

Coordinator, Irish Clinical Research Infrastructure Network (ICRIN)

Job description and particulars of office

Molecular Medicine Ireland (www.molecularmedicineireland.ie) is responsible for developing the Irish Clinical Research Infrastructure Network (ICRIN – www.icrin.ie) and for representing Ireland in the European Clinical Research Infrastructure Network (ECRIN – www.ecrin.org). Molecular Medicine Ireland is seeking a Coordinator for ICRIN to complete the preparatory phase and to lay the foundations for ICRIN's development as a national coordinating centre for clinical research in Ireland. ICRIN has been funded in its preparatory phase by the Health Research Board and Health Service Executive to promote harmonisation of training, processes and practice in all aspects of clinical research in order to support academic and industry sponsors in clinical research in Ireland. The formation of ICRIN complements the investment by the Health Research Board, the Health Service Executive and the Wellcome Trust in clinical research facilities and capacity in Dublin, Cork and Galway.

ICRIN is the Irish partner of the European Clinical Research Infrastructures Network (ECRIN). ECRIN and its participants, including ICRIN, are funded by the European Commission 7th Framework Programme infrastructure call to construct and operate an infrastructure for European Union clinical trials and biotherapy. The goal of the ECRIN network is to establish an efficient, integrated, consistent set of competent services at national and trans-national level by harmonising critical areas including quality assurance, monitoring, ethics, regulatory affairs and adverse event reporting. The ICRIN Coordinator is a member of the ECRIN Network Committee.

Enterprise Ireland is funding ICRIN to develop knowledge and awareness of clinical research processes among indigenous and multi-national pharmaceutical, medical device, nutraceutical, food and biotechnology companies in order to increase the number of clinical trials of new products in Ireland.

Reporting Relationship

The ICRIN Coordinator will report to the Chief Executive and will be employed by Molecular Medicine Ireland (a not-for-profit company established by NUI Galway, Trinity College, UCC, UCD and the RCSI to mobilise the strengths of the five partner institutions and their associated hospitals to build a sustainable national system to coordinate, support and promote translational and clinical research).

Responsibilities

The ICRIN Coordinator will be responsible for delivering the objectives of ICRIN's preparatory phase, for laying the foundations for the development of ICRIN as the national coordinating body for clinical research in Ireland and for Ireland's successful engagement with ECRIN.

Within this context, the ICRIN Coordinator will be responsible for the following:

Strategic and Stakeholder Management

- To engage with the established and emerging Clinical Research Facilities, medical schools and affiliated teaching hospitals in the process of developing a national clinical research infrastructure to perform cutting edge clinical research.

- To lead on the development of a framework for the harmonisation of different operating norms for clinical research into a common system, as the Irish partner in the European Clinical Research Infrastructure Network.
- To ensure that education and training programmes are put in place for clinical and nursing staff that allow standards to be updated and constantly improved.
- To facilitate Irish academic and non-academic clinical investigators to participate in multi-centred clinical studies.
- To drive harmonisation of procedures in Ireland with respect to Research Governance, Ethical Review, Data Management, Safety Reporting in line with ongoing work in Europe.
- Complete the business case for the development of ICRIN to be the nationally and internationally recognised trans-disease Coordinating Centre to facilitate the conduct of multi-centre clinical research and clinical trials by academic clinician scientists and small to medium enterprises (SMEs).
- Engage with the Clinical Directors and Programme Managers of the Dublin Centre for Clinical Research, National University of Ireland Galway Clinical Research Centre and UCC Clinical Research Centre and the leaders of disease research networks in Ireland towards the realisation through ICRIN of a harmonious infrastructure for clinical and translational research.
- Engage with industry to foster new clinical development activity, increase clinical trial conduct and to facilitate successful transition of a potential molecule, nutraceutical, functional food, diagnostic or device from concept to commercialisation.
- Raise awareness nationally and internationally among industry of the clinical research infrastructure available in Ireland, ensuring ICRIN is recognised as a quality niche provider in all areas of clinical research.
- Contribute to the development of policy within ICRIN and MMI on industry and academic involvement in clinical research and clinical research training.
- Contribute to the development of policy by responding to public consultations pertaining to clinical research, participating in government convened panels in research and life sciences, liaising with patient organisations and other key stakeholders to establish clinical research as part of the continuum of clinical care.
- Serve as ECRIN Network Committee Representative for ICRIN. (The Network Committee is the ultimate decision-making body for the execution of the ECRIN Project and is responsible of the strategic decision of ECRIN).
- As the ECRIN Network committee representative, facilitate the Irish Co-Chair's participation in the ECRIN Working Groups for Capacity Building and Pilot Projects.
- Work with Enterprise Ireland and other agencies to increase the number of clinical trials of new products in Ireland.

Operational Management

- Ensure delivery of the objectives of the preparatory stage of ICRIN to the HRB and HSE.
- As the ECRIN Network Committee representative, ensure that deliverables in the workpackages on Capacity Building, Development of Services and on Pilot Multinational projects are completed as stipulated in the FP7 grant and consortium agreements.



- Oversee delivery of the commitments of the contract with Enterprise Ireland to increase the number of clinical trials of new products in Ireland.
- Communicate ICRIN and ECRIN's achievements on the MMI's website and in newsletters and the annual reports.

Financial Management

- Identify sources of ongoing funding for the development of ICRIN as a coordinating centre for clinical research and lead in securing financial support.
- Manage the budget for ICRIN and ECRIN activities, in close association with the Finance and Operations Manager

People and Team Management

- Manage staff assigned to the function to ensure that each member has clear objectives and performance standards.
- Facilitate the development and training of staff in accordance with MMI policy and contribute to the development of good human relations policies in the MMI.
- Contribute as a member of the MMI management group to the effective operation of the organization, the implementation of MMI strategy and the corporate development of the company.

The appointee will undertake such other reasonable and lawful duties as may be directed from time to time by the Chief Executive.

Requirements

The preferred candidate will have

- a degree in a discipline relevant to clinical research
- several years of experience in a clinical research environment
- thorough knowledge of the regulatory approval processes for pharmaceuticals, diagnostics and devices in Europe and the US
- high levels of organisational, managerial and networking skills
- an ability to work harmoniously and effectively in a multi-disciplinary environment
- extensive project management experience
- excellent IT skills

An applicant must be an EU citizen or be from outside the EU with permanent Irish resident status or a valid work permit.

Competencies:

The competencies required for the post include the ability at a high level to:

- Develop and lead by vision and values and have a strong customer focus
- Develop and contribute to strategic planning
- Plan, develop and manage; set deadlines, standards of performance and ensure quality processes



- Communicate well at an interpersonal level and in written and oral presentations
- Network and influence in a multidisciplinary environment
- Be personally effective and creative

The successful candidate will be a highly motivated person with a high level of personal and professional integrity.

The Post:

The post will be for a period of one year. There will be a probationary period of three months. Continuation of employment beyond one year is contingent on satisfactory performance and on securing funding for the next phase of ICRIN's development. A secondment arrangement may be considered where appropriate. The position will be based in the MMI offices in Dublin and will involve national and international travel. A competitive salary is available for this post and the level will depend on the experience and qualifications of the successful applicant.

The closing date for applications is Friday 24 April 2009. If you are interested in the post, please email a covering letter, CV and the names of two referees to info@molecularmedicineireland.ie. Referees will not be contacted until the post is offered. Molecular Medicine Ireland is an equal opportunities employer.