SWAN award in recognition of its commitment to advance gender equality in higher education. It is a member of the Race Equality Charter and are a Stonewall Scotland Diversity Champion, actively promoting LGBT equality.





Edinburgh Clinical Trials Unit

The Edinburgh Clinical Trials Unit (ECTU) was founded in 2006 to encompass the infrastructure for running multi-centre clinical trials already in Edinburgh, and to build on that capacity. It sits within the Edinburgh Medical School: Molecular, Genetic & Population Health Sciences, and forms part of the Usher Institute.

Edinburgh Clinical Trials Unit (ECTU) currently has 80 staff members across 7 teams - business team, QA, research development & trial planning, data management & programming, trial management, statistics and health economics. Together, the team develops, designs and delivers clinical trials with many collaborators within the University of Edinburgh, across the UK and internationally. Currently ECTU has a diverse project portfolio containing around 70 active funded projects, and a further 30 going through bid development or awaiting funding. In addition to this, there are studies that are completed and awaiting publication; and a data sharing system to share data from the back catalogue of studies that have been completed through the years. Approximately 70% of the current portfolio are randomised trials, a proportion that has increased substantially in response to our prioritisation strategy found here: [Clinical trials strategy](#). ECTU works closely with ACCORD (Academic and Clinical Central Office for Research and Development) to meet research governance and regulatory requirements.

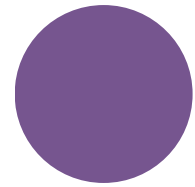
ECTU's recent publications are available here: [Recent publications 2023](#).

Having full registration within the UKCRC Clinical Trials Unit registration framework, ECTU has an established track record in delivering high quality clinical trials and works under a quality framework in accordance with ICH GCP.



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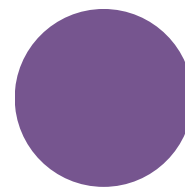


Usher Institute

The Usher Institute is a key applied and translational arm within the College of Medicine and Veterinary Medicine at the University of Edinburgh; offering significant expertise in health services research, health informatics, data science and social science.

Conducting transformative research that impacts upon healthcare, the Usher Institute improves the health and wellbeing of patients, communities and populations locally and globally. The University of Edinburgh has a long history in this area, giving the world the disciplines of academic primary care and public health, and the Usher Institute is fundamentally rooted in these community-based applied translational sciences.

The Institute brings together a critical mass of researchers with expertise in epidemiology, statistics and modelling, informatics, computer science, clinical science, sociology, social policy, governance, ethics, politics, medical law, psychology, economics, geography, health promotion and medicine to create a truly interdisciplinary research institute. Sitting within the College of Medicine and Veterinary Medicine, the Usher Institute has four core research centres, hosts the Edinburgh Clinical Trials Unit, and is a delivery hub within the Data-Driven Innovation Initiative of the Edinburgh and South East Scotland City Region Deal. Working with partners across UK and international universities, the NHS, policymakers, industry and the public is central to the highly collaborative ethos of the Usher Institute. The four core research centres in Biomedicine, Self and Society; Global Health; Medical Informatics; and Population Health Sciences are at the heart of the Usher Institute. The Edinburgh Clinical Trials Unit is a CMVM-wide infrastructure that is housed within Usher and offers trials and statistic methodological expertise.



The City of Edinburgh

Edinburgh is a beautiful city and a highly sought after place to live. It boasts grand Georgian terraces, crescents and gardens alongside an historic Old Town with its narrow closes and winding stairways. It has something to offer everyone, whether you prefer a quiet restaurant, a lively night out or something in between, you are bound to find it in Edinburgh.

Culture and entertainment

Home to the largest arts festival in the world, The Edinburgh International Festival brings the month of August alive in the city where residents are spoilt with first class theatre, music, performance art and comedy all on their doorstep. The abundance of galleries and museums such as The Museum of Scotland, Scottish National Gallery and Scottish National Portrait Gallery to name but a few, means that there is always opportunity to soak up some culture all year round. Edinburgh also boasts the highest number of Michelin starred restaurants in Scotland and has more restaurants per head of population than any other UK city outside of London.

The historic appeal of Edinburgh has led it to become renowned for its monuments and attractions including the Scott Monument, National Monument on Calton Hill and of course Edinburgh Castle which dominates the city skyline. At New Year Edinburgh plays host to the world's biggest street party and the castle becomes a stunning backdrop for a dazzling fireworks extravaganza.

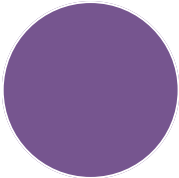
Nurseries and schools

Based at King's Buildings, The University's Arcadia Nursery was designed by award-winning architect Malcolm Fraser around the concept of 'free play'. It provides the perfect environment for children to blossom. There is however, no obligation to place your child in the University's nursery and there are many other childcare options in Edinburgh.

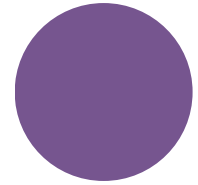
There are two main types of school in the UK, state and independent schools. State schools make up the majority of schools and are funded by the government. There is no fee for your children to attend these schools, but which school your child can attend is usually dictated by the area in which you live. Independent schools require a fee for your child to study there, although some bursaries are available.

Transport

Several airlines fly to Edinburgh from the principal European cities, and there are frequent services to and from London. Bus, tram and rail connections are abundant and Edinburgh has an excellent level of public transport provision compared to many cities in the UK.



Appointment process and how to apply



We strongly encourage informal enquiries by interested applicants. Please contact Julie Jacko (Interim Director of the Usher Institute, julie.jacko@ed.ac.uk), Steff Lewis (Interim Director of ECTU, steff.lewis@ed.ac.uk) or Rustam Al-Shahi Salman (Clinical Director of ECTU, Rustam.Al-Shahi@ed.ac.uk).

Non-University of Edinburgh employees (i.e. external applicants) – please refer to the [How to Apply – External Candidate](#) system user guide.

Current University of Edinburgh employees (i.e. internal applicants) interested in applying for this role – you must apply as an internal applicant through the People and Money Current Jobs tile. Please refer to the [How to Apply – UoE Employee](#) system user guide.

Unless stated otherwise the closing time for applications is 11:59pm GMT. If you are applying outside the UK the closing time on our adverts automatically adjusts to your browser's local time zone.

If invited for interview you will be required to evidence your right to work in the UK. Further information is available on our [right to work](#) webpages (opens new browser tab).