

Candidate Information

Position: Technician
School/Department: School of Medicine, Dentistry and Biomedical Sciences
Reference: 26/113631
Closing Date: Monday 5 October 2026
Salary: Starting salary £33,312 per annum
Anticipated Interview Date: To Be Confirmed
Duration: Fixed Term - Full Time; Available for 36 months or until 31 August 2029 whichever is soonest

JOB PURPOSE:

About the Lab

The Rubin Laboratory focuses on the molecular mechanisms that drive therapy resistance and lineage plasticity in advanced prostate cancer. Our work integrates functional genomics, chromatin biology, RNA processing, single-cell sequencing, spatial profiling, and translational model systems to identify new therapeutic vulnerabilities in aggressive disease.

Current major research themes include:

- lineage plasticity and adaptive tumour states,
- chromatin remodelling and transcriptional control,
- stress adaptation and DNA repair,
- minor intron splicing and RNA-processing vulnerabilities,
- single-cell and spatial tumour-state profiling,
- development of state-directed therapeutic strategies.

The laboratory integrates mechanistic biology with translational precision oncology approaches, using patient-derived models, organoids, genetically engineered mouse models, functional perturbation screens, and advanced multi-omic technologies.

About the Job

To provide specialist technical expertise to support the development of a translational cancer research program focused on therapy resistance and lineage plasticity in prostate cancer.

Coordinate and carry out complex experimental studies using mouse models of cancer, under the direction of PI and research staff.

To have operational oversight and day to day organisation of the laboratory.

MAJOR DUTIES:

1. Lead and coordinate mouse-based cancer studies related to the project.
2. Conduct experimental procedures including:
 - xenografting,
 - orthotopic implantation,
 - drug administration,
 - blood collection,
 - necropsy and tissue processing.
3. Perform animal handling, monitoring, breeding, and colony management.
4. Maintain accurate records of results in a manner that will enable them to be accessed and interpreted.
5. Assist with establishment and characterization of in vivo and ex vivo cancer models and support downstream molecular and histologic analyses.

6. Coordinate day to day laboratory operations, ensuring compliance with health and safety procedures; assist in the preparation and storage of reagents and experimental materials; support the upkeep and maintenance of laboratory equipment and shared resources.
7. Maintain and update regulatory documentation, all general lab SOPs, risk assessments and COSHH forms, as required. Contribute to improving existing lab protocols and introduce new techniques as required.
8. Coordinate ordering, inventory, and interactions with vendors and institutional core facilities.
9. Provide technical induction and ongoing advice, guidance and training to support day to day activities of staff and students within the laboratory.
10. Actively contribute to laboratory meetings and communicate effectively with institutional support services and collaborators.
11. Attend training, where/when appropriate, to maintain and expand expertise in the field.
12. Liaise closely with other members of the group and establish and maintain collaborative links with project partners.
13. Carry out any other duties which are appropriate to the post as may be reasonably requested by Supervisor.

ESSENTIAL CRITERIA:

1. ONC/OND or NVQ Level 3 (or equivalent) in Biological Sciences, Biomedical Sciences, or related subject.
2. Personal Licence under the UK Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986 (ASPA), or willingness and eligibility to obtain one immediately upon appointment*.
3. At least three years relevant laboratory experience to include significant experience of:
 - Working with mouse models in academic or industry research settings.
 - Experience working within regulated animal research environments.
 - In vivo cancer biology studies
4. Experience with a range of molecular techniques, such as PCR, qPCR, IHC/ IF, WB, IP etc.
5. Excellent IT skills with competency in the use of MS Office programmes.
6. Knowledge of relevant Health and Safety issues and of COSHH regulations.
7. Strong organisational and laboratory management skills.
8. Working knowledge of relevant systems, equipment and processes related to cancer cell biology/molecular biology and in-vivo cancer models.
9. Excellent communication and interpersonal skills.
10. Ability to work independently within established protocols and procedures and to manage multiple projects simultaneously.
11. Demonstrable ability to provide guidance and advice to junior colleagues/students.
12. Eligibility and willingness to work with in vivo models of cancer following the guidelines of the Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986.
13. *A Personal Licence is required to fulfil the requirements of the job therefore it will be essential to obtain this to pass the probationary period for the post.
14. Occasional work outside normal hours as required.

DESIRABLE CRITERIA:

1. BSc in biology, biomedical science, medical laboratory sciences or related subject.
2. Experience with prostate cancer or solid tumor models.
3. Experience with organoids or cell culture systems.
4. Experience with molecular biology techniques including PCR, tissue processing, and microscopy.
5. Experience supporting translational or multi-omic studies.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

Informal enquiries may be directed to Cecilia McCluskey at C.McCluskey@qub.ac.uk