

EPIDEMIOLOGIST, SOUTH ASIA NETWORK FOR CHRONIC DISEASE

Background Public Health Foundation of India (PHFI), an autonomous public private partnership, is India's largest initiative to strengthen the Indian public health system. It was launched by the Prime Minister, Dr. Manmohan Singh on March 28, 2006 and is led by an engaged Governing Board comprising of eminent leaders from academia, industry, civil society and government. PHFI is working towards the establishment of 8-10 Indian Institutes of Public Health (IIPHs). IIPH-Hyderabad and IIPH-Gandhinagar recently began diploma courses in public health and IIPH-Delhi is expected to be launched shortly.

The London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine (LSHTM) is an international centre of excellence in public health and tropical medicine. It is one of Europe's leading postgraduate medical institutions and is Britain's national school of public health. Both European and developing country concerns are underlined by the School's expertise in epidemiology, preventive medicine, and disease control.

Wellcome Trust (WT) has awarded a £4.5 Million grant to London School of Hygiene and PHFI for setting up a South Asia Network for Chronic Disease based in New Delhi over the next five years. The Network comprises existing research groups led by University of London investigators and Indian partner organizations in Delhi, Mumbai, Goa, Chennai and Pondicherry. The Network will conduct research on the causes, prevention and management of common chronic diseases.

Responsibilities An epidemiologist is required to work on specific projects in the Network, based in Delhi. They will work under the direction of the Network Director and the post-holder will be expected to develop their own line of research relevant to chronic diseases. The appointee will be expected to write grant applications, supervise conduct of field studies, analyse primary and secondary data sources, write scientific papers and present at national and international scientific meetings.

Specifically, (s)he will be responsible for:

Research

- Conducting systematic reviews of scientific literature
- Designing and conducting epidemiological and health service research studies
- Liaison with other researchers in the Chronic Disease network, nationally and internationally

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- Carrying out basic and more advanced statistical analyses
- Writing scientific papers, reports, ethical approvals and grant applications
- Supervising research students
- Organising national and international research meetings

Teaching

- undertaking appropriate training in teaching methods
- providing co-supervision for Diploma and Masters level students
- designing courses in epidemiology and basic statistics for post-graduate students and short courses

Citizenship

- contributing to the general activities of the Network, Public Health Foundation of India (PHFI) and help promote the objectives of the Network
- contributing to the management of the Network and PHFI as appropriate
- Any other duties that may be required which are consistent with the nature and grade of the post.

Reports to - Director, South Asia Network for Chronic Diseases

Competencies - Design and implementation of epidemiologic and public health studies

- Statistical analytic skills
- Oral presentations to scientific meetings
- Writing of scientific papers
- Critically appraise scientific articles

Profile - A PhD in a relevant discipline (e.g. public health, epidemiology, biostatistics)

- Experience of conducting epidemiologic and health-related research
- Experience of preparing reports, scientific papers and presentations
- Publications in peer-reviewed journals commensurate with years in research
- Excellent communication and writing skills
- Ability to work well as part of a team and independently.

Other Information - Salary will be according to qualifications and experience. The contract will be of one year's duration, and will be subsequently reviewed based on performance.