Candidate Information

Position:	Technician
School/Department:	Centre for Experimental Medicine
Reference:	19/107679
Closing Date:	Wednesday 21 August 2019
Salary:	£27,831 - £32,236 per annum.
Anticipated Interview Date:	4 September 2019
Duration:	Until 31 March 2021

JOB PURPOSE:

To be a highly productive and collaborative member of the Clinical Infection research team led by Dr Ronan McMullan in the Centre for Experimental Medicine. The position will involve working as part of an NIHR HTA-funded research programme that seeks to evaluate the diagnostic accuracy of rapid tests for fungal infections.

The main purpose of the postholder will be to co-ordinate the storage, transport and testing of clinical specimens by close liaison with collaborators at study sites across the UK.

The job description should be considered indicative of the type of duties that can be expected, however, these may change and develop depending on the demands of the project.

MAJOR DUTIES:

1. Plan and oversee the day to day technical running of the laboratory, ensuring high standards are maintained in the quality of work produced to meet customer needs. Customers will include staff in the Centre and collaborators in NHS and industrial settings.
2. Consult with academic and research staff regarding planning and development of work and provide assistance to them in the development of work packages related to the projects being run by the group
3. Develop, construct and refine experimental methods and techniques, providing specialist technical advice and training to staff in the relevant techniques, drawing upon considerable depth of knowledge, skills, experience and expertise.
4. Prepare materials and set up equipment for complex experiments based on specialist technical knowledge and expertise. This will include the handling and archiving of human samples including blood, urine and faeces as well as the subsequent analysis of these samples for detection of pathogens and related biomarkers.
5. Contribute to and make recommendations on the development of new or improved methods/techniques based on technical knowledge and expertise. This will include developing Standard operating procedures for laboratory methods and techniques required to analyse a range of clinical samples.
6. Carry out research, run samples and experiments and undertake complex analysis of information, data and/or calculations identifying issues that require to be addressed. Present results accurately and appropriately.
7. Ensure maintenance of current and future stock requirements of equipment/and consumables for own work area. Liaise with collaborators at study sites across the UK to ensure adequate stock control at these sites and enable the smooth-running of the research.
8. Supervise junior technical staff to ensure work is carried out safely and efficiently. Training staff and students involved in related projects to carry out work according to Standard Operating Procedures and ensure best use of resources.
9. Manage project IT requirements including maintaining and updating software, ensuring security, availability and accessibility needs are met.
10. Diagnose and rectify faults and problems with equipment and procedures.
11. Monitor and maintain a safe working environment in accordance with Health and Safety procedures.
12. Maintain records and oversee budget accounting of materials, stocks and equipment to monitor and control finances.

13. Assist academic and research staff with administration work related to projects being undertaken by the group. This will include working with the NI clinical trials unit, and partners in industry and collaborators at study sites across the UK It will also include regular reporting on progress of the research and preparation of written reports for this purpose. The postholder will also provide assistance with research governance in both health services and University sectors, as required.
14. Develop standard operating procedures with a view to establishing Good Laboratory Practice (GLP) standards within work area.
15. Carry out any other duties which are appropriate to the post as may be reasonably be requested by Supervisor.

Planning and Organising:

1. Plan and allocate work and responsibilities using discretion to determine priorities and resolve conflicts to meet targets and deadlines.

Resource Management Responsibilities:

1. Plan and allocate work and responsibilities to ensure the delivery of the research project on time, within budget and to the required standard.
2. Oversee the use and maintenance of expensive and complex equipment.
3. Take delegated responsibility for budgets/resources by following established procedures.
4. On the job training of students and staff in use of equipment and techniques in own area of expertise.
5. Supervise a team of technical staff, if appropriate.
6. Liaise with procurement team to ensure adequate supply of services (eg transport), hardware and consumables for the smooth-running of the project.

Internal and External Relationships:

1. Daily contact with work colleagues, University staff and students.
2. Regular liaison with external contacts, including the NI clinical trials unit.
3. Regular liaison with study sites involved in the research.

ESSENTIAL CRITERIA:

1. Academic and/or vocational qualifications ie Degree, HND/HNC and/or NVQ level 4 in relevant subject (or equivalent).
2. 4 years relevant work experience to include:
   -bacteriological techniques
   -DNA extraction and amplification by PCR
   -enzyme immunoassays
   -development and/or implementation of standard operating procedures.
3. Comprehensive technical knowledge and experience in own scientific or technical specialism.
4. IT skills.
5. Well developed understanding of relevant regulations and procedures including Health and Safety requirements.
6. Skills in managing budgets/resources.
7. Ability to work alone and as part of a team as appropriate.
8. Excellent written and oral communication skills.
9. Ability to analyse and communicate research data effectively in different settings.
10. Ability to plan and allocate work and responsibilities using discretion to determine priorities and resolve conflicts to meet targets and deadlines.
11. Supervisory skills.
12. Flexibility to work the hours required for the job.
13. Willing to handle patient samples.

DESIRABLE CRITERIA:

1. PhD in relevant subject.
2. Experience of maintaining a database.
3. Knowledge of GLP standards.
4. Knowledge of relevant database and presentation packages.
5. Knowledge of health service and University costing procedures.
6. Knowledge of research governance procedures in health service and University.