Job Description:

Advanced Occupational or Physiotherapist (Research)

20% FTE fixed 15 month contract or secondment

Designability (Bath Institute of Medical Engineering)

Wolfson Centre, Royal United Hospital, Bath, BA1 3NG

Contact Dr Tim Adlam for further information.

01225 824 107 | timadlam@designability.org.uk

http://www.designability.org.uk

**Responsible to:** Head of Mechanical Engineering (Designability)

**Location:** Wolfson Centre, Royal United Hospital, Bath

**Hours:** 7.5 hours per week for 15 months

**Salary:** £6906 p.a. at 20% FTE.

This is an opportunity for an experienced paediatric occupational or physiotherapist to gain research experience, working with a multidisciplinary design team and our specialist clinical partners. We wish to recruit a part-time paediatric therapist to support a new research project to design novel dynamic seating for pre-school children with dystonic cerebral palsy.

The therapist will work closely with Dr Tim Adlam and a design engineer to recruit families to an evaluation group; establish the specification of the new seat; trial a battery of functional assessments to be used in a subsequent research study; and evaluate the safety, usability and basic functionality of the new seat with children with dystonia.

It would be an advantage, but not essential, for a candidate to have some experience of carrying out multidisciplinary research.

We welcome enquiries from therapists interested in a part-time secondment from their current employer. Please contact us to discuss this possibility.

**Duties:**

The therapist will:

1. Recruit families of children with dystonic cerebral palsy to the seat evaluation group, and act as their main point of contact with the project;
2. Collect and manage the project clinical data;
3. Coordinate the evaluation group;
4. Work with the project engineer and families to define the needs of the children and the specification of the seat;
5. Carry out a study into the feasibility of the proposed outcome measures to be used in a subsequent research project, trialling the measures with children with dystonia;
6. Manage and document the evaluation of the new prototype seat to assess comfort, usability, safety and basic functionality;
7. Contribute to the dissemination of the outcomes of the project.

## Recruitment, Need Definition and Specification

Working with our clinical partners, the therapist will recruit families of children with dystonia to the Evaluation Group. In consultation with the University of Exeter based Parent Group and the newly recruited Evaluation Group, the therapist will define the need for the seat, based on: clinical needs relating to movement disorders; practical issues faced by children, parents and therapists (accessibility, stability, transportability and adjustability); and the desires of the children. The therapist will assist the engineer in developing a detailed technical specification for review by the Advisory Group.

## Trial Feasibility Research

The therapist will work with the Evaluation Group to assess the practical feasibility of using functional outcome measures proposed for a subsequent research project with children age 2-5 years. Examples of the measures and assessments being considered are GMFCS, COPM, and the Hypertonia Rating Scale. We will also be evaluating informal qualitative methods and an instrumented test of hand function.

## Design Evaluation

The therapist will work with the engineer to assess and document the safety, comfort, usability and basic functionality of the prototype seat in the child’s home, against the previously developed technical specification.

**The post holder will be expected to prioritise work and complete tasks without direct supervision. The post holder should adhere to Designability / Royal United Hospital Trust / University of Bath policies and procedures.**

# Person Specification

Assessment methods: A – Application; I – Interview; T – Test

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Criteria** | **Essential** | **Desirable** | **Assessed by** | | |
|  |  |  | **A** | **I** | **T** |
| ***Qualifications*** | A degree in occupational or physiotherapy. |  | X |  |  |
| HCPC Registration |  | X |  |  |
| Member of BAOT / CSP |  | X |  |  |
|  | Specialist training in paediatric seating and postural support. | X | X |  |
| ***Experience and Knowledge*** | At least five years’ experience in paediatric therapy |  | X |  |  |
| Experience of working with families and children with complex movement disorders |  | X |  |  |
| Experience of using functional outcome measures. |  | X | X |  |
| Experience of using a range of different assessments and interventions in paediatrics |  |  | X | X |
| Knowledge of child development, paediatric conditions and developmental disabilities, and the impact of disability and illness on child’s occupational performance and on the child’s family/ carers |  | X | X |  |
| Experience of prescribing seating for children with movement disorders |  | X | X |  |
| ***Skills*** | Ability to work effectively with children with complex multifactorial disability |  | X | X |  |
| The ability to think creatively and analytically when problem solving |  |  | X | X |
| Able to work effectively in a multidisciplinary team |  | X | X |  |
| Able to manage a varied personal workload |  | X | X |  |
| Excellent written and verbal communication skills |  | X | X |  |
| ***Attributes*** | Self-motivated with good personal organisation. |  |  | X |  |
| Sensitivity and care shown in work with children with disabilities and their carers. |  |  |  |  |
| Ability to be flexible with the allocation of hours. |  |  | X |  |

# Designability

Designability is a design and development organisation working to improve the quality of life of people with disabilities and health problems. A team of professional design engineers and support staff work closely with healthcare professionals, disabled people and other end-users. Designability is an independent registered charity maintained by charitable donations, sales of products and research grants, and based at the Royal United Hospital, Bath. It has good links with the University of Bath and the University of the West of England (UWE).

<http://www.designability.org.uk>

# Organisational Structure

Director of DESIGNABILITY

I

Head of Mechanical Engineering

I

**Therapist**