

Job Details

Position:	Research Fellow (2 posts)
School/Department:	Centre for Infection and Immunity
Reference:	16/104381
Closing Date:	Monday 7 March 2016
Salary:	£31,656 - £41,255 per annum (including contribution points).
Anticipated Interview Date:	Monday 21 March 2016.
Duration:	Two temporary posts available for up to two years.

JOB PURPOSE:

To be an effective and highly ambitious member of a research team assisting in the development of novel therapeutics within the Centre for Infection and Immunity, School of Medicine, Dentistry and Biomedical Sciences. The position will involve working as part of a research programme that is investigating novel mechanisms of pathogenesis and repair in autoimmune, inflammatory and demyelinating diseases such as Multiple Sclerosis (MS) with a view to developing novel regenerative therapies. The projects will utilise in vitro, ex vivo and in vivo models of CNS remyelination and are part of a Wellcome Trust-funded research programme investigating T cells in CNS regeneration in the lab of Dr. Denise Fitzgerald. The posts are based in a highly collaborative team, carrying out basic and clinical research with partners locally, nationally and internationally. The posts will be senior roles in the team and as such successful applicants will have roles in supervision, planning, day-to-day lab management and collaborations.

MAJOR DUTIES:

1. Develop, plan and deliver an area of personal research and expertise, and/or undertake research under supervision within a research project aimed at uncovering fundamental biology and developing novel therapeutic strategies that will be evaluated using a range of experimental models. These will include cell culture, tissue explant and in vivo experimental models.
2. Develop and implement a highly ambitious personal career development plan in the course of the post.
3. Maintain up-to-date knowledge of the field of interest at the cutting edge and communicate same to the group.
4. Design, develop and refine experimental apparatus, models or experiments in order to obtain reliable and reproducible data in models of immune cell activity, progenitor cell activity, CNS damage and CNS tissue regeneration.
5. Carry out analyses, critical evaluations and interpretations of experimental data and the literature using methodologies and other techniques appropriate to area of research.
6. Present regular progress reports on research to members of the research group, other groups within the Centre/University, to external audiences nationally and internationally to disseminate and publicise research findings.
7. Prepare, often in consultation with supervisor, material for publication in national and international journals and presentations at international conferences.
8. Assist grant holder in the preparation of funding proposals and applications as well as project progress reports to external bodies.
9. Prepare competitive applications for own funding such as travel grants, project grants and fellowship applications.
10. Carry out routine administrative tasks associated with the research projects/group to ensure that project/s are completed on time and within budget and that the group functions efficiently. These might include organisation of project/group meetings and documentation, financial control, stock management, risk assessment of research activities and development of SOPs. Carry out routine administrative tasks associated with the day-to-day running of the research group in a communal lab setting.
11. Carry out school/undergraduate/post-graduate student and visiting researcher training and supervision, demonstrating, tutoring or lecturing duties within the post holder's area of expertise and under the guidance of a member of academic staff.
12. Participate and in some cases lead outreach activities on behalf of the group/Centre.
13. Participate in local research-related activities such as journal clubs, training sessions, seminar series etc.
14. Additional research and/or laboratory related duties including outreach activities, within the general range of the post and competence of post holder.

Planning and Organising:

1. Plan for specific aspects of research programmes. Timescales range from 1-12 months in advance and contribute to research group planning.
2. Plan for the use of research resources, laboratories and workshops where appropriate.
3. Plan own day-to-day activity within framework of the agreed research programme.
4. Plan up to a year in advance to meet deadlines for grant applications, journal publications and to prepare presentations and papers for conferences and meetings.
5. Coordinate and liaise with other members of the research group and collaborative research groups over work progress and stock management.

Resource Management Responsibilities:

1. Ensure research resources are used in an effective and efficient manner.
2. Provide guidance as required to support staff and any post-graduate/under-graduate students and visiting researchers who may be assisting with research.

Internal and External Relationships:

1. Liaise on a regular basis with supervisor, colleagues, students and collaborators.
2. Communicate appropriately and effectively with lab colleagues the latest research findings/results.
3. Build internal contacts and participate in internal networks for the exchange of information and to form relationships for future collaboration.
4. Be prepared to travel to, and present at scientific meetings and work in collaborative laboratories.
5. Join external networks to share information and ideas and help develop and maintain external collaborations, as appropriate.
6. Contribute to the School's outreach programme by establishing links with local community groups, industries etc.

ESSENTIAL CRITERIA:

1. Have, or about to obtain, a PhD in Immunology, Neuroscience, Regenerative biology or a related area.
2. At least 3 years recent research experience in neuroscience, immunology or regenerative biology.
3. Recent extensive hands-on experience in at least three of the following: glial cell culture, organotypic CNS slice cultures, in vivo models, microarray, T cell biology, multi-colour flow cytometry/cell sorting, CNS electrophysiology, protein biochemistry, IHC, confocal microscopy.
4. Recent high-quality original research publications in reputable peer-reviewed journals, commensurate with career stage.
5. Willingness to teach/supervise/mentor postgraduate/undergraduate/school students and visiting researchers in the laboratory.
6. Methodical in project management and meticulous in terms of experimental procedures and record keeping.
7. Highly ambitious, motivated, efficient, organised and show a commitment to, and interest in, research topic.
8. Competent in giving effective and informative conference presentations.
9. Excellent team working skills in multiple internal and external team settings as well as leadership qualities.
10. Excellent problem-solving skills and able to use own initiative.
11. Irregular hours including evening, weekend and other out-of-hours working will be a component of the research at times.
12. Must be willing to travel to national and international meetings and collaborative laboratories.

DESIRABLE CRITERIA:

1. Home Office personal licence (modules 1-4).
2. Experience in clinical research, ELISA, western blotting, tissue handling, fluorescent/confocal/electron microscopy, stereotactic techniques, electrophysiology, genotyping, in vivo imaging, transgenic model development, general communal lab management.
3. High quality grant, manuscript, ethics application, report and abstract writing experience.
4. Experience teaching lab members as well as undergraduate lectures/tutorials/practicals.
5. Research project management.
6. Evidence of having presented at conferences (poster or oral).