

Candidate Information

Position:	Research Fellow (Medicinal Chemistry)
School/Department:	School of Medicine, Dentistry and Biomedical Sciences
Reference:	26/113141
Closing Date:	Monday 16 February 2026
Salary:	£41,519-£45,349 per annum
Anticipated Interview Date:	Tuesday 24 February 2026
Duration:	Available until 6 April 2026

JOB PURPOSE:

To work as an active member of the multi-disciplinary medicinal chemistry group within the Patrick G Johnston Centre for Cancer Research. Successful candidate will assist in the design, planning, implementation, and delivery of currently funded projects with a particular focus on the development of small molecule protease inhibitors.

MAJOR DUTIES:

1. Synthesis and Scale-up of a novel series of protease inhibitors.
2. Data analysis of biochemistry screening.
3. Use data to design and develop small molecule SAR.
4. Perform cell-based screening in both time and concentration dependent analysis.
5. Conduct critical evaluation and interpretation, computer-based data analysis / evaluation or library research in consultation with the line manager/supervisor.
6. Present regular journal clubs and progress reports on research to members of the research group and to external audiences to disseminate and publicise research findings.
7. Write up results of own work and contribute to the production of research lab meeting, manuscripts and future grant proposals.
8. Read academic papers, journals and textbooks to keep the team abreast of new and novel developments.
9. Comply with Health and Safety procedures affecting self and others and ensure the Work area is clean and safe at all times.
10. Carry out any other duties designated by a line manager and which fall within the general remit of the post.
11. Assist in any way deemed appropriate to the overall success of the research objectives of the group and the Cancer Research Centre.

ESSENTIAL CRITERIA:

1. Degree in Biomedical Sciences or related subject Normally have or be about to obtain* a relevant PhD (must be obtained within 3 months of the start date of the post).
2. Significant, relevant research experience.
3. Experience in design, synthesis and biochemical screening of small molecules.
4. Experience in compound data analysis.
5. Experience in small molecule SAR exploration.
6. Experience in developing protease inhibitors.
7. Experience in cell culture and associated assays including downstream bio-marker analysis.
8. Lab project supervision.
9. Ability to contribute to broader management and administrative processes.
10. Sufficient breadth and depth of specialist knowledge in the discipline and of research methods and techniques to work within established research programmes.
11. Ability to communicate complex information clearly.
12. Ability to build contacts and participate in internal and external networks.
13. Demonstrable intellectual ability.
14. Ability to assess and organise resources.

DESIRABLE CRITERIA:

1. Experience with small molecule chemistry.
2. Organic chemistry experience and analytical techniques such as NMR and HPLC.
3. Experience in working with industry.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

Informal enquiries may be directed to: Dr Benjamin Owen at b.owen@qub.ac.uk