Candidate Information

Position: Part-time Research Fellow
School/Department: Wellcome-Wolfson Inst for Experimental Medicine
Reference: 21/109367
Closing Date: Monday 20 December 2021
Salary: £34,304- £39,739 per annum pro rata
Anticipated Interview Date: Monday 10 January 2022
Duration: Until 30 June 2023

JOB PURPOSE:

The Scientific Advisory Committee of the UK Multiple Sclerosis (MS) Society Efficient Clinical Trials Platform has the overall aim of selecting and identifying potential treatment for progressive MS to enter the clinical trial. We are now looking for a Research Associate to be an active member of the Scientific Advisory Committee and will assist the planning and delivery of the research activity within a specified area relating to horizon-scanning of potential therapeutics relevant to MS so that the overall research objectives of the Committee are met. The post will be based in the Wellcome-Wolfson Institute for Experimental Medicine under the supervision of Prof Denise Fitzgerald, the Scientific Lead of the Efficient Clincial Trials Platform and will be embedded within the local MS Research cluster. The postholder will work under the leadership and oversight of the Committee Co-Chairs to undertake the duties listed below.

MAJOR DUTIES:

1. Carry out analyses, critical evaluations, and interpretations of available and emerging data using methodologies and other techniques appropriate to area of research including bioinformatics analysis of large datasets.
2. Carry out routine literature review and scoping tasks at biomedical conferences to keep abreast of developments in MS research and related disciplines.
3. Present regular reports on research to members of the Committee or to external audiences to disseminate and publicise broad research findings.
4. Prepare, often in consultation with supervisor, material for publication in national and international journals and presentations at international conferences.
5. Carry out routine administrative tasks associated with the research project/s to ensure that project/s are completed on time. These might include organisation of project meetings and documentation, interact with the clinical trials' design group to evaluate and advise on the impact on the trial design.
6. Plan up to a year in advance to meet deadlines for peer-reviewed journal publications and to prepare presentations and papers for conferences.
7. Build internal contacts and participation in internal networks for the exchange of information and to form relationships for future collaboration.
8. Liaise on a regular basis with colleagues, stakeholders and potential partners.
9. Join external networks to share information and ideas.
10. Flexibility will be required in terms of travel to meetings and to collaborative partners in London and internationally. Consideration will be given to applicants who would work remotely, at least for some of the time, with the recent improvement and expansion of remote working options.

Planning and Organising:

1. Plan for practical and specific aspects of research tasks. Timescales range from 1-6 months in advance.
2. Plan for the use of research resources, contacts and workshops where appropriate.
3. Plan own day-to day activity within framework of the agreed research programme.
4. Plan up to a year in advance to meet deadlines for progress reports, journal publications and presentations for conferences.
5. Coordinate and liaise with other members of the Scientific Advisory Committee.

Resource Management Responsibilities:

1. Ensure research resources are used in an effective and efficient manner including liaising with vendors, and routine ordering of research supplies through P2P.
2. Provide guidance as required to support staff and any postgraduate/undergraduate students and visiting researchers who may be assisting with research work within the overall programme.

Internal and External Relationships:

1. Liaise on a regular basis with supervisor and other members of the local research team and Scientific Advisory Committee.
2. Build internal networks for the exchange of information and to form relationships for future collaboration.
3. Join external networks to share information and ideas.

ESSENTIAL CRITERIA:

1. Have or be about to obtain a PhD in Biomedical sciences, Molecular Biology, Pharmacology or a closely related subject.
2. At least 3 years recent relevant biomedical research experience using preclinical experimental models.
3. Strong experience in various research methods (literature, database, and analytical).
4. Basic bioinformatics skills, particularly in pathway analysis of large datasets.
5. Excellent skills in critical assessment of preclinical evidence.
6. Strong expertise of literature searching.
7. Methodical approach to project management in regards to research procedures and record keeping.
8. Sufficient breadth and depth of specialist knowledge in the discipline and of research methods and techniques to enable work within established research programmes.
9. Ability to communicate complex information clearly.
10. Ability to communicate to a range of audiences.
11. Demonstrable intellectual ability and awareness of the scientific literature pertaining to area of interest.
12. Excellent interpersonal skills.
13. Highly motivated.
14. Highly organised with excellent attention to detail.
15. Able to deliver excellent work to meet strict deadlines.
16. An ability to work independently and to organise weekly tasks to optimise productivity and ensure progress of a complex, multi-stranded project.
17. Must demonstrate a clear interest in this area of research and show commitment to the specific research topic.
18. Must be prepared to work outside normal office hours.
19. Must be prepared to travel to and work with international collaborative partners frequently.
20. Must be willing to attend and present at national and international meetings frequently.

DESIRABLE CRITERIA:

1. PhD on topic directly relevant to Multiple Sclerosis.
2. Experience in biomedical research using preclinical experimental models related to the study of Multiple Sclerosis.
3. Strong understanding of MS research.
4. Practical experience working in late-phase clinical trials.
5. Experience working in multiple sclerosis research.
6. Postdoctoral research experience.
7. Experience teaching/supervising undergraduate students and/or visiting researchers.
8. Research Project Management Experience.
9. Good understanding of MS research.
10. Evidence of having presented at conferences (poster and/or oral presentations).
11. Problem solving skills.
12. Team working skills and experience.