

Candidate Information

Position: Technician
School/Department: Wellcome-Wolfson Inst for Experimental Medicine
Reference: 21/109243
Closing Date: Sunday 7 November 2021
Salary: £24,871 - £28,756 per annum pro rata
Anticipated Interview Date: Monday 22 November 2021
Duration: 36 Months Fixed Term Contract to December 2024

JOB PURPOSE:

The postholder will be based in the Ocular immunopathology research team under the supervision of Professor Heping Xu and Dr Mei Chen, and will work in partnership with members of the Ocular immunopathology team to offer an effective and efficient technical service for various research studies in the area of retinal degenerative diseases.

MAJOR DUTIES:

1. Maintenance of in vivo models and transgenic animal lines: genotyping, animal husbandry, in vivo delivery of therapeutic agents (i.p, s.c, i.t)
2. Ensure comprehensive maintenance of animal lines: in conjunction with other staff and students in the team; familiarity with ATunes and ability to work effectively with BSU staff.
3. Experience in analytical lab techniques: ELISA, Western blotting, qPCR, immunohistochemistry.
4. Undertake experimental protocols, either independently or as part of a team, to ensure delivery of experimental data in a timely and rigorous manner. Where possible, these should be done according to existing Standard Operating procedures and the Good Laboratory Practice-like standards.
5. Prepare and maintain adequate laboratory records of methods, sample details and results in a timely fashion within specific studies, in particular, ensure that all requirements of the Human Tissues Act are met.
6. Undertake development/training courses where necessary in order to keep knowledge and skills up to date and relevant for subject specialism. Apply working knowledge of theory and practice, sharing this knowledge with others as appropriate.
7. Provide training to other members of the group in the area of transgenic mouse husbandry and delivery of therapeutic agents.
8. Where necessary, prepare and/or update Standard Operating Procedures for protocols related to the research within the team.
9. Maintain and repair equipment/apparatus to ensure it is safe to use and complies with relevant statutory safety regulations. Ensure general laboratory services and tidiness.
10. Prepare and maintain adequate laboratory stocks and supplies.
11. Comply with Health and Safety procedures affecting self and others.
12. Carry out any other duties, which are appropriate to the post as may be reasonably requested by Supervisors.

Planning and Organising:

1. Carry out a range of tasks independently, with a minimal supervision.
2. Prioritise own work within a general plan to meet targets and deadlines.
3. Ensuring reagents, consumables and equipment are available for experiments.
4. Coordinate and liaise with other members of the team regarding work progress and stock management.

Resource Management Responsibilities:

1. Take delegated responsibility for the maintenance of mouse model lines and repair of scientific equipment.
2. Support student/staff learning via training in animal-related techniques (husbandry, therapeutic and infectious agent delivery).
3. Support student learning through the development and demonstration of standard equipment.

Internal and External Relationships:

1. Daily contact with Supervisors, work colleagues, University staff and students.
2. Liaison with external collaborators.

ESSENTIAL CRITERIA:

1. Academic and/or vocational qualifications ie, OND/ONC and/or NVQ level 3 in relevant subject (or equivalent).
2. Home Office modules 1-3.
3. 3 years relevant work experience to include:
 - Animal handling, genotyping, in vivo mouse administration of substance (e.g. intraperitoneal injection, sub-cutaneous delivery, oral gavage).
 - Home office personal licence.
4. Specialist skills and knowledge relevant to the job.
5. Good IT skills.
6. Well-developed understanding of relevant regulations and procedures including Health and Safety requirements.
7. Be able to fully understand and construct complex protocol.
8. Good communication and interpersonal skills.
9. Ability to develop proficiency in and demonstrate standard equipment and techniques.
10. Problem solving skills.
11. Ability to prioritise own work within a general plan to meet deadlines.
12. Ability to carry out practical laboratory tasks to a consistently high standard.
13. Ability to keep accurate records and provide reports on project progress.
14. Ability to train junior staff and allocate work.
15. Analytical and problem solving skills.
16. Due to the nature of the projects, flexibility of working hours will be required.

DESIRABLE CRITERIA:

1. Degree level qualification or equivalent in a relevant subject.
2. Practical experience with
 - Basic molecular biology techniques
 - Confocal microscopy
 - Immunohistochemistry
 - Image analysis
 - Cryosection or microtome section.
3. Knowledge of relevant database and presentation software.
4. Understanding of Good Laboratory Practice.