

Candidate Information

Position:	Research Fellow
School/Department:	School of Pharmacy
Reference:	24/111552
Closing Date:	Monday 19 February 2024
Salary:	£37,841 - £41,331 per annum
Anticipated Interview Date:	Thursday 29 February 2024
Duration:	Fixed term for 3 years

JOB PURPOSE:

To become an active member in the Natural Drug Discovery Group, School of Pharmacy, QUB, and engage in interdisciplinary studies of bioactive peptides using biochemistry and cell biology approaches with a focus on two main areas: (i) isolation, identification and synthesis of novel venom-derived bioactive peptides and (ii) testing their biological activities and stability using a range of bioassays including antimicrobial assays, vascular smooth muscle contraction assays, and anticancer assays.

MAJOR DUTIES:

1. Develop and plan an area of personal research and expertise, and/or undertake research under supervision within the Natural Drug Discovery Group.
2. Design, develop and refine experimental apparatus, field research or experiments in order to obtain reliable data.
3. To assist with managing day-to-day laboratory activities, research instrumentation and organising the biological samples and reagents of the laboratory, while placing an emphasis on personal learning, scientific integrity and team player skills.
4. Carry out analyses, critical evaluations, and interpretations using methodologies and other techniques appropriate to area of research.
5. Train and supervise of postgraduate students in molecular/analytical/microbiological/cell biological technologies appropriate for the study of venom peptides.
6. Undertake research activities that may include fieldwork, laboratory experiments, computer-based data analysis and evaluation, or library research in consultation with the supervisor.
7. Present research progress reports to members of the research group regularly or to external audiences to disseminate and publicise research findings.
8. Collate research data from own work and contribute to the production of research reports, publications and proposals.
9. Prepare, often in consultation with supervisor, material for publication in national and international journals and presentations at international conferences.
10. Assist grant holder in the preparation of funding proposals and applications to external bodies.
11. Contribute to introductory courses, for example, on the use of research methods and equipment.
12. Carry out undergraduate/postgraduate supervision/ demonstration/teaching duties under direction.
13. Carry out routine administrative duties as requested, e.g. arranging research group meetings, maintaining research group website.
14. Read academic papers, journals and textbooks to keep abreast of developments.
15. Carry out any other duties designated by a line manager, which fall within the general ambit of the post.

ESSENTIAL CRITERIA:

1. Have, or be about to obtain, a PhD in Pharmaceutical Biotechnology.
2. Significant relevant research experience to include:
 - Experience of using mass spectrometry to analyse peptide degradation, peptide synthesis, vascular smooth muscle contraction assays and antimicrobial assays.
 - Publication record commensurate with career stage.
 - Some practical contemporary experience of postgraduate supervision.

3. Demonstration of ability to contribute to broader management and administrative processes.
4. Sufficient breadth and depth of specialist knowledge in the discipline and of research methods and techniques to work within established research programmes.
5. Ability to analyse data and communicate effectively.
6. Ability to build contacts and participate in internal and external networks.
7. Demonstrable intellectual ability.
8. Scientific integrity.
9. Demonstrable team player.
10. Flexibility in working hours.

DESIRABLE CRITERIA:

1. Experience of molecular cloning and cell-based anticancer research.
2. Experience of presenting results in front of peers, meetings or conferences.
3. Working knowledge of Mandarin.