Candidate Information

Position:	Research Fellow Biochemistry (Future Medicines Institute) (2 posts)
School/Department:	Faculty Office MHLS
Reference:	25/112365
Closing Date:	Monday 10 February 2025
Salary:	£39,922 - £43,605 per annum.
Anticipated Interview Date:	Friday 21 February 2025
Duration:	12 months in the first instance

JOB PURPOSE:

Background:

The newly funded Future Medicines Institute (FMI) will be a collaborative innovation centre developed as a focal point to enable industry, academia and health professionals to drive research and development in the Life and Health Sciences (LHS) sector. It will build upon and exploit Northern Ireland's recognised capabilities and strengths in oncology and digital health to accelerate the development of biomarker-led products. The Institute's vision is a partnership of Northern Ireland's leading pharmaceutical, diagnostics and health analytics companies, alongside academic institutions and government agencies.

To contribute as a proactive and dynamic member of a multi-disciplinary medicinal chemistry group within the Future Medicines Institute towards the development of next generation induced proximity therapeutics. The successful candidate will be assisting in the design, planning, implementation and delivery of projects with a focus on the design and synthesis of small molecule induced proximity libraries and chemical probes for biological screening.

MAJOR DUTIES:

1. Proactively design, synthesise and analyse bioactive molecules, intermediates and small molecule compound libraries for biological screening.
2. Utilise best practice methods for the efficient design, synthesis and purification of molecules, including parallel methods, where appropriate.
3. Conduct critical evaluation and interpretation, computer-based data analysis / evaluation or library research in consultation with line manager/supervisor.
4. Maintain a high level of modern medicinal chemistry/drug discovery knowledge, skills and best practices.
5. Present at regular journal clubs and share progress reports on research to members of the research group.
6. Actively participate in discussions and concisely present results/plans in project group meetings.
7. Carry out routine administrative duties as requested, e.g. arranging research group meetings.
8. Write up results and contribute to the production of research lab meeting presentations, manuscripts and future grant proposals.
9. Carry out undergraduate and post-graduate supervision/demonstrating/teaching duties as required.
10. Read academic papers, journals and textbooks and disseminate key finding, novel developments and best practice to the wider group.
11. Maintain the highest standards of HSE compliance.
12. Carry out any other duties designated by a line manager, and which fall within the general remit of the post.
13. Keep key project stakeholders informed on a regular basis of all relevant developments.
14. Build contacts and participate in internal and external networks for the exchange of information and to form relationships for future collaboration and to share information and ideas.
15. Contribute to the School's outreach programme by establishing links with local community groups, industries etc.
16. Assist in any way deemed appropriate to the overall success of the research objectives of the group and the Future Medicines Institute.

ESSENTIAL CRITERIA:

1. Degree in Chemistry, Biochemistry or Medicinal Chemistry.
2. Have a relevant PhD.
4. Substantial relevant research experience.
5. Experience in design and synthesis of small molecules and/or compound libraries.
6. Experience in compound data analysis.
7. Lab project supervision.
8. Ability to plan and manage own workload and contribute to requisite administrative tasks.
9. Sufficient breadth and depth of specialist knowledge in the discipline and of research methods and techniques to work within established research programmes.
10. Ability to communicate complex information clearly.
11. Ability to build contacts and participate in internal and external networks.
12. Ability to assess and organise resources according to adjusting priorities.
13. Team player, proactive and self starter, highly motivated and supportive of other team members.
14. Interest in driving research focussed programmes.

DESIRABLE CRITERIA:

1. Have practical experience in synthetic organic chemistry.
2. Experience in medicinal chemistry.
3. Experience in analytical techniques such as NMR and HPLC.
4. Experience in small molecule SAR exploration.
5. Experience in working within industry.