

Candidate Information

Position:	Research Fellow
School/Department:	School of Pharmacy
Reference:	24/112055
Closing Date:	Monday 22 July 2024
Salary:	£39,922 per annum
Anticipated Interview Date:	Monday 5 August 2024
Duration:	Available until 31 December 2024

JOB PURPOSE:

To be an active member within the Ocular Drug Delivery research group in the School of Pharmacy, Queen's University Belfast. The Research Fellow will be the active member of the spinout company, Re-Vana Therapeutics, a nonclinical stage company focused on developing innovative long-acting drug delivery systems. The Research Fellow will be assisting in the design, development, and evaluation of long-acting drug delivery systems for biologics so that the overall project objectives are met.

MAJOR DUTIES:

1. Develop and plan research within the area of innovative long-acting biologics-based delivery systems for ocular applications.
2. Conduct extensive characterisation of proteins using a range of biochemistry techniques.
3. Plans and coordinates the synthesis and characterisation of polymers and polymer-based materials.
4. Design, develop and refine experimental apparatus and experiments appropriate to the preparation, characterisation and development of long-acting/controlled release drug delivery systems.
5. Develop and validate analytical techniques and conduct stability studies for biologics, as per standard guidelines.
6. Carry out analysis, critical evaluations, and interpretations using methodologies and other techniques appropriate for the characterisation of controlled release drug delivery systems.
7. Present regular progress reports on research to members of the research group, funding body and external audiences to disseminate and publicise research findings.
8. Carry out routine administrative duties as requested, e.g., organisation of project meetings and documentation and risk assessment of research activities.
9. Read academic papers, journals, and textbooks to keep abreast of developments.
10. Carry out any other duties designated by a line manager, and which fall within the general ambit of the post.

ESSENTIAL CRITERIA:

1. 2:1 Honours Degree or equivalent in biochemistry, chemistry, biotechnology or related sciences.
2. *Hold or be about to obtain a PhD degree in biotechnology, biochemistry or related area (*must be obtained within 3 months of commencement of employment).
3. Relevant experience in laboratory-based research to include the following:
 - At least 1 yr of industrial experience in protein/biologics purification and characterisation.
 - Experience in biologic specific analytical methods namely SEC-HPLC, ITC, Biacore and LC-MS/MS.
 - Experience in working in GLP/GMP environments.
4. Experience of supervising research projects.
5. Evidence of publication(s) in journals and/or books commensurate with career stage.
6. Evidence of good technical writing and presentation skills.
7. Good oral and written communication skills.
8. Competent in giving effective and informative oral and poster presentations.
9. Strong ability to work from own initiative and to work independently.
10. Excellent team working skills in multiple internal and external team settings.
11. Excellent problem-solving skills.

12. Highly ambitious, self-motivated, very efficient and organised.
13. Showing strong commitment to, and interest in, research topic.
14. Practical problem-solving skills and independence of thought.
15. Ability to prioritize and re-prioritize activities as needed to accomplish unanticipated requests or initiate new projects requiring immediate attention.
16. Good planning, organization, and execution skills.
17. Ability to communicate complex information clearly.
18. Ability to build contacts and participate in internal and external networks.
19. Ability to devise, advise on and manage research programmes.
20. Irregular hours including evening, weekend and other out-of-hours work will be a component of the research at times.

DESIRABLE CRITERIA:

1. 1st class Honours Degree in a biochemistry, chemistry, or biotechnology.
2. Experience in laboratory-based research related to proteins characterisation using techniques such as ELISA, SDS-PAGE, etc.
3. Experience in formulation and characterization of long-acting systems.
4. Experience in characterisation of polymers using techniques such as UV, FTIR, SEM, MALDI-TOF and MS.
5. Knowledge of biologics purification and characterisation.
6. Knowledge of pharmaceutical product development and regulatory awareness.
7. Knowledge of conducting degradation and biologics release studies.
8. Knowledge in bioactivity assays of biologics and cell work.
9. Experience in giving oral and poster presentations at scientific conferences.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

Informal inquiries may be directed to Dr Sandip Gite, email: s.gite@qub.ac.uk