



THE UNIVERSITY
of EDINBURGH



Transcript of Rowling Graduate Research Practitioner video

[Kay Johnson]

Hi, my name is Kay and I'm a Graduate Research Practitioner here at the Anne Rowling Clinic.

The Rowling Graduate Research Practitioner role is a 12-month post to give recent graduates a taste of clinical research here at the Anne Rowling Regenerative Neurology Clinic.

The Anne Rowling Clinic is a University of Edinburgh and NHS clinical research facility that was founded by the author J.K. Rowling in memory of her mother Anne. The Clinic integrates the best health care with the best health research for degenerative brain conditions including multiple sclerosis, motor neuron disease, Parkinson's and dementias.

There is some really cutting-edge research going on here, such as the FutureMS study, which is working towards personalised medicine for MS – aiming to predict how severe an individual's MS will be. Then there's the MND-SMART clinical trial which is a UK-wide trial led from Edinburgh that's testing new drug treatments for motor neuron disease. There are over a dozen different research studies going on, as well as NHS Lothian specialist clinics, so it's always busy!

In the role I've had the opportunity to learn how clinical research studies work, to interact with patients and manage their visits from start to finish, as well as involving them in the research studies and taking informed consent. I've also been able to carry out various clinical tests such as cognitive tests for thinking and memory.

I want to go on in the future to study medicine and I feel this has been an excellent springboard that will hopefully help with my applications to medical school.

I've really enjoyed my time working here. I've felt very supported by the other research practitioners, research nurses and doctors who work here, they're a great team. It's so rewarding to feel that I've helped contribute to clinical research and maybe brought a little hope to those who have participated in our research.

[Robin Pillinger]

Hi, I'm Robin. I've also been a Rowling Graduate Research Practitioner here this year. My background is a little different from Kay's, I did a degree in psychology.

What attracted me to this position was that it was a great way to gain experience while being employed as a staff member here at the University of Edinburgh.

It's certainly opened my eyes to a whole spectrum of research. For instance in the next building we have laboratories where they are using stem cells to investigate neurodegenerative disorders and test new treatments. It was fascinating to go on a tour of the labs and understand more about the process of discovering new candidate drugs that we can test in trials here in the Clinic.

What I've most enjoyed about my time here is meeting so many different people and getting such a wide range of experience, particularly the patient contact. Every day is different and always comes with new learning experiences. My time here has inspired me to decide that I want to go into clinical psychology. While previous colleagues have gone on to do PhDs.

If you're passionate about getting involved in clinical research I'd really encourage you to apply for the Graduate Research Practitioner position.