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Contract for Post Graduate Researcher

~~Title: Post Graduate Research Assistant~~ ~~for Food For the~~ Brain

Position: Working with the team of nutritional therapists, psychiatrists and administration staff at the Brain Bio Centre in Richmond to evaluate the effectiveness of nutritional interventions in the treatment of schizophrenia~~ and depression~~.

Overall Aim of the role

To research the 'optimum nutrition' approach to schizophrenia~~ and depression~~ by means of a comprehensive review of the existing scientific literature; to develop a rational treatment protocol for the treatment of schizophrenia with a nutritional approach, supporting existing drug and non-drug treatments, based on the current scientific evidence; and to test the efficacy of this approach in an open label study with before and after psychometric and biochemical tests.

To research the 'optimum nutrition' approach for depression by means of a preliminary review of the existing scientific literature; to help develop a treatment protocol; and to establish a process for collecting patient data, with before and after psychometric and biochemical tests. [*Our intention is to fund another researcher to complete this depression project to the same end goal as for schizophrenia.]

Specific Duties

A Schizophrenia

1. Review the literature
2. Determine the appropriate research methodology and set up the study at the Brain Bio Centre (and other participating centres if relevant)
3. Conduct the study, having clearly set out and agreed protocols for treatment and data collection with the staff of the Brain Bio Centre.
4. Collate the data
5. Analyse the data, write up the research to PhD standards and for publication
6. Make recommendations for the improvement of the protocol.

B Depression

1. Complete the preliminary literature review for the Depression protocol study which is estimated to require a further 8-12 days work.
2. [Analyse the data once collection is complete].*
3. [Write up the research and make recommendations for the improvement of the protocol, so that we achieve an evidence-based protocol that bears professional and public scrutiny.]*

Remuneration: The Food for the Brain Foundation will fund your PhD over three years, which means a £12,000 per annum bursary, plus yearly fees of £750, that is £38,250 in total). This amounts to 2 days a week (300 or so days).

The researcher is responsible for other administrative and support costs, computers, software, books, journals, travel, attendance at conferences etc. Food for the Brain volunteers may be available, under your supervision, for data collection.

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Benchmarks: The benchmarks for Year 1 are the completion of the literature review on schizophrenia and the establishment and implementation of a methodology for collecting patient data for both schizophrenia and depression. The benchmarks for Year 2 is the ongoing monitoring and collection of patient data following the protocol, both at the Brain Bio Centre, and at other treatment centres if required, to achieve the necessary data. The benchmark for Year 3 is the analysis of this data, completion of the PhD dissertation, and completion of a revised treatment protocol for those with schizophrenia for the Brain Bio Centre in cooperation with the Clinical Team at the Brain Bio Centre.

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Breach of contract: The annual bursary would need to be repaid, as would the cost of the yearly fees if the research was terminated for any reason, or the benchmark was not achieved, by the Researcher, unless otherwise agreed with the Director. Any indications of problems should be brought to the Director's attention as soon as possible.

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Signed:

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Research Assistant _____

_____Date_____

Food for the Brain Director _____

_____ Date_____