

Candidate Information

Position: Senior Technician (Genomic Technologist)
School/Department: Patrick G Johnston Centre for Cancer Research
Reference: 23/111271
Closing Date: Monday 9 October 2023
Salary: £37,841 per annum
Anticipated Interview Date: Thursday 19 October 2023
Duration: Fixed Term available until 31/10/2024

JOB PURPOSE:

To be responsible for the day to day operation and organisation of clinically focussed Genomics projects and supervision of relevant laboratory activity across various projects. Providing high-level technical and organisational expertise and to be responsible for the co-ordination of laboratory and analytical procedures and workflows to ensure high standards of quality and performance.

MAJOR DUTIES:

1. Management of the day to day running and operation of large and/or ongoing clinically focussed Genomics projects from a technical, operational and laboratory perspective.
2. Organisation and processing of incoming samples and outgoing genomics reports across clinical projects, including liaising with LIMS development project to ensure specimen throughput is in accordance with the laboratory Quality Management System and UKAS ISO 15189 requirements.
3. Contribute to molecular analysis and production and checking of molecular reports. Contribute to preparation of project reports and documentation.
4. Monitoring of project performance via analysis of complex information and non-conformities from multiple sources including KPIs, project reviews and audits, and effective communication of results of this analysis to support maintenance and improvement of the QMS.
5. Participation in activity relating to compliance with clinical project turnaround times (including specimen processing and analysis) including corrective actions required to maximise performance.
6. Supervision of activity of team of technical staff to deliver the goals and objectives for clinically focussed Genomics projects. Standardising laboratory practices, protocols and rotations and liaising with the scientific and clinical leads to ensure efficient running of projects to a high standard.
7. Responsible for inventory, ordering and tracking of reagents and consumables to ensure timely completion of Genomics projects and activity.
8. Management and co-ordination of clinical specimens and records in the PMC ensuring that all regulatory documentation and agreements are in place for sample transfer from collaborators, transfer reception, tracking and storage, including UKAS and HTA compliance and generation of KPI data.
9. Liaison with scientific and clinical Leads to implement new technologies and workflows for selected projects within the Precision Medicine Centre of Excellence.
10. To support on the development of relevant new laboratory-based techniques and technologies. Provide high-level technical expertise to the programme.
11. Liaise with the Quality Lead on the implementation, monitoring and reviewing of all aspects of Health and Safety for Genomics project ensuring good laboratory practice, COSHH etc, as required.
12. Advise the Head of Laboratory Operations on the installation and maintenance of the new equipment ensuring adherence to University and procurement procedures.
13. To undertake any other reasonable duties, within the general ambit of the post and the competence of the post-holder, in accordance with the changing needs and demands of a dynamic research environment.
14. Participate in Continuous Professional Development. This will be done through annual appraisal.

ESSENTIAL CRITERIA:

1. Academic or vocational qualifications (HNC/HND or higher e.g. NVQ , degree or equivalent standard) in a relevant scientific subject e.g. Biomedical Science, Immunology, Molecular Biology, Genetics, Biochemistry.
2. 4 years' recent relevant hands-on experience within a Health Science laboratory that includes molecular pathology and genomics.
3. Experience in the discipline reflected in relevant involvement in academic, industry or research programmes.
4. Ability to develop, troubleshoot and perform a range of technical duties to a very high standard.
5. Significant experience with NGS in cancer specimens (FFPE, ctDNA, HMW).
6. Experience in a CPA/UKAS environment, including SOP development.
7. Experience with tissue-based work and clinical samples for molecular analysis.
8. Competent in the use and care of a range of laboratory equipment and processes.
9. Good understanding of Health and Safety regulations and other legislation related to laboratory research eg Human Tissue Act, Radiation Protection, COSHH, MHRA, GMO.
10. Full understanding of EQA & QC and their implications.
11. Good organisational and interpersonal skills.
12. Well-developed oral and written communication skills.
13. Ability to interact with staff of all grades.
14. Ability to interact with key stakeholders independently.
15. Demonstrates the ability to train and supervise staff, students and laboratory users in use of equipment and techniques.
16. Demonstrates logical reasoning and problem solving skills.
17. Willingness to learn, teach and maintain new laboratory methodologies.
18. Self-motivated and industrious. Must be willing to take both a hands-on and a supervisory role.
19. Proven ability to work in a multi-disciplinary environment.
20. Occasional work outside normal hours as required.

DESIRABLE CRITERIA:

1. Honours Degree or higher in a relevant scientific subject eg biological or biomedical subject, or equivalent.
2. MSc or PhD.
3. Recent experience with a broad range of research techniques in Molecular Pathology including:
 - Experience working with cancer FFPE, HMW and cfDNA samples.
4. Experience with computer maintenance and IT support.
5. Recent experience in managing sizable projects (which included delegation of tasks to others).
6. Demonstrate knowledge of procurement procedures.
7. Awareness of clinical significance of laboratory findings and implications for patients.
8. Ability to efficiently work with a multitude of researchers and clinical staff within the genomics and tissue-pathology setting.
9. Demonstrate good communication skills and enthusiasm to develop and maintain productive relationships with staff.