

Candidate Information

Position:	Research Fellow
School/Department:	School of Biological Sciences
Reference:	22/110037
Closing Date:	Monday 29 August 2022
Salary:	£35,333 per annum
Anticipated Interview Date:	Wednesday 14 September 2022
Duration:	Fixed term for 12 months

JOB PURPOSE:

A research position focussed on the exploitation of stem cells as targets for the control of the liver fluke, *Fasciola hepatica*. To advance a programme of research aimed at exploiting and developing new understanding of stem cell biology in liver fluke with a view to new flukicide target discovery and validation. To foster academic enterprise and knowledge transfer with relevant industrial partners in the project.

A motivated researcher is sought to join a Parasitology research team working on liver fluke biology in the School of Biological Sciences at Queen's University Belfast. The group focusses on understanding pathogen biology at the organismal level to expose new targets for therapy-based control.

The successful candidate will undertake a role in the planning and delivery of research activities focused on the functional genomics of liver fluke to build an understanding of their stem cell biology. This research focus will be at the interface between parasite stem cell biology and new drug discovery. The project focusses on liver fluke stem cells and will investigate the role of neoblasts in flukicide resistance.

Applicants should have recently completed a PhD or will have submitted their thesis by 31 December 2022, in parasitology or a related field. The successful candidate will have extensive experience in helminth parasitology, molecular parasitology, helminth parasite culture, parasite functional genomics and the development of novel bioassays for parasite phenotype assessment. Experience in metazoan parasite cell dispersal and culture, and in bioimaging methods is desirable.

MAJOR DUTIES:

1. Design, develop and refine experimental methodologies in order to obtain reliable data.
2. Carry out analyses, critical evaluations, and interpretations using methodologies and other techniques appropriate to area of research.
3. Present regular progress reports on research to members of the research group or to external audiences to disseminate and publicise research findings.
4. Prepare, in consultation with supervisors, material for publication in national and international journals and presentations at international conferences.
5. Assist grant holder in the preparation of funding proposals and applications to external bodies.
6. Carry out routine administrative tasks associated with the research project/s to ensure that project/s are completed on time and within budget. These might include organisation of project meetings and documentation, financial control, risk assessment of research activities.
7. Carry out occasional undergraduate and postgraduate taught supervision, demonstrating or lecturing duties within the post holder's area of expertise and under the direct guidance of a member of academic staff.
8. Read academic papers, journals and textbooks to keep abreast of developments in own specialism and related disciplines.

ESSENTIAL CRITERIA:

1. Have recently completed a PhD or submitted a PhD thesis in helminth parasitology or a related field.

2. At least 3 years recent relevant research experience in helminth parasitology research, to include molecular parasitology, helminth parasite culture, parasite functional genomics and the development of novel bioassays for parasite phenotype assessment.
3. Experience of experimental design and statistical analysis of experimental outcomes.
4. Ability to contribute to broader management and administrative processes.
5. Contribute to the School's outreach programme by establishing links with external stakeholders, community groups, industries as appropriate etc.
6. Methodical approach to project management and meticulous in regard to experimental procedures and record keeping.
7. Sufficient breadth and depth of specialist knowledge in the discipline and of research methods and techniques to work within established research programmes.
8. Competent in giving effective and informative oral and poster presentations.
9. Ability to communicate complex information clearly.
10. Ability to build contacts and participate in internal and external networks.
11. Strong ability to work from own initiative and to work independently within the context of a research team.
12. Commitment to high quality research.
13. Demonstrable intellectual ability.
14. Ability to assess and organise resources.
15. Irregular hours including evening, weekend and other out-of-hours work may be a component of the research at times.
16. Must be willing to travel to national and international meetings and collaborative laboratories as required on an ad-hoc basis.

DESIRABLE CRITERIA:

1. Experience in metazoan parasite cell dispersal and culture, and in bioimaging methods.
2. Experience of exploiting transcriptomic datasets for target gene identification.
3. Peer reviewed publications or preprints in the area of helminth parasitology.
4. Evidence of having presented at conferences (poster and/or oral presentations).