

Candidate Information

Position:	Research Fellow
School/Department:	School of Medicine, Dentistry and Biomedical Sciences
Reference:	26/113142
Closing Date:	Monday 23 February 2026
Salary:	£41,519 per annum.
Anticipated Interview Date:	Thursday 26 March 2026
Duration:	Available until 13 December 2026

JOB PURPOSE:

The successful candidate will become part of the newly established Future Medicines Institute (FMI) chemistry group, focused on the synthesis and iterative design of next generation induced proximity therapeutics. The role will include design, planning and delivery small molecule compound libraries for the FMI Biological screening team. The post-holder will be covering a period of maternity leave.

MAJOR DUTIES:

1. 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 of data associated with compound library research in consultation with line manager/supervisor.
4. Maintain a high level of modern chemistry and medicinal chemistry, 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. Keep key project stakeholders informed on a regular basis of all relevant developments.
13. Assist in any way deemed appropriate to the overall success of the research objectives of the group and the Cancer Research Centre.
14. Carry out any other duties designated by a line manager, and which fall within the general remit of the post.

ESSENTIAL CRITERIA:

1. Degree in Chemistry or Medicinal Chemistry.
2. Have or be about to obtain* a relevant PhD (chemistry/medicinal chemistry). *Must be obtained within 3 months of date of interview.
3. Significant, relevant research experience.
4. Experience in design and synthesis of small molecules and/or compound libraries.
5. Experience in analytical techniques, such as NMR, HPLC and LC-MS.
6. Experience in compound data analysis.
7. Experience in 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 and small molecule compound library generation.
2. Experience in synthetic organic chemistry or medicinal chemistry.
3. Experience in small molecule SAR exploration.
4. Experience in working within industry.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

Informal enquiries can be directed to: Benjamin Owen - b.owen@qub.ac.uk.