

Job description

Position as Professor in Cognitive and Clinical
Psychology

Research Unit of Psychiatry,
Department of Clinical Research, Faculty of Health
Sciences, University of Southern Denmark and
Department of Psychiatry Odense,
Mental Health Services, Region of Southern Denmark

September 2024

1. The vacant position

The vacant position is a combined post as a professor in Cognitive and Clinical Psychology at the Research Unit of Psychiatry (Odense), Department of Clinical Research, University of Southern Denmark (SDU) and a psychologist at the Department of Psychiatry Odense.

The time is allocated with 50 % to university (professor) and 50 % to clinical (psychologist) duties.

The position is for 5 years with the possibility of prolongation.

1.1. Qualifications and expertise

The Department of Psychiatry Odense and Research Unit of Psychiatry seeks outstanding candidates to fill a position as a professor in psychology. The research and clinical areas of interest for the research unit are developmental disorders and psychosis in adults.

The Department of Psychiatry seeks a candidate with a research and clinical background in psychology, carrying out cutting-edge research within the field of cognitive psychology in neurodevelopmental disorders and psychosis. The successful candidate is expected to work in close collaboration with existing research activities in at least one of the main sections of the Research Department.

The applicant must be qualified as a clinical psychologist according to the Danish rules, with special interest and documented experience in developmental disorders, schizophrenia and social cognition. Furthermore, the applicant is expected to have experience in psychological testing, clinical differential diagnostics, collaboration with authorities, and an understanding of and experience with the clinical environment in a hospital department.

In the clinical part of the position (50%), you will be employed in the Assessment Team, a part of the Services for Community Psychiatry in Odense.

The Assessment Team assesses patients with suspected psychosis, ADHD, or autism. The assessment is often complex, with several diagnostic considerations, comorbidity, and substance abuse.

In the assessments, we use PSE, EASE, ADI-R, ADOS, Wais-V, SCID-V and DIVA.

Apart from you, the team consists of two consultant psychiatrists who, besides their clinical employment, act as an associate professor and a training supervising consultant psychiatrist, respectively. Furthermore, there is a second clinical psychologist, a psychologist, and an "SPU" (Psychologist training to be a Clinical Psychologist). The team is supported by an administrative unit.

The Assessment Team works closely with the other teams in the District Psychiatry.

We offer:

- Ambitions of a high degree of professionalism
- Interesting work assignments in the field of psychiatric assessment
- Extensive teamwork between doctors and psychologists
- A supportive professional and social community in the team, as well as in the group of psychologists
- A multidisciplinary team (Assessment Team)
- A team of fellow psychologists in mono-disciplinary forums

- The opportunity to be part of the University Hospital with many medical specialities and opportunities for knowledge sharing across teams

Work assignments for the specialist psychologist:

- Screening sessions
- Clinical psychiatric assessments
- Testing in connection with psychopathological assessment, including PSE, SCID-V, WAIS-IV, D-KEFS, EASE, ADI-R, ADOS, DIVA
- Instructing and supervising younger colleagues

We are looking for a specialist psychologist with:

- A general interest in psychopathology and clinical assignments

The fundamental tasks are research (including an obligation regarding publishing/scientific procurement) and research-based teaching (with an associated obligation in terms of examination). Furthermore, the tasks may consist of knowledge sharing with society, including participation in the public debate. Moreover, the handling of research management, counselling and supervision of assistant professors and researchers, as well as assessment work, might be added.

The applicant must be well-qualified and have a strong research profile in cognitive and clinical psychology. Commitment to teaching and the ability to lead a research group, including experience with attaining funding and the supervision of master's students, PhD students and postdocs, are required.

Emphasis will be on the applicant's ability to document original scientific production at an international level within the area of schizophrenia, developmental disorders, and social cognition research.

The applicant must submit the following documents in order to be considered for the position:

- An application
- A detailed CV
- Degree certificates (including PhD-diploma) (combined as one single PDF file)
- A teaching portfolio which details the candidate's prior teaching experience, teaching skills, and teaching philosophy
- A research plan which details the candidate's ideas and plans for her/his future research work
- References
- A complete and numbered list of publications
- 10 scientific peer-reviewed publications, which the candidate considers as most important for the position. Please notice that one PDF file must be attached for each publication

Furthermore, the candidate must have a successful record in obtaining research funding, experience in practice with international research collaboration, experience as a research leader and effective oral, written and verbal communication and interpersonal skills.

Documented experience as Head of Research, head of large research projects, head of teaching and other administrative jobs will be an advantage. The applicant is expected to be qualified in academic teaching as an associate professor or equivalent.

1.1.1. Obligations

The professor's obligations will primarily be:

- To consolidate and develop the functions of the Research Unit of Psychiatry.
- Research related to developmental disorders, schizophrenia and social cognition psychology, evaluating new rating scales
- Research related to mental health conditions (developmental disorders, schizophrenia)
- Research in social cognition and evaluation of psychological rating scales and adapting and verifying them to the Danish population
- Participation in advancing the research in neurodevelopmental disorders and psychosis at the Mental Health Services (in collaboration with Tanja Sheldrick-Michel, Professor and Chair in Psychiatry and Head of the Research Unit of Psychiatry)

1.1.1.1. Research

The professor is expected to contribute to further developing the research strategy and profile of the department with special emphasis on Cognitive and Clinical Psychology. The professor is also expected to increase the research activity and establish collaboration with other researchers at Mental Health Services, university functions and SDU. The professor should participate in further scientific development of the fields both nationally and internationally. Also, profiling the field in the public eye will be an important task. Experience in working within large national and international scientific networks and consortia is desired, as well as experience in a different range of research methods. Finally, the professor is expected to supervise postdocs, PhD-students, and pre-graduate students.

1.1.1.2. Teaching

The professor is expected to be engaged in teaching at the Faculty of Health Sciences.

1.1.1.2.1. Planning

The Head of Research is responsible for planning the teaching within the department; additionally, the professor is expected to plan his/her own teaching.

1.1.2. Other obligations

The applicant is also expected to front their area of research in the public debate. Moreover, the applicant is expected to perform public duties, *i.e.* to chair commissions and boards etc.

1.1.3. Management and administration

The professor is expected to:

- Manage his/her own group.
- Perform evaluations of other researchers at the Faculty of Health Sciences
- Participate in and chair committees, etc., at the Faculty of Health Sciences and other universities.

1.2. University position

The position as professor is affiliated with the [Research Unit of Psychiatry](#) at the [Department of Clinical Research](#).

1.2.1. Reference

The professor refers to the departmental management at the hospital. Regarding research and teaching, i.e. university aspects, the professor refers to the Head of the Department of Clinical Research through the Head of Research of the Research Unit of Psychiatry, Prof. Dr. Sheldrick-Michel. Organisational matters in relation to the field of research in Psychiatry and at Mental Health Services have to be coordinated with the Research Unit of Psychiatry. The professor will be a member of this group.

Employment as a professor requires successful evaluation by an expert panel consisting of a professor from the Department of Clinical Research taking on the role of chairman and two external professors.

2. Mental Health Services, Region of Southern Denmark

The [Mental Health Services in the Region of Southern Denmark](#) is one of Denmark's largest psychiatric hospitals. The hospital comprises the departments in Odense, Svendborg, Middelfart, Aabenraa, Esbjerg, and Vejle, in addition to child and youth psychiatric departments, unit for trauma and unit for telepsychiatry, all sharing the same board of directors.

A new university hospital, including a psychiatric department, is currently planned to be finished in 2026. The new hospital will be located adjacent to the current main campus of the University of Southern Denmark (SDU). This co-location of the two institutions is unique in Europe and will facilitate the cooperation between the psychiatric departments in Odense and the faculties of the University of Southern Denmark.

For further information please contact Prof. Dr. T. Sheldrick-Michel via email:
Tanja.Michel@rsyd.dk.

3. The Hospital Department

Please refer to Sonja Rasmussen, administrative consultant, for more information.

3.1. Clinical specialities and expertise

The Department of Psychiatry provides services to patients in Odense and the Northern part of Funen.

Geographically, the department provides inpatient services for 111 patients, such as a unit for old age psychiatry and one for affective disorder, etc., at J.B. Winsløvsvej 18, 5000 Odense C and outpatients services at Toldbodhus vej 4, 5000 Odense C.

The community mental health teams are part of the Department of Psychiatry and are located at the waterfront in Odense, with public transportation close by.

The department's huge outpatient unit houses 10 multidisciplinary service teams, some of which have a "regional specialist function" in the Region of Southern Denmark, such as e.g.:

- Affective team
- OPUS – psychosis in younger adults
- General psychiatry outpatients - Psychosis
- Crisis resolution and Home treatment team
- Old age Psychiatry team
- Learning disabilities
- Sexual and personality disorder services
- Team for Complex Differential Diagnosis in Developmental Disorders and Psychosis (URT)

3.2. Research Unit of Psychiatry Odense

The Research Unit houses several relevant groups that can host the candidate, such as the group for neurodevelopmental disorders, alcohol research (UCAR) and ageing. The groups use the newest neuroimaging and cutting-edge stem cell molecular Psychiatry as well as randomised control trials and qualitative research, to name only a few. In addition to the laboratory facilities, the candidate will have access to advanced core technologies, e.g. neuroimaging. Close collaborations with different Institutes at SDU and Odense University Hospital ensure excellent possibilities for translational research.

The Research Unit of Psychiatry is an integrated part of the Department of Psychiatry Odense at the Mental Health Services with a smaller secretarial/technical staff and close collaboration with the staff collecting data at the Department of Clinical Research, Faculty of Health Science at SDU.

3.3. Management and organisation of the department

The medical staff of the department comprises 23 consultants, 3 Senior Registrars, 15 Junior doctors, 1 Head psychologist, 9 Clinical Psychologists, 18 Psychologists, and 10 Psychologists in specialist training.

The department is managed by administrating Consultant Psychiatrist and Head of the Department, Sonja Rasmussen and Head Nurse Rikke Sveistrup. The Research unit of Psychiatry is a staff function to the departmental management. In addition to aspects of research, it comprises general departmental functions related to the Department. The secretarial and (clinical) research staff refers to the Chair of Psychiatry and Head of Research Tanja M. Sheldrick-Michel and is a part of the general administrative staff of the department. Each sub-speciality is headed by a consultant, and each clinic is headed by a department nurse.

3.4. Catchment area and regional functions

In accordance with the plans issued by the Danish National Board of Health, the department provides all services at the local level (population of approximately 220,000) and all services at the regional level (population of approximately 1,2 million).

3.5. Highly specialised functions

The Region's highly specialised and national service in the field of psychiatry the area of eating disorders, which is situated in Odense.

3.6. Teaching

The Department of Psychiatry and the Research Unit provides training and teaching for medical students, pharmacology students, nurses and nursing sciences, students in biomedicine, biology, and psychology, as well as PhDs, postdocs, trainee psychiatrists and psychologists.

3.7. Research

The Research Unit of Psychiatry has developed immensely over the past 15 years. It has contributed to the understanding, diagnostics, and treatment of psychiatric disorders with a range of mental health conditions with a focus on neurodevelopmental disorders in adults, psychosis, disorders of the ageing and addiction. In the last 10 years, the research unit has been applying cutting-edge neurobiological and innovative multidisciplinary approaches in addition to register-based and qualitative research along with RCTs. It has established a centre for stem cell research within the neurobiological laboratory and established a specialist services for adults with neurodevelopment disorders such as autism and ADHD and patients with high risk for an early onset of psychosis in the clinics. The main interest is to combine several neuroscientific methods in order to find biochemical and clinical biomarkers for understanding the complex neurobiology of mental disorders and a better stratification of the patients accordingly. The research goal is to help psychiatric patients apply individualised treatment models.

The Research Unit of Psychiatry at the Department of Psychiatry is headed by professor Dr. Tanja Sheldrick-Michel and comprises around 40 members of scientific staff, for instance, a number of full professors (3), associate professors (5), PhDs, postdocs and master-students etc.

The Research Unit of Psychiatry collaborates with several other units and departments at Mental Health Services in the Region of Southern Denmark, several departments at SDU, regional hospitals, and has national as well as international contacts.

The fields of interest are stem cell research in psychiatry, neuroimaging, RCTs, qualitative and register-based research. Please refer to the [Department of Clinical Research - SDU](#) for more information.

4. Faculty of Health Science

The [Faculty of Health Science](#) is one of five faculties at the University of Southern Denmark. The faculty offers a grand variety of bachelor- and master's programs. (For further details, please see [Programmes](#).)

5. Department of Clinical Research

The [Department of Clinical Research](#) comprises [>45 research units](#) based on departments at Odense University Hospital and Mental Health Services in the Region of Southern Denmark. (For more information about the department's research, please see [SDU's Research Portal](#).)

The department's staff teach at all the programmes offered by the Faculty of Health Sciences, however, primarily in medicine. (Read more about the department and its key figures [here](#).)

6. Living and working in Denmark

The [International Staff Office](#) (ISO) at SDU provides a grand variety of services for new employees, guests and people who are considering applying for a job at the University of Southern Denmark.