Fellowship summary:

The Fellowship Programme at UCL's PRIMENT Clinical Trials Unit and the Research Department of Primary Care and Population Health will focus on the theme of “Strengthening health systems and capacity”. The programme is designed to increase international capacity amongst primary care health care professionals working in LAMIC to develop health programmes in primary care and to evaluate them through the application of clinical trial methodology. The programme offers structured education and individual supervision and mentorship. Teaching will encompass development, design, conduct and analysis of complex interventions in primary care settings and will equip the fellow with key skills for evaluating complex interventions in primary care. Fellows with also be supervised and supported during the programme so that they can apply the knowledge thus acquired to create a research protocol on a topic in need of evaluation within their environment. This will then form the basis of a future research programme.

Eligibility:

1) The fellow must be a professional working in the primary health care in their country
2) The fellowship programme is suited to health professionals working in countries where primary care is at the cusp of growth within their health services
3) Applicants will be considered from all eligible geographical areas.
4) The Fellows' long-term goal will be focused on evaluation of complex interventions and conduct of clinical trials in primary care settings.
5) At the time of applying, the fellow must bring with them a specific primary care health related intervention/treatment that they wish to evaluate scientifically.

Proposed Fellowship Dates: 16/03/2020 to 24/04/2020

Proposed activity:

16th -17th March 2020: Orientation and programme planning

18th–24th March 2020: Week 1 structured teaching: The aim of this part of the course is to provide the Fellow with the key research skills required to get started on evaluating complex interventions. There will be a series of small group sessions designed to provide the fellow with the theoretical understanding of the topics listed below:
1) Day 1 – 18th March - framing a focused research question on the evaluation of interventions
2) Day 2 – 19th March - Study designs used to evaluate interventions
3) Day 3 – 20th March - The steps involved in designing a complex intervention
4) Day 4 – 23rd March - The design and conduct of feasibility, pilot and the main randomised trials
5) Day 5 – 24th March - Writing a research protocol.

25th–31st March 2020: Development of a Research Protocol: After this initial grounding, the fellow will work with their allocated supervisor on their pre-selected health related question (N.B the selection of this health question is a pre-requisite for enrolling on to this programme). This idea will serve as the foundation for developing a suitable research proposal. The process from here will include literature searches to ascertain the importance of the research question and to identify other work undertaken in the field, followed by framing a research hypothesis leading to the development of SMART aims and objectives and choosing the most appropriate study design to test their hypothesis.

1st-7th April 2020: Week 2 structured teaching - will focus on more detailed aspects of clinical trials and will include an:

1) Day 1 – 1st April - Introduction to statistics as applied to clinical evaluations/trials
2) Day 2 – 2nd April – Introduction to health economics as applied to clinical evaluations/trials
3) Day 3 – 3rd April - Introduction to the evaluation of CTIMPs; the operational management of both CTIMPs and non CTIMPs
4) Day 4 –6th April - Critical appraisal of published studies on evaluation of intervention
5) 5)Day 5 - 7th April – Formal Assessment

8th–19th April 2020: Development of personal research proposal: Following a week of more advanced training in trial methods, the fellow will further develop their research protocol under the supervision of their allocated supervisor and an additional allocated methodology supervisor (i.e. statistician and health economist). At the end of this period the fellow will be expected to have completed the first draft of a research protocol on the evaluation of an intervention.

20th-26th April 2020: Final week: In this week the fellow will be allowed to choose an area for further personal development. The choices available will include exposure to data analysis, health economic evaluations or clinical trial management. The 24th April 2020 morning will be used to obtain feedback on fellowship programme and to establish long term links with the fellow to ensure that the work done as a part of this programme is taken forward.

Priority Theme: Strengthening health systems and capacity