

National Council for



Osteopathic Research

**Director of the
National Council for Osteopathic Research**

Recruitment Information Pack

Job and person specification for the post of Director of the National Council for Osteopathic Research

The National Council for Osteopathic Research (NCOR) has been constituted to steer and promote research to explore and assure the place of osteopathy in healthcare. NCOR is a coalition of stakeholder organisations concerned with the quality of osteopathic patient care.

NCOR has successfully established a firm foundation for osteopathic research development. We wish now to appoint a Director of NCOR to build on the organisation's achievements and provide strategic leadership that will shape osteopathic practice and training.

The Role

The Director of NCOR will provide the impetus for strategic leadership, being responsible for development and management of NCOR. The core elements of the role are:

- Working with a wide range of stakeholders to achieve the strategic and operational leadership required to foster osteopathic research and research development.
- Chairing and leading meetings of the NCOR Research Council, directing staff, and working with and reporting to the NCOR Management Board, to develop and deliver the organisation's objectives.
- Acting as the advocate for the work and purpose of NCOR and osteopathic research activity, supporting effective communication with stakeholders both within and outside of the osteopathic profession.

- Devising strategies for promoting a high level of research-awareness and research activity amongst osteopaths.
- Fostering inter- and intra-professional research collaboration, building links within the healthcare research community, identifying and attracting research funding to NCOR and osteopathy.
- Supporting the development of international co-operation in osteopathic research.

The Person

- Credible and persuasive, with a proven ability to work effectively with a range of stakeholders and stakeholder interests.
- A strategist who displays an understanding of the value that research and evidence has to offer the future development of the profession.
- Has an entrepreneurial and imaginative outlook capable of identifying opportunities and synergies across a broad range of individuals and interests.
- An able and experienced chairperson.
- Has a proven track record and experience of leadership in healthcare, healthcare education, research or research funding. Has clear experience of public policy development.
- Must have links into national/international research communities.
- Can demonstrate effective performance in strategic planning, budget, business planning and staff management.
- Is likely to be:
 - a senior University-based academic (preferably professorial level), or
 - a health policy specialist of national standing in their subject or profession.

- Must have excellent communication, facilitation and negotiation skills.
- Has a strong interest in developing osteopathic research capacity and capability.

An honorarium of £8,000 will be offered for this role and it is anticipated that it will involve a time commitment of 20 days per year. The appointment is for an initial three-year term.

NCOR is looking to fill this role from April 2012 with an opportunity for an earlier handover from the current incumbent.

For an information pack and details of how to apply, please email ncor@osteopathy.org.uk or visit www.osteopathy.org.uk/resources/research.

For an informal discussion about this role, call Tim Walker, Chief Executive, General Osteopathic Council, on 020 7357 6655 ext. 244.

Applications expressing interest in the role and detailing the value you believe you would bring to this important function should be sent to The NCOR Management Board, c/o The General Osteopathic Council, Osteopathy House, 176 Tower Bridge Road, London, SE1 3LU or emailed to ncor@osteopathy.org.uk and should include your Curriculum Vitae.

Your application should be received by **6 January 2012**. Interviews for this position will be held in London in January 2012.

What is NCOR?

The National Council for Osteopathic Research (NCOR) was established in 2003 to provide leadership and unity in osteopathic research development. NCOR aims to improve the osteopathic evidence base by fostering research, increase research capacity and capability within the osteopathic profession, and raise the profile of osteopathic research findings.

Our core purpose

NCOR is entering a new phase of development, in which its primary functions are:

1. **Strategic leadership:** to lead and facilitate osteopathic research development in the UK, including developing a comprehensive and cohesive research strategy providing both direction and coordination of osteopathic research.
2. **Advocacy:** representing the profession on matters relating to the osteopathic evidence base and research development. Acting on behalf of the profession, in a research context, to the media, the public & patients, policy-makers, the inter-professional research community, other health professions and healthcare regulators.
3. **Research education:** to provide a forum for the Osteopathic Educational Institutions (OEIs) through which to forge consistent standards in research governance, to share expertise, achieve economies of scale, and foster undergraduate and postgraduate research collaboration. To promote research capacity and scholarship.

4. **Information resource:** to provide osteopaths, the public and patients, healthcare professionals, and the research and academic community with a recognised, high quality and accessible resource of research-related information concerning the distinctive body of knowledge within osteopathic practice.
5. **Liaison and promotion:** to improve awareness of osteopathic research development amongst osteopaths and the wider community. To establish links and build networks within the research fraternity, nationally and internationally, with a view to development through collaboration. To formulate and foster strategies for attracting funding for osteopathic research development.
6. **Research Governance:** to provide systems relevant for grants governance and research governance for the benefit of all stakeholders.
7. **Knowledge Transfer:** to foster and disseminate outputs from osteopathic audit, evaluation, and research activities via, for example, an annual research conference.

Who are the NCOR stakeholders?

NCOR is a coalition comprising the key osteopathic stakeholder groups that have an interest in and an influence on the development of osteopathic research and high standards of osteopathic training, scholarship and practice:

- The Osteopathic Educational Institutions (currently 9) – *see full list below.*
- The British Osteopathic Association (BOA) – *professional association representing nearly 70% of registered osteopaths.*
- The General Osteopathic Council (GOsC) – *statutory regulator responsible for standards of training, practice and conduct.*
- Osteopathic Educational Foundation (OEF) – *independent charitable trust (Registered Charity no. 313785) dedicated to the furtherance of osteopathic education and research.*

How does NCOR operate?

The National Council of Osteopathic Research comprises:

The Research Council (RC) – comprising representation of all stakeholder groups that contribute funding to NCOR, including the Heads of Research of the Osteopathic Educational Institutions. The RC meets approximately five times per year to develop and deliver, through working groups, a strategy for osteopathic research development that fulfils NCOR's core aims. Meetings of the RC will be chaired by the Director of NCOR, who also coordinates collaborative initiatives.

The Management Board (MB) – provides effective governance and oversight of the financial management and performance of NCOR, on behalf of the stakeholder organisations that fund NCOR's operations. The MB comprises five members, representing the GOsC, the BOA, the OEF, the educational institutions, and the Research Council. The MB meets up to 3 times per year and is attended by the Director of NCOR.

The NCOR Team:

- The Director (currently termed 'Chair'): 20 days per year.
- Research Officer: 4.5 days/week (0.9FTE). Appointed 2004.
- Administrator: 1 day/week (0.2FTE). Appointed 2005.

NCOR is currently hosted within the Clinical Research Centre in the School of Health Professions at the University of Brighton.

How are NCOR operations funded?

Annual funding for the NCOR infrastructure costs – staffing, accommodation and operational costs – is derived from four roughly equivalent stakeholder funding streams provided by:

- The British Osteopathic Association.
- The General Osteopathic Council.
- The Osteopath Educational Foundation.
- The Osteopathic Educational Institutions collectively.

Further information

- NCOR: www.brighton.ac.uk/ncor
- GOsC: www.osteopathy.org.uk
- BOA: www.osteopathy.org

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Overview of NCOR current key services

- Public information resource: NCOR website and telephone/email information service.
- Advocacy: voice of the osteopathic profession on research-related issues, in response to public or media interest/enquiry.
- UK-wide network of facilitated osteopathic research hubs.
- Research (CPD) tutorials: published bi-monthly in *The Osteopath* magazine, distributed to all UK-registered osteopaths/public subscribers.
- On-line research tutorials.
- National health policy development (e.g. NICE guidelines): co-ordination of UK osteopathic evidence submission.
- Research conferences: coordination and hosting.
- Development, promotion, piloting, and management of UK-wide Standardised Data Collection.
- Clinical audit in osteopathic practice: resources and support to promote general implementation in practice. Support for General Osteopathic Council Revalidation Pilot 2011-2012.
- Delphi study: identifying research priorities in osteopathy.
- Research Governance Framework for osteopathy: formulate, maintain and promote.
- Design and coordination of the 4-study 'Osteopathic Adverse Events' project, 2008-2012.
- Support and information resources for osteopaths/other health professionals.

NCOR Stakeholders Organisations (as at September 2011)

- **The British Osteopathic Association**
- **The General Osteopathic Council**
- **The Osteopath Educational Foundation**
- **The British College of Osteopathic Medicine**
- **The British School of Osteopathy**
- **College of Osteopaths (Borehamwood and Keele)**
- **The European School of Osteopathy**
- **Leeds Metropolitan University**
- **The London College of Osteopathic Medicine**
- **The London School of Osteopathy**
- **Oxford Brookes University**
- **Surrey Institute of Osteopathic Medicine**

The Osteopathic Educational Institutions operate a forum known as the Council for Osteopathic Educational Institutions (COEI), and when required – for example, on the Management Board of NCOR – are represented collectively by the Chair or another nominee of COEI.