

Vacancy: **THIS Institute Perioperative Improvement Fellow**

The Royal College of Anaesthetists' Centre for Research and Improvement (RCoA CR&I), in collaboration with The Healthcare Improvement Studies Institute (THIS Institute) at the University of Cambridge, is seeking to appoint a Clinical Lead for a project to improve timeliness to surgery for patients requiring emergency laparotomy. The project will use an innovative co-design learning system model (known as an Improvement Core) and will be linked to the National Emergency Laparotomy Audit (NELA).

[NELA](#) is part of the National Clinical Audit and Patient Outcomes Programme (NCAPOP), overseen by the Healthcare Quality Improvement Partnership (HQIP) and funded by NHS England and the Welsh Government. The aim of NELA is to enable improvement of quality of care for patients undergoing emergency laparotomy through the provision of high quality comparative data from all providers of emergency laparotomy. NELA is a collaboration between anaesthetic, surgical and other key stakeholders.

Improvement Cores are a new strategic initiative from [THIS Institute](#) that integrate co-design methodologies and data-driven learning system approaches to enable rigorous, large-scale improvement in healthcare processes. The approach will be refined developmentally through the project and will be studied through a process evaluation.

The successful candidate will gain exposure to national audit projects, opportunities for academic publication and conference presentations and an opportunity to develop their existing research leadership and management skills. They will be offered professional leadership development through THIS Institute. The post will commence as soon as possible, with the intention of having the candidate in post by 31st January 2024, or as soon as possible thereafter.

Role

The post-holder's responsibilities will include leading a perioperative improvement project focused on improving timely access to theatre for patients with an acute abdomen. The post-holder will be expected to lead the project independently, while sustaining excellent relationships with key collaborators including THIS Institute. The post-holder will contribute to project design and planning, stakeholder engagement, analysis, report and manuscript writing, and dissemination of results. The post-holder will be expected to plan and chair project team and advisory committee meetings, as well as attend and report to NELA Project Team meetings and other meetings as required. The post-holder will be expected to take part in THIS Institute's professional development programme. Travel expenses for these meetings and all work related to the project will be reimbursed.

There is no direct payment available for this role. The post is supported by the cost of three periods of professional activity (3 PA) per week, back-filled to the post-holder's employing organisation, in order to enable the successful candidate to dedicate a minimum of 12 hours per week to the role. It is anticipated that the workload of the role will fluctuate, and the

postholder will need to be able to be flexible enough to dedicate considerably greater amounts of time to the project when this is required.

Applications are welcome from interested candidates throughout the UK. The post-holder will be expected to collaborate with colleagues from both the RCoA and THIS Institute, and therefore attend meetings in London and Cambridge and remotely. The post-holder will be managerially responsible to the RCoA's Director of Clinical Quality and Research and professionally responsible to the RCoA CR&I Director.

We are seeking to appoint the Perioperative Improvement Fellow for the duration of the project, expected to conclude 31st October 2025.

Person Specification

This post is open to clinically qualified individuals capable of operating at very senior level and having the appropriate vision, creativity, experience, skills and authority to provide high-quality leadership and mobilisation of the Core. Successful applicants will have a track record in applied health services research or improvement programmes, including leading major projects that deliver at scale.

Diversity, equality and inclusion is an integral part of the RCoA's culture so it is important that this is reflected in everything that we do. We welcome applications from all individuals irrespective of age, race, gender, sexual orientation, ethnicity, religion or belief, disability, marital status, or parental responsibilities to ensure we actively embrace an inclusive and representative culture that encourages, supports, and celebrates our differences.

A full job description and supporting information can be found within the documents section (at the top of the page).

To apply, please submit a CV, cover letter explaining your motivations for applying, and written confirmation from your trust that they are supportive of your application.

For further information regarding the role please contact:

- Dr Dave Murray, Chair, National Emergency Laparotomy Audit (dave.murray1@nhs.net)
- Ms Christine Taylor – NELA Project Manager (ctaylor@rcoa.ac.uk)
- Ms Lorna Jacobs (core@thisinstitute.cam.ac.uk)

Closing date for applications: 5pm, Friday, 12th January 2024

Interview date: TBC; likely w/c 22nd January 2024