



Candidate Information

Position:	Research Fellow
School/Department:	Wellcome-Wolfson Inst for Experimental Medicine
Reference:	23/110715
Closing Date:	Monday 27 March 2023
Salary:	£35,333 - £42,155 per annum pro rata. Actual salary for 0.4 FTE is £14,133.20 to £15,436.80 per annum.
Anticipated Interview Date:	Wednesday 5 April 2023
Duration:	Fixed term for 11 months

JOB PURPOSE:

An experienced Postdoctoral scientist is being sought to join Dr. Chris Watson's research group based in the Wellcome-Wolfson Institute for Experimental Medicine. The post-holder will provide supportive cover within ongoing patient-focused translational research projects. The role will include supporting patient recruitment, biobanking, data entry and analysis. In addition, the role will include activities linked to analysis of epigenetic modifications, biomarker discovery / validation, image analysis, and scientific writing.

The successful candidate will have a demonstrated research background in patient recruitment, clinical sample processing and data entry, and prior experience in epigenetics analysis, including DNA methylation. Experience working directly with clinical research stakeholders, including clinicians, patients, and research charities is also required for this post. The candidate should have excellent communication skills in written and spoken English.

We offer scientific development opportunities in an international and interdisciplinary environment and support our postdoctoral fellows with an Institute-based mentoring program to support career development.

MAJOR DUTIES:

1. Undertake clinical research activities that may include patient recruitment, clinical sample processing, PPI activities, patient interviews, computer-based data analysis and evaluation.
2. Support ongoing biomarker and epigenetics based research under supervision within a research programme aimed at identifying and validating DNA methylation and protein signatures and their functional relevance in a range of disease areas.
3. Design, develop and refine experimental apparatus, models or experiments in order to obtain reliable and reproducible data.
4. Carry out analyses, critical evaluations, and interpretations of experimental data and the literature using methodologies and other techniques appropriate to area of research.
5. Present regular progress reports on research to members of the research group, other groups within the Centre/University, to external audiences nationally and internationally to disseminate and publicise research findings.
6. Prepare, in consultation with supervisor, material for publication in national and international journals and presentations at international conferences.
7. Assist grant holder in the preparation of funding proposals and applications as well as project progress reports to external bodies.
8. Carry out routine administrative tasks associated with the research projects/group to ensure that projects are completed on time and within budget and that the group functions efficiently. These might include organisation of project/group meetings and documentation, financial control, stock management/procurement, risk assessment of research activities and development of SOPs. Carry out routine administrative tasks associated with the day-to-day running of the research group in a communal lab setting.
9. Carry out school/undergraduate/post-graduate student and visiting researcher training and supervision as required, demonstrating, tutoring or lecturing duties within the post holder's area of expertise and under the guidance of a member of academic staff.
10. Participate, and in some cases lead outreach activities on behalf of the group/Centre, which may include social media.

11. Participate in local research-related activities such as journal clubs, training sessions, seminar series, postdoctoral development activities etc.

ESSENTIAL CRITERIA:

1. Have or about to obtain a PhD in the area of biomedicine, relevant to the project.
2. At least 3 years relevant research experience working in clinical research, including activities of patient recruitment, clinical sample collection and processing, maintaining and managing a biorepository.
3. Extensive hands-on experience in the following:
 - o Epigenetics based research (including DNA methylation analysis)
 - o Clinical sample profiling to identify or validate potential disease biomarkers.
4. High quality original publications in reputable peer-reviewed journals, commensurate with career stage, in the field of epigenetics.
5. Experience teaching/supervising /mentoring postgraduate/ undergraduate/school students and visiting researchers in the laboratory.
6. Methodical approach to project management and meticulous in regards to experimental procedures and record keeping.
7. Self-motivated, very efficient and organised.
8. Showing strong interest in clinical translational research.
9. Good oral and written communication skills.
10. Competent in giving effective and informative oral and poster presentations.
11. Competent in communicating stipulated research skills is essential to the post in CV/job application.
12. Strong ability to work from own initiative and to work independently.
13. Excellent team working skills in multiple internal and external team settings.
14. Leadership qualities.
15. Excellent problem-solving skills.
16. Irregular hours including evening, weekend and other out-of-hours work will be a component of the research at times.
17. Must be willing to travel to national and international meetings and collaborative laboratories.

DESIRABLE CRITERIA:

1. Human Tissue Act trained.
2. Hands-on experience in the following techniques:
 - o Cell culture
 - o Experimental models of hypoxia
 - o Tissue sectioning and histology
 - o ELISA
3. Experience in general lab management.
4. Experience teaching lab members as well as undergraduate lectures/tutorials/practicals.
5. Classroom-based teaching such as lecturing, tutorials.
6. Hands-on experience in creating SOP, Risk Assessments, COSSH.
7. Knowledge of epigenetics.
8. Experience in giving oral and poster presentations at scientific conferences.
9. Experience working in outreach settings.