Applications are invited from suitably qualified candidates for a full-time (1 FTE), fixed term position as a Research Associate with CÚRAM SFI Centre for Medical Devices and the HRB Clinical Research Facility at the University of Galway.

This position is funded by Science Foundation Ireland and is available from 1st December 2022 to contract end date of 30th November 2024.

**Organisation:** The SFI Centre for Research in Medical Devices (CÚRAM – www.curamdevices.ie) is a national, SFI funded research centre that brings together researchers from across Ireland. The prime objective for CÚRAM is to radically improve health outcomes for patients by developing innovative implantable ‘smart’ medical devices to treat major medical needs. Implants will be designed and manufactured to respond to the body's environment and to deliver therapeutic agents, such as drugs, exactly where needed. Cutting-edge science will develop devices using the very latest research from biomaterials, stem cells and drug delivery and the support of strong clinical collaborations, industry partners and hospital groups to enable rapid translation to the clinic.

**Job Description:**

The successful candidate will be part of a multi-disciplinary team and will play an essential role in the development and implementation of clinical research studies examining the metabolic responses to dietary and physical activity interventions in patients with severe and complicated obesity, which will be conducted at Galway University Hospitals and at the HRB Clinical Research Facility Galway.

The Research Associate will work with the Principal Investigator and other research team members to develop, coordinate and maintain the relevant structured lifestyle components of clinical research studies in the area of interest. This may involve, but is not limited to, the design of dietary and physical activity interventions, completing patient visits, delivering or facilitating group-based structured lifestyle intervention sessions, training of research study staff, collection of study data and the delivery of a pre-defined set of outcomes as per study protocols. The ideal candidate will have experience in delivering structured lifestyle interventions either in the clinical research setting or in hospital bariatric servi.

**Duties:**

- Maintain a high standard of clinical research work in accordance with clinical research regulations and protocols under the direction of the Director/Principal Investigator (PI).
- Ensure clinical research work is conducted in accordance with clinical research protocols.
- Develop the research area suggesting and implementing change as required.
- Participate in relevant groups and committees to share evidence-based best practice in the research area.
- Accurately record and update study documents as required.
- Contribute to participant recruitment for the research, involving the relevant professional groups to do so.
- Facilitate effective communication with all research staff to ensure information is transferred in a clear effective manner.
- Assist in the drafting and implementation of Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) and other documentation as required.
• Manage own workload, participant study sessions and procedures for the research area in an organised and competent manner.
• Educate participants in research protocols and methods.
• Facilitate research activities such as workshops.
• Contribute to training and teaching programmes as required.
• Train staff in research protocols and study methodologies.
• Continue to build personal skills by taking training opportunities as available and required.
• Report and document adverse events to PI or delegate in a timely manner.
• Compile information for reports in research area as necessary.
• Promote an effective teamwork environment.
• Continue to maintain and develop personal skills, including professional competency, undertaking mandatory and other training as required.
• Carry out other appropriate and relevant duties under the direction of the Principal Investigator.

Qualifications/Skills required:

**Essential**
• Masters Degree or Higher in Dietetics, Sports Science, or similar discipline.
• Registration with the relevant professional board (e.g. INDI for dietitian) where relevant.
• A postgraduate qualification (MSc or PhD).
• 4+ years’ experience post primary degree related to dietetics or physical activity.
• A strong interest in bariatric clinical research.
• Excellent verbal and written communication/presentation skills.
• Able to work both independently and as part of a team.
• Evidence of ongoing professional development.
• Excellent IT skills.
• Able to show initiative and deliver requisite tasks of role.
• Empathetic attitude to research participants with severe obesity and an awareness of the complex neurobehavioral basis for obesity.

**Desirable:**
• Relevant clinical research experience.
• Demonstrable knowledge of good clinical practice.
• Previous bariatric clinical experience.

**Salary:** €39,523 to €51,035 per annum, prorate for short/part-time contracts (public sector pay policy rules pertaining to new entrants will apply)

**Start date:** Position is available from 1st December 2022.

**Continuing Professional Development/Training:**
Further information on research and working at University of Galway is available on Research at University of Galway. Researchers at University of Galway are encouraged to avail of a range of training and development opportunities designed to support their personal career development plans. University of Galway provides continuing professional development supports for all researchers seeking to build their own career pathways either within or beyond academia. Researchers are encouraged to engage with our Researcher Development Centre (RDC) upon commencing employment - see https://www.universityofgalway.ie/rdc/ for further information.

For information on moving to Ireland please see www.euraxess.ie
Further information about the College of Medicine, Nursing and Health Sciences at University of Galway is available here.

Informal enquiries concerning the post may be made to Professor Francis Finucane at francis.finucane@nuigalway.ie.

NB: Gárda vetting is a requirement for this post.

To Apply:
Applications to include a covering letter, CV, and the contact details of three referees should be sent, via e-mail (in word or PDF only) to Prof. Francis Finucane, email francis.finucane@universityofgalway.ie.

Please put reference number University of Galway 269-22 in subject line of e-mail application.

Closing date for receipt of applications is 5.00 pm on Friday 28th October 2022.

Interviews are planned to be held on Friday 4th November 2022.

We reserve the right to re-advertise or extend the closing date for this post.

University of Galway is an equal opportunities employer.

All positions are recruited in line with Open, Transparent, Merit (OTM) and Competency based recruitment.