

Cancer Research Domain Lead/Co-Leads: Early career researchers

At the University of Sheffield, we are entering the next phase of our [Cancer Research Strategy](#) and have a unique opportunity to establish Sheffield as a globally recognised Centre of Excellence in cancer research. We are seeking expressions of interest from **early-career researchers (ECRs)** looking for opportunities to provide and develop their leadership skills to support **the Sheffield cancer research network**. You will play a significant role in establishing a Centre to act as the catalyst for groundbreaking research, as we work together towards the university's vision of delivering life-enhancing research as an ambitious, inclusive, collaborative community.

About the role: The Lead/Co-Leads will develop a community of ECRs with an interest in cancer research at Sheffield and act as a bridge between ECRs and the wider cancer research community. The role will suit an early-career researcher who has experience relating to any research [theme of the cancer research strategy](#). We do not expect you to be familiar with all cancer research themes or carry out the duties of this role by yourself - **you may work with a co-lead or choose to appoint a deputy and/or a sub-committee to support delivery**. We welcome expressions of interest from staff employed in any School/Faculty and encourage expressions of interest from a diverse range of backgrounds.

The Lead/Co-Leads will be appointed for an initial term of 3 years, or for the duration of your contract if shorter than this (re-appointable upon application, if still relevant to your role). The Lead/Co-Leads will:

- **Work with the Cancer Research Executive to establish a Centre of Excellence:** feed in to the next phase of the strategy and oversee an implementation plan in line with wider pillars of the university's vision; join quarterly Executive meetings
- **Develop a community of cancer ECRs at Sheffield:** identify ECRs across UoS conducting, or with an interest in conducting, research related to cancer in diverse specialities, engaging them in activity which crosses divisional/School/Faculty boundaries for ECRs to:
 - build their network and maximise opportunities outside of their immediate grouping
 - take the next step in their career
- **Act as a bridge between ECRs and the wider cancer research community:** engage with ECR groups and fora across the university, including the Fellows' Colleges or similar dependent on faculty; ensure representation of cancer ECRs at cross-faculty events such as the Cancer Research Away Day
- **Grow external income:** flag up to the wider Cancer Research Executive where there may be prospective fellows requiring support and identify how we as a university can support the success rate of those applying for fellowships in cancer research; advise the Cancer Research Oversight Board on the strategic direction of YCR Pioneers ringfenced funding as it relates to fellowships and opportunities for career development and participate in the internal review process
- **Bring in external expertise:** lead on setting the strategic direction and speaker schedule for our seminar series CREST(Cancer REsearch Seminar Track), working with the Cancer Research Executive (support provided)
- **Improve communication:** champion our research and promote it internally and externally, including advising on the structure and content for our website (support provided); support the fulfilment of internal monitoring and reporting requirements, including an annual report (support provided)
- **Raise issues, risks and opportunities:** work with the Executive to propose solutions to the chair and members of the Cancer Research Oversight Board relating to research, innovation and/or impact
- **Attract and develop people:** work with the Executive to support initiatives to recruit high-calibre cancer researchers to the university and support the career development of mid- and early-career cancer researchers

The Lead/Co-Leads will work closely with Co-Directors Prof Jim Catto and Prof Penny Ottewell, the Executive, and Faculty Directors of Research & Innovation. The Lead/Co-Leads will be supported in their role by Rachel Corcoran, Cancer Research Strategy Manager and Zoe Lingard, Cancer Research Growth Manager, alongside other professional services. The responsibilities may evolve over time, in discussion with role-holders.

How to express your interest: Expressions of interest are invited in the form of a letter and a short CV, to cancer_research@sheffield.ac.uk by **Friday 19 December**. You should demonstrate the support of your line manager and Head of School (HoS) (e.g., via a short email attached to the EoI). Short interviews will be held. The successful candidate will be invited to start as soon as possible. You are welcome to discuss the role informally with Penny Ottewell (p.d.ottewell@sheffield.ac.uk) or Jim Catto (j.catto@sheffield.ac.uk). The successful candidate, your line manager and HoS decide how much time can reasonably be devoted to the role, given other commitments. **You are encouraged to apply if your current contract has at least 12 months remaining as of 1 January 2026. Appointments will be for 3 years or until the end of your contract, if sooner.** The role does not attract an honorarium but travel & other expenses can be considered.