Candidate Information

Position:	Research Fellow
School/Department:	School of Pharmacy
Reference:	19/107741
Closing Date:	Wednesday 2 October 2019
Salary:	£33,797 - £35,845 per annum
Duration:	Available until 30 September 2020

JOB PURPOSE:

The work will involve the development and assessment of a mRNA vaccine in a microneedle patch for Castrate Resistant Prostate Cancer (CRPC). This is a Prostate Cancer UK funded position. The post holder will be required to perform a range of cutting edge methodologies, through both in vitro and in vivo modelling to assess the immunological impact of the mRNA vaccine. The post holder will be an active member of a research project/team assisting in the planning and delivery of the research activity within a specified area, so that the overall research objectives of the project/school are met.
Additionally, the successful applicant will be expected to contribute to the day to day running of the molecular biology labs.

MAJOR DUTIES:

1. To design, develop and execute experiments related to the above described project under the supervision of Professor Helen McCarthy, and in coordination with another Research Fellow employed on the same project.
2. Carry out analyses, critical evaluations, and interpretations using methodologies and other techniques appropriate to area of research.
3. Present regular progress reports on research to members of the research group or to external audiences to disseminate and publicise research findings.
4. Prepare, in consultation with supervisor, material for publication in national and international journals and presentations at international conferences.
5. The appointed individual will be encouraged to formulate, write and submit grants for fellowship awards, project and travel support.
6. To assist with the supervision of postgraduate students, honours or summer students on mini-projects, which will help develop their own supervisory skills.
7. Carry out routine administrative tasks associated with the research project/s to ensure that project/s are completed on time and within budget.
8. Read academic papers, journals and textbooks to keep abreast of developments in own specialism and related disciplines and to maintain awareness of the context of the research project.
9. Any other reasonable duties within the general ambit of the post and competence of post holder.

Planning and Organising:

1. Plan for specific aspects of the research programme. Timescales range from 1-6 months in advance and contribute to research group planning.
2. Plan own day-to-day activity within framework of the agreed research programme.
3. Plan up from 1-6 months in advance to meet deadlines for journal publications and to prepare presentations and papers for conferences.
4. Coordinate and liaise with other members of the research group over work progress.

Resource Management Responsibilities:

1. Support the development and training of support staff and students by making available their research experience and expertise.

2. Take shared responsibility for the upkeep of lab equipment and replenishment of lab stocks and exercise due diligence when using equipment.

Internal and External Relationships:

1. Communicate appropriately with lab colleagues the latest research findings/results.
2. Develop contacts with other labs within the research community at Queen's and look to identify potential cross-discipline collaborations.
3. Work collaboratively with external academic/industrial partners.
4. Join national and international scientifically relevant societies.

ESSENTIAL CRITERIA:

1. Have or about to obtain a PhD in life sciences (immunology, molecular biology, virology, or a related subject).
2. At least 3-years recent, relevant research experience.
3. Experience of human T cell immunology, molecular biology, cellular immunotherapy.
4. Experience of handling and separating blood samples into immune cell components.
5. Experience of performing functional immunology assays.
6. Knowledge of flow cytometry.
7. In vivo modelling experience of cancer with a personal license.
8. Research publications in relevant reputable peer-reviewed journals, commensurate with career stage.
9. Sufficient breadth and depth of specialist knowledge in the discipline and of research methods and techniques to work within established research programmes.
10. Ability to communicate complex information clearly in both oral and written formats.
11. Ability to prioritise own work within a general plan to meet deadlines.
12. Ability to contribute to broader management and administrative processes.
13. Ability to build contacts and participate in internal and external networks.
14. Analytical and problem-solving skills.
15. Ability to assess and organise resources.
16. Due to the nature of the projects, flexibility of working hours may be required.

DESIRABLE CRITERIA:

1. Masters degree in life sciences.
2. Evidence of Scientific membership e.g. AACR
3. Experience of nanoparticle formulation and characterisation.
4. Experience in bioinformatics and in the analyses of high throughput datasets.
5. Experience of training/mentoring of students or early career staff.
6. Evidence of having presented at conferences (poster or oral).

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

Informal enquiries may be directed to Dr Monika Ziminiska via email to m.ziminska@qub.ac.uk.