

Candidate Information

Position:	Biomedical Scientist - KTP Associate - SiSaf Ltd
School/Department:	KTP and Business Networks
Reference:	19/107239
Closing Date:	Wednesday 27 March 2019
Salary:	£29,000 to £34,000 per annum. One of the key KTP benefits for graduates is access to a £8,000 training and travel budget over the 24 month project.
Anticipated Interview Date:	Friday 12 April 2019
Duration:	24 months

JOB PURPOSE:

The project will develop new formulations with the view of treating back of the eye disease conditions associated with macular degeneration.

MAJOR DUTIES:

1. We wish to recruit a highly skilled and motivated graduate to work in SiSaf in collaboration with Queen's University Belfast for 24 months. Through this Knowledge Transfer Partnership, SiSaf seeks to develop formulations to reduce the frequency of intravitreal injections with targeting and controlled release of known drugs for treatment of age related macular degeneration (AMD) to reduce and prevent blindness. The postholder will develop both industry and academic skills in biotechnology and molecular pathology with emphasis on drug delivery and efficacy in pre-clinical in vitro, ex vivo and in vivo model systems. The postholder will be based between both the SiSaf research laboratories (Jordanstown, Newtownabbey) and Queen's University laboratories, with meetings at SiSaf's offices, Innovation Centre, Catalyst Inc, Belfast.
2. The programme of work will consist of the following activities:
 - 1 – Associate development in biotechnology and commercial understanding related to drug delivery formulation and human medicines.
 - 2 – Drug candidate identification, selection and formulation.
 - 3 – Assessment of in vitro drug delivery to cell lines and ex vivo explants relevant to wet AMD.
 - 4 – Development of drug delivery product suitable for in vivo physiological conditions.
 - 5 – Assessment of in vivo drug delivery applicable to wet AMD.
 - 6 - Financial management of the project and commercial exploitation of outcomes, regulatory, quality, product manufacture and market intelligence.
 - 7 – Embedding new wet AMD drug delivery preparations for back of the eye disease knowledge within company.
 - 8 – Dissemination of project findings.

Planning and Organising:

1. Manage and coordinate the items of work as laid out in the project plan (individual work plan will be provided by Supervisors).
2. Plan day-to-day activity within the framework of the agreed work plan.
3. Contribute to the planning and management of the project, approximately 3-6 months in advance.
4. Ensure that all training and development activity is scheduled to ensure that progress on the work plan objectives is not interrupted or delayed.

Resource Management Responsibilities:

1. Plan and manage day-to-day resources to ensure the project runs to time and on budget.
2. Coordinate and obtain approval for planned expenditure/allocation of resources with the Management Committee and Steering Group.
3. Carry out supervision of placement students or other staff members as required.

4. Monitor travel and development budgets and produce a Personal Development Plan which will ensure best use of financial resources.
5. Attend training modules (mandatory and additional job-specific training). This may be local, national and international.
6. Perform any other additional duties as agreed by the Local Management Committee and Steering Groups to contribute to the development of the company, the university and the Associate.

Internal and External Relationships:

1. Present regular progress reports to members of the Steering and Management Groups and to external audiences.
2. Liaise with company staff on a daily basis. Contribute to training of staff in the company and university as required.
3. Build relationships with both company and university staff to ensure effective working practices are established.
4. Attend and contribute to any appropriate meetings, both in the company and the university as required.
5. Establish contacts with additional groups and organisations (other KTP Associates, other university departments, other industrial contacts, and Innovate UK) as required to develop knowledge and understanding and form relationships for future collaboration.
6. Act as an Ambassador for the Knowledge Transfer Partnership Scheme.

ESSENTIAL CRITERIA:

1. Hold (or be about to obtain) a PhD degree in a relevant Biomedicine area or a closely related subject.
2. Three years relevant work or research experience* to include:
 - Molecular cell biology skills.
 - Experience working with in vitro and in vivo model systems.
3. Ability to design and to establish experimental set-ups.
4. High quality publication record commensurate with stage of career, recent PhD graduates should demonstrate evidence of publishable quality data produced from their project.
*can include relevant experience gained through a higher degree, student project or placement.
5. Good oral written and presentation skills.
6. High level of IT skills.
7. Excellent written and spoken English required for report writing and presentations at regular project meetings.
8. Ability to think logically, create solutions and make informed decisions i.e. a high level of literacy and scientific logic.
9. A high level of numeracy and the ability to interpret data.
10. Ability to prepare journal and conference papers.
11. Ability to work effectively as a member of a group.
12. Well organised, attention to detail and ability to meet tight deadlines.
13. An interest in staying with the Company. (Associates are normally invited to apply for permanent positions).
14. Ability to take part in Associate management courses (requiring two one-week periods in England).
15. Willing/able to travel throughout the UK and Ireland and abroad, as necessary.

DESIRABLE CRITERIA:

1. Experience in ophthalmology.
2. Experience in drug formulation.
3. Experience in drug delivery.
4. Experience in imaging techniques.
5. Experience in preparing SOPs.
6. Experience in a quality management system (e.g. ISO 9001 or other standards).
7. Experience in working in a commercial biotech industry.
8. Ability to deliver training and follow-up support to operatives.
9. Ability to influence people effectively.
10. Tenacious and committed to achieving goals.
11. Communicate accurately and concisely.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

Knowledge Transfer Partnerships is a UK programme that enables businesses to work with universities to gain access to specialist knowledge and expertise and apply it within their organisation. Each Partnership recruits a Graduate to work in the company, implementing and embedding the latest research techniques. Guidance is provided by the academic and company supervisors to ensure that the objectives of the project are met. Although the scheme is aimed at recent graduates, any suitably qualified individual may apply.

Each KTP is a fully salaried job that lasts between twelve and thirty six months, providing the graduate with an opportunity to fast track a career in industry. Each KTP Associate has a training and development budget and a travel budget. This funding provides opportunities for job-specific training, attending and presenting at conferences, visiting trade shows, customers and suppliers etc. Two, one week residential management training modules are also provided as part of the package.

This partnership received financial support from the Knowledge Transfer Partnerships (KTP) programme . KTP aims to help businesses to improve their competitiveness and productivity through the better use of knowledge, technology and skills that reside within the UK knowledge base. This successful Knowledge Transfer Partnership project, funded by UK Research and Innovation through Innovate UK, is part of the government's Industrial Strategy.

As members of University staff, KTP Associates can join the University pension scheme, gain access to University resources such as the Library and sports facilities.

More details are available at www.ktpjobsni.com.