Lancaster Medical School (LMS) together with the International Observatory on End of Life Care, part of the Division of Health Research (DHR) within Lancaster University’s Faculty of Health and Medicine, are seeking to appoint a Senior Research Associate to join a lively research group conducting research in palliative and end of life care.

**Faculty of Health and Medicine**

Established in 2008, the Faculty of Health and Medicine brings together a critical mass of expertise in teaching, research and outreach from three established departments and their associated centres: Biomedical and Life Sciences; Health Research and Lancaster Medical School.

The Faculty provides research and teaching in an innovative and distinctive blend of subjects across the health and medicine spectrum. We have established links with private, public and third sector healthcare organisations and work closely with institutions in the region and beyond. We have successfully built our reputation in several key areas such as ageing, end of life care, mental health, neurodegenerative disease, developmental biology and disability research, where our academic staff are at the forefront of their fields.

The Faculty offers a diverse range of both undergraduate and postgraduate taught and research programmes in biology, biomedicine, medicine and the social aspects of health. We deliver innovative blended learning courses and are working with healthcare organisations to provide customised Continuing Professional Development.

The Faculty’s research environment was ranked joint first in the UK in the field, in the 2014 Research Evaluation Framework, with a 100% score on everything from investment in staff and facilities to research income and collaboration. Overall, 89% of the Faculty’s research was judged world leading or internationally excellent, with 84% of research outputs being categorised as 3* and 4*. This places the Faculty among the elite universities in this field.

The Faculty also performed well in The Times Higher Education’s research intensity league table which recognises the proportion of staff which are research active, finishing 3rd overall in the UK.

The Faculty is committed to pursuing world-class research. It brings together biomedical, medical, and social science researchers to tackle key challenges of the 21st Century within health and medicine.
 Ranked third in our field in the 2014 Research Assessment Exercise on the 'intensity weighted' score, equal first in 'research environment' and in the top 10 for 'research power', the Faculty offers an ideal academic environment to develop your research career.

The Faculty achieved an Athena Swan Silver Award in 2014.

**Lancaster Medical School**

Lancaster Medical School is an emerging department within one of the top ten UK universities. We have been training medics since 2006, initially in collaboration with the University of Liverpool and independently since 2012. We have a broad range of research expertise with both local focus and international reach. We have a vibrant research community comprising staff from a range of academic and applied backgrounds including: data science, sociology, neurology, ethics, sport science and public health. We share an interest in improving health outcomes locally and globally. The School has strong teaching and research collaborations with NHS colleagues.

Research groups in the Division work closely with our colleagues in the rest of the Faculty of Health and Medicine on the Faculty’s core interdisciplinary research themes: **Ageing; Mental Health; Health Information, Computation and Statistics; Infectious Disease Transmission and Biology; and Social and Economic Inequality in Public Health.**

Lancaster University is the lead institution (with the Universities of Liverpool, Manchester and Central Lancashire) in a collaborative delivering the NIHR Research Design Service North West (RDS NW), which has just been funded for a further 5 years to 2023. The RDS NW provides free design and methodological support to applied health and social care researchers in North West England to develop grant applications to NIHR and other national and international research funders. This advice is largely provided by academics, funded for part of their time by the RDS to co-ordinate and deliver the necessary advice.

The Faculty provides a research environment that strongly supports the individual needs of each employee, promoting a healthy work-life balance. We are committed to family-friendly and flexible working policies on an individual basis, as well as the Athena SWAN Charter, which recognises and celebrates good employment practice undertaken to address gender equality in higher education and research.

In the 2014 Research Assessment Exercise our research was ranked 3rd (intensity weighted score) and 1st for research environment nationally in UoA 3.

**Lancaster University**

Lancaster is a top 10 UK university and top 10 in all three major national league tables. Its 8th place ranking in The Times and The Sunday Times Good University Guide 2020, as well as the winning of the coveted University of the Year award in 2018, cements its place as an elite UK university. Lancaster has a world-class reputation as a centre for excellence in teaching, scholarship and research and is highly ranked in international league tables such as the QS
World Rankings. We have been named International University of the Year 2020 by The Times and The Sunday Times Good University Guide 2020.

The Lancaster University campus occupies a beautiful 360 acre parkland site at Bailrigg, just three miles from Lancaster City Centre. £450m has been invested into the estate since 2002, transforming the campus. Key developments include: new academic centres of excellence, student social facilities, improved teaching spaces and one of the largest student residences projects in the UK. Set near to the Lune Valley and the Forest of Bowland – areas of outstanding natural beauty – and on the edge of the Lake District, the campus is located a short distance from the vibrant and historic city of Lancaster, which has excellent schools. Lancaster is easily accessible by road (M6 Junction 33) and rail (West Coast mainline). It is approximately an hour to Manchester International Airport, and about 2.5 hours by train to London.

**International Observatory on End of Life Care**

The International Observatory on End of Life Care is an internationally known centre of palliative and end of life care education and teaching. We aim to conduct high quality cutting edge research and provide innovative educational programmes to improve palliative and end of life care for patients and family carers.

- **Excellent research** = patient and carer focused research drawing from clinical and social science perspectives to contribute to end of life care knowledge, theory and practice.
- **Innovative education** = to prepare and inspire future leaders in palliative care research and practice.
- **Partnership for impact** = working closely with local, national and international health and social care communities to create practical and academic impacts from our research and education.

Our research at the International Observatory on End of Life Care focuses on the following areas:

- **Care settings**: exploring the impact of providing palliative and end of life care in settings such as care homes, community settings and prisons.

- **Models of palliative and supportive care provision**: understanding how best to provide palliative and end of life care by exploring areas such as integrated service models, advance care planning and the use of volunteers.

- **Populations receiving palliative and supportive care**: understanding the needs of older people and the ageing agenda, family carers, and those with non-malignant conditions such as dementia or stroke.

- **Clinical research**: understanding how to improve a range of physical and psychosocial symptoms.
**Research methods:** improving how palliative care research is conducted through exploring issues such as study recruitment, evaluating complex interventions and ways of working with vulnerable and dying populations.

Full details of our current staff, research and latest publications can be found online here: [http://www.lancaster.ac.uk/fhm/research/ioelc/#introduction](http://www.lancaster.ac.uk/fhm/research/ioelc/#introduction)

**The post**

The post holder will play a key role in a study to evaluate impact of the COVID-19 Pandemic on Care Home Pathways, Outcomes and Safety of Care to improve future care. This builds upon a previous funded study to evaluate an App to support decision-making by care home and community staff when a care home resident becomes unwell. Using a case study approach, we will investigate how the experience of care home staff in how they managed during COVID-19 including further evaluation of the APP. The post holder will support study investigators in the delivery of the study through recruitment and data collection through predominantly interviews of care home and community staff, family members and potentially residents in care homes and subsequent data analysis. They will demonstrate excellent communication skills, attention to detail, and the ability to work alongside care home staff and relatives during the recruitment and data collection period. They will also support the work of the public involvement leads within the project if necessary.

The International Observatory on End of Life Care conducts high quality cutting edge research and provides innovative educational programmes to improve palliative and end of life care for patients and family members. See [www.lancaster.ac.uk/fhm/research/ioelc/](http://www.lancaster.ac.uk/fhm/research/ioelc/)