



### LSSI PGR Placement

**Exciting opportunity to apply your recently acquired academic knowledge and skills in behavioural science/psychology/social science to support an innovative digital health partnership between Itecho Health, University of Leeds and Leeds Fertility - improving patient outcomes in fertility.**

#### **Project and timescale**

The project looks at the relationship between lifestyle factors, such as nutrition and exercise, and fertility. Specifically, we are looking at three populations: patients with polycystic ovarian syndrome, secondary amenorrhoea or patients undergoing IVF treatment. The goal is to develop our digital health platform, Ascelus™, to help improve fertility outcomes via personalised exercise, nutritional and behavioural interventions, which are constantly adjusted through our AI interface, and is supported by scientific research.

#### **Key roles and responsibilities**

- Develop behavioural and psychological advice and treatment based on published evidence, to support the exercise and nutrition team.
- Develop ways to improve motivation of patients through the platform to maximise impact.
- Lead the user experience market research – including patient recruitment, patient observation/interviews and prototype development and modification based on user experience laboratory (Ux lab) involvement (it is our understanding that this approach has not previously been used with patients/clinicians)
- Potential for scientific publication in the field of Social Sciences.

#### **Benefits to candidate (around their career/skill development)**

- Working for a digital health company, you will work alongside experts in the field of public health and technology.
- Provide practical experience working with patients in the field of social sciences, whilst applying your knowledge to help improve healthcare.
- The project will provide valuable industry experience to couple with academic studies, which may aid in future career development.
- Public and stakeholder engagement will improve communication and presentational skills.
- Experience in working with a multidisciplinary team, which is essential for working in the health/tech sector.
- The project will improve behavioural research skills – particularly in user experience and observations.
- Experience of collaborative working with stakeholders across academia, clinical medicine, public health and the commercial sector
- Opportunity to work in a dynamic setting in NEXUS meeting other companies and academics

#### **Ideal candidate**

- Postgraduate studying a core social science such as psychology
- Experience undertaking scientific or business research
- Experience studying behavioural or psychological theories

- Experience of publication/presentations to a range of audiences
- Passion for public health and health improvement
- Understanding of digital technology and the digital health industry

### **Organisation details**

Itecho Health is a young, dynamic company established to develop digital health applications in long-term or stable conditions and is led by clinicians and experts in technology and business. We have created Ascelus™ – a fully integrated platform with patient and clinician user applications and AI/machine learning module interconnected with existing hospital IT systems to improve management of long-term conditions. This aims to benefit patients (increased convenience and empowerment), commissioners (reduced costs) and hospitals (increased capacity for clinicians). This approach has been proven successful in 12,000 patients with stable HIV across five hospitals in Europe.

We are currently working on three main research projects:

1) To develop our platform for use in fertility medicine - to improve fertility outcomes in sub-fertile patient populations, through personalised prescription of lifestyle factors, predominantly physical activity and exercise. The AI system will integrate patient data and NHS Trust clinical records to develop optimal lifestyle interventions and advice.

2) To develop our platform for management of patients with Monoclonal gammopathy of undetermined significance (MGUS), that will provide a more convenient and time efficient way of managing their condition. The project aims to implement Ascelus™, allowing patients to record symptoms, receive clinical advice, test results, information on medication, and make appointments on their mobile device. This will reduce the need for face-to-face appointments and free up clinician time for more complex patients.

3) To develop our platform to assist in the management of men with advanced prostate cancer. Men with advanced prostate cancer currently have to attend out-patient visits up to 15 times per year and our technology may be able to half the number of visits and replace these with a mobile interaction and video conferencing with the existing specialist team.

We are based in Nexus, a newly built research and innovation centre in the heart of the University of Leeds campus.

### **Timetable:**

130 hours in total

Weekly hours flexible and to be agreed

Student will receive a bursary of £1950 to cover their time and expenses on the placement

If you are interested in applying for this placement position please send:

- CV
- Cover Letter
- Email or signature from your Supervisor that they are happy for you to undertake the placement

To LSSI Coordinator Hannah Crow H.E.Crow@leeds.ac.uk by Friday 6<sup>th</sup> December