



THE UNIVERSITY *of* EDINBURGH  
School of Biological Sciences

## Postdoctoral Research Associate - Immunologist

### Institute of Immunology and Infection Research

Closing Date: **5th January 2015** at 5pm GMT

A Post-doctoral Research Associate position is available in the group of Dr. Dietmar Zaiss within the Institute of Immunology and Infection Research at the University of Edinburgh.

Our group is interested in defining the mechanisms by which the Epidermal Growth Factor (EGF-R) regulates our immune system and how it contributes to the immune suppressive environment within tumours.

We have recently discovered that activated regulatory T-cells (Tregs) of both humans and mice express the EGF-receptor (EGF-R) and that the EGF-like growth factor Amphiregulin (AREG) significantly enhances the suppressive capacity of Tregs, both in vitro and in vivo (Zaiss et al. *Immunity* 2013). These studies also demonstrated that the application of EGF-R inhibitors significantly enhanced the efficacy of tumour-immunization, against tumours that lacked EGF-R expression, suggesting that the application of EGF-R antagonists may have struck a therapeutic "Achilles' heel" for Tregs. We currently are looking for a motivated post doctoral scientist to determine whether EGF-R antagonists can be utilized to enhance efficacy of cancer therapy and to develop EGF-R antagonists that specifically target Tregs and leave EGF-R signaling in other cell types unaffected.

The post holder will employ murine tumour models to identify the mechanisms by which EGF-R expression on Tregs influences tumour intrinsic immune regulation. The post holder will also investigate the impact of EGF-R inhibitors on tumour immunity, and establish tools for therapeutic targeting. The post holder will use a combination of T cell purifications, immune reconstitutions and bone marrow chimaera's to determine the capacity of novel types of EGF-R inhibitors to enhance the efficacy of tumour therapy.

This position is funded through a 3-year MRC Research Grant.

For informal enquiries please contact:

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Vacancy Ref: **032069**

Formal applications must be made through The University of Edinburgh Jobs website:  
[www.vacancies.ed.ac.uk/pls/corehrrecruit/erq\\_jobspec\\_version\\_4.jobspec?p\\_id=032069](http://www.vacancies.ed.ac.uk/pls/corehrrecruit/erq_jobspec_version_4.jobspec?p_id=032069)