



Candidate Information

Position:	Research Technician
School/Department:	Patrick G Johnston Centre for Cancer Research
Reference:	21/108751
Closing Date:	Monday 19 April 2021
Salary:	£25,217 per annum
Anticipated Interview Date:	Thursday 29 April 2021
Duration:	This post is available until 31 March 2025.

JOB PURPOSE:

The post holder will be based in the Patrick G Johnston Centre for Cancer Research and support a Leukaemia and Lymphoma NI fellowship which aims to explore the relationship between DNA damage and immune response activation in spliceosome mutated myelodysplastic syndromes and acute myeloid leukaemia, in order to identify new strategies to stratify and treat MDS/AML patients.

The post holder will be mainly involved in the identification/characterisation of drugs that can activate the DDRD immune response for rational combination therapies with immune checkpoint blockade, through in vitro modelling experiments. It is a 4 year post with the successful applicant starting April 1st 2021.

MAJOR DUTIES:

1. Perform studies related to the project and interpret the results using the appropriate methodologies and techniques.
2. Maintain accurate records of results in a manner that will enable them to be accessed and interpreted.
3. Attend training, where/when appropriate, to maintain and expand expertise in the field.
4. Liaise closely with other members of the group and establish and maintain collaborative links with project partners.
5. Liaise with group members with regards to the use and booking of equipment.
6. Comply with health and safety procedures and ensure the work area is clean and safe at all times.
7. Carry out administrative tasks to ensure projects are completed on time and within budget.
8. Read academic papers, journals and other relevant material, in order to keep up to date with developments in the area and related disciplines.
9. Support the day to day activities and technical training of staff and students within the laboratory.
10. Assist with maintaining equipment, supplies and stock levels.
11. Provide technical advice and guidance to students in the use of specialist equipment and apparatus.
12. Provide detailed information and guidance to technical staff in laboratory/workshop procedures/research experiments as appropriate.
13. Contribute to the development, construction and modification of components/apparatus using full range of techniques for teaching/research/project work purposes.
14. Set up specialised equipment and apparatus for use by academics and students in practical experiments.
15. Prepare and carry out procedures for experiments and collate, record and tabulate data for interpretation, e.g. the preparation of special materials, compounds and solutions, producing test specimens based on research requirements.
16. Carry out any other duties which are appropriate to the post as may be reasonably requested by Supervisor.

Planning and Organising:

1. Plan day to day activities and future work to achieve the established targets within the timeframe of the research project.
2. Plan for the use of research resources, laboratories and workshops where appropriate.
3. Ensure all equipment is available and properly calibrated so work can proceed as scheduled.
4. Assist with the optimisation of new techniques or use of new reagents and troubleshoot as required.

Resource Management Responsibilities:

1. Support development and training of support staff and students through the development and demonstration of standard equipment and techniques.
2. Take responsibility for the maintenance and repair of scientific equipment.
3. Ensure research resources are used effectively and efficiently.
4. Have responsibility for cataloguing, monitoring and ensuring adequate levels of stocks.
5. Provide guidance as required to any students and other group members who may be assisting with the research.

Internal and External Relationships:

1. Daily contact with supervisory team, work colleagues and other members of staff.
2. Develop contacts and communicate with BSU staff in regards to in vivo experiments.
3. Contact with laboratory sales representatives and maintenance engineers.
4. Contribute to the School's outreach programme.
5. Work closely with the research programme team to support the delivery of high quality research.

ESSENTIAL CRITERIA:

1. *ONC/OND or NVQ Level 3 in biology, medical laboratory sciences or related subject (or equivalent).
2. *UK Home Office Personal License (modules PIL A, B &C).
3. *Three years relevant laboratory experience.
4. *Experience working with in vitro culture models.
5. *Basic experience with a range of molecular techniques, such as PCR, qPCR, IHC/ IF, WB.
6. Special skills and knowledge relevant to the post.
7. Good IT knowledge.
8. Knowledge of relevant Health and Safety issues and of COSHH regulations.
9. Working knowledge of relevant systems, equipment and processes related to cancer cell biology/molecular biology and in-vivo cancer models.
10. Good communication and interpersonal skills.
11. Proven ability to work with a range of equipment.
12. Ability to develop and demonstrate standard techniques.
13. Ability to prioritise own work within a general plan to meet targets.
14. Analytical and problem-solving skills.
15. Ability to provide guidance and advice to junior colleagues/students.
16. Ability to work within established protocols but with minimal supervision.

DESIRABLE CRITERIA:

1. *BSc in biology, biomedical science, medical laboratory sciences or related subject.
2. *Experience working with multidisciplinary teams.
3. *Experience with large scale compound screening.
4. Must be willing to work with in vivo models of cancer following the guidelines of the Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986.