Candidate Information

Position:	Technician
School/Department:	Patrick G Johnston Centre for Cancer Research
Reference:	21/109471
Closing Date:	Monday 7 February 2022
Salary:	£28,756 - £31,406 per annum
Anticipated Interview Date:	Monday 21 February 2022
Duration:	Available until 31 October 2023

JOB PURPOSE:

To undertake analytical duties for the diagnostics and clinical research activities of the Precision Medicine specialist technical Centre of Excellence (PMC).

Carrying out experimental and analytical molecular diagnostics and genomics investigations.

To be responsible for the validation and standardisation of new techniques and tests, including the provision of multiple genomics technologies, specifically Next-Generation Sequencing (NGS), FISH and digital PCR protocols in tissue and plasma samples as well as well as H&E, Immunohistochemistry and scanning slides for digitalisation.

To assist in training of new staff members and visitors as well as to contribute to the development and data management relating to the technical and analytical aspects of the Centre.

MAJOR DUTIES:

1. Ensure the timely and efficient provision of core and technologically complex analytical/laboratory services, including but not limited to sample processing, macro-dissection, DNA extraction, PCR, RQ-PCR, H&E, IHC and NGS preparation.
2. Responsible for monitoring quality control of all the investigations performed and carry out analyses on a range of tests performed, taking remedial action when required and as directed by senior staff.
3. Contribute to the preparation of reports and manuscripts on the work carried out.
4. To ensure knowledge of all instrumentation and responsible for maintenance of the equipment.
5. Ensure that work is carried out in line with Standing Operational Procedures and local policies.
6. Responsible for own work and that of junior members of staff under the direction of senior scientific staff. This will include all aspects of the clinical scientific & technical work, staff, equipment and quality system.
7. Document competency for all tasks undertaken, in line with laboratory policy.
8. Work with others in the team to maintain laboratory stock levels and records to ensure there is adequate stock at all times for the area.
9. Provide a quality and efficient service and take responsibility for the standards of practice in accordance with recognised accreditation bodies, including maintenance of accurate records as required by UKAS and other regulatory bodies.
10. Input data and update laboratory databases, as required. Carry out appropriate analyses.
11. Comply with Health and Safety procedures affecting self and others.
12. Work within a clinical team to ensure delivery of high-quality and accurate outputs.
13. Carry out any other duties which are appropriate to the post as may be reasonably requested by Supervisor.
14. Participate in Continuous Professional Development. This will be done through annual appraisal.

Planning and Organising:

1. To assist in developing service plans for the PMC.
2. To participate in research and developmental work of the PMC and to implement new techniques as appropriate in support of clinical and scientific activity.

3. Carry out a range of tasks, working mainly within Standing Operational Procedures and minimal supervision.
4. Plan own work schedule, responding to new pressures, adjusting priorities as needed.
5. Aid in planning as well as assessing requirements and resources needed in advance.
6. To participate in appropriate rotas as required.

Resource Management Responsibilities:

1. Take responsibility for and supervise trainees and junior staff, maintaining training records when under post holder's supervision.
2. Liaise with equipment service engineers regarding machine support and carry out basic troubleshooting.
3. Ensure service operates within available resources, provide information on the performance of specified activities and indicate problems without delay. Implement cost improvement programmes as directed by senior staff.
4. Ensure equipment is maintained to schedule and that all maintenance is documented.
5. Ensure that quality control tests are conducted and meet required analytical standards.

Internal and External Relationships:

1. Commercial representatives, engineers and other staff from suppliers and collaborators.
2. Genomic/genetic technologists and BMS staff from local and national health services.
3. Daily contact with Supervisor, work colleagues, University and clinical staff and students.
4. Liaison with external consultants and collaborators.

ESSENTIAL CRITERIA:

1. *Academic and/or vocational qualifications ie HND/HNC or NVQ level 4 in relevant subject (or equivalent, i.e. Biomedical Science, Immunology, Molecular Biology, Genetics, Biochemistry).
2. *Minimum 4 years relevant work or postgraduate experience within a Health Science laboratory that includes molecular pathology.
3. *Experience working with a variety of sample types, including but not limited to FFPE and cfDNA samples.
4. *Significant experience with molecular pathology techniques, including NGS and FISH.
5. *Experience in a UKAS ISO15189 environment.
6. *Experience with tissue-based work and clinical samples for molecular analysis.
7. Able to understand and follow SOPs .
8. Technical knowledge in own specific or technical specialism.
9. Working knowledge of relevant systems, equipment and processes.
10. Full understanding of EQA & QC and their implications.
11. Basic computer skills.
12. Problem solving skills.
13. Good communication and interpersonal skills.
14. Ability to develop and demonstrate standard equipment and techniques.
15. Ability to work within established procedures but with minimal supervision.
16. Ability to plan own work schedule responding to new pressures and adjusting priorities.
17. Ability to provide standard guidance and advice to junior colleagues/students.
18. To participate in appropriate rotas as required, outside normal working hours.

DESIRABLE CRITERIA:

1. *Relevant degree.
2. *Experience with H&E, IHC and scanning /QC of slides for digital pathology.
3. Awareness of clinical significance of laboratory findings and implications for patients.
4. Ability to efficiently work with a multitude of researchers and clinical staff on a wide variety of topics.
5. Demonstrate good communication skills and enthusiasm to develop and maintain productive relationships with staff.