Candidate Information

Position:	Research Fellow– Ocular Drug Delivery
School/Department:	Pharmacy
Reference:	20/108111
Closing Date:	Wednesday 19 February 2020
Salary:	£33,797 - £36,914 per annum
Anticipated Interview Date:	Tuesday 3 March 2020
Duration:	This post is available for 31 January 2021.

JOB PURPOSE:

To be an active member within the Drug Delivery research cluster at the School of Pharmacy, Queen's University Belfast and assist in the planning and delivery of industry funded research project within the area of Ocular Drug Delivery so that the overall research objectives of the project are met.

MAJOR DUTIES:

1. Develop and plan research within the area of novel controlled release drug delivery systems for ocular applications.
2. Design, develop and refine experimental apparatus and experiments appropriate to the preparation, characterisation and development of controlled release drug delivery systems.
3. Develop and validate analytical/bio-analytical techniques; conduct stability studies for small and large molecules, as per standard guidelines.
4. Carry out analysis, critical evaluations, and interpretations using methodologies and other techniques appropriate for the characterisation of controlled release drug delivery systems.
5. Present regular progress reports on research to members of the research group, funding body and external audiences to disseminate and publicise research findings.
6. Prepare, often in consultation with line manager, material for publication in high-impact journals and present at national/international conferences.
7. Assist grant holder in the preparation of funding proposals and applications to external bodies.
8. Carry out routine administrative duties as requested, e.g. organisation of project meetings and documentation and risk assessment of research activities.
9. Read academic papers, journals and textbooks to keep abreast of developments.
10. Carry out any other duties designated by a line manager and which fall within the general ambit of the post.

Planning and Organising:

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

Resource Management Responsibilities:

1. Ensure research resources are used in an effective and efficient manner.
2. Provide guidance as required to support staff and any students who may be assisting with research.

Internal and External Relationships:

1. Liaise with research colleagues and funding body on routine matters.

2. Make internal and external contacts to develop knowledge and understanding and form relationships for future collaboration.
3. Attend and contribute to relevant meetings.
4. Join external networks to share information and ideas.
5. Contribute to the School's outreach programme by establishing links with local community groups, industries etc.

ESSENTIAL CRITERIA:

1. 2:1 Honors Degree or equivalent in pharmacy, polymer science, or pharmaceutical chemistry.
2. Have or about to obtain a PhD in pharmacy, drug delivery, or pharmaceutics.
3. At least 3 years recent and relevant research experience in the area of Ocular drug delivery.
4. Experience in laboratory-based research in fabrication and characterization of long-acting depot forming formulations.
5. Experience in biocompatibility studies of ocular implants.
6. Experience in analytical method development and validation of biologics (e.g. HPLC, ELISA, SEC-HPLC).
7. Experience in research project supervision.
8. Good planning, organization, and execution skills.
9. Manage allotted tasks to completion and issuing of report.
10. Contribute to the School's outreach programme by links with industry, community groups etc.
11. Good knowledge of the biomaterials processing, characterisation and testing.
12. Practical problem-solving skills and independence of thought are required.
13. Evidence of good technical writing and presentation skills.
14. Ability to communicate complex information clearly.
15. Ability to build contacts and participate in internal and external networks.
16. A calm and conscientious scientist, able to work in a disciplined manner within a team environment.
17. Ability to devise, advise on and manage research programmes.
18. Ability to prioritize and re-prioritize activities as needed to accomplish unanticipated requests or initiate new projects requiring immediate attention.
19. Ability to coordinate and motivate other team members.
20. Must be willing to conduct in vivo studies.

DESIRABLE CRITERIA:

1. 1st class Honors Degree in a pharmacy, or pharmaceutical chemistry.
2. Experience of polymer material characterization.
3. Experience in drug delivery, pre-formulation, and/or pharmaceutical technology.
4. Experience of rheological evaluation of polymeric gels.
5. Experience of supervising MSc/PhD research projects.
6. Demonstrate good knowledge of pharmaceutical product development, regulatory guidelines, and IP.
7. Knowledge of conducting biodegradation studies.
8. Evidence of publication(s) in journals and/or books.